

**COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, WISCONSIN
Meeting Minutes**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall.

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

- Council President Jason Ekern presided

Roll Call of Members

- Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek, Deb Marsolek, Tim Hanson, Jason Ekern. Also present were Attorney LaVerne Michalak, City Clerk Tiffany Bautch, Wendy Thompson, Elvecia Najera, Ann Miemietz, Rita Boland, John Manka, Angela Sylla and Debbie Foss.

Proof of Giving Public Notice Given.

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by Symicek and seconded by Hanson to approve agenda sent. Motion carried. 5- 1 Absent

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by Symicek and seconded by Skroch to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2024 City Council minutes. Motion carried. 5-1 Absent

Public Comments:

- No Public Comments

Old Business:

- **Greenwood Cemetery**
 - Review at April Meeting.
- **Dumpster Ordinance**
 - Discussion was had on the recommended ordinance revisions for property owners who own dumpsters within City limits.
 - Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Hanson to approved amendment to the resolution of the Solid Waste Disposal Ordinance as presented.
 - Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 4 Ayes, 1 Ney, and 1 Absent
- **Block One Alley**
 - Last contract has been turned in. Once Mayor returns and paperwork is signed; Next phase of the project will be taken.
 - Review at April Meeting.
- **Lake Dredge**
 - Paperwork from DNR was updated. Once Mayor returns and paperwork is signed; Next phase of project will be taken.
 - Review at April Meeting.

New Business:

- **Action Lot Incentive**
 - No Council Recommendations to Report.
 - Review at April Meeting.
- **Fire Station Repair Bids**
 - Discussion was had on the three proposals presented. Recommendations to reach out the contractors to have a split joint amended added to the proposed bids.

- Review at April Meeting based on returned information from contactors.
- **Tractor Mower**
 - Discussion was had regarding the tractor mower proposals presented.
 - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Marsolek to approve the purchase of Lindstrom Tractor Mower for \$26,061.00.
 - Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 5 Ayes and 1 Absent
- **Property Reassessment/Chimney Rock Appraisals**
 - Discussion was had regarding the equalized value and inflation values regarding where the City of Independence currently ranks with other Municipalities in the county.
 - Mark Garlic from Chimney Rock Appraisals gave a summary update on where the city currently ranks. Garlic addressed options of what may happen if the City does nothing this year, reviews assessments maintenance, or waits and does a full assessment in the future years to get the equalized value back to where it needs to be for the City.
 - Review at April meeting with Garlic returning with updated contract for a reassessment.
- **Hi Crush Mining & Reclamation Permit Amendment**
 - Attorney Michalek updated the Council of the requests made for a Public Hearing. Still waiting for Hi Crush and knowing the timeline they must meet regarding the public hearing requests. If they do not hit the timeframe needed, the application will be rejected and when they are ready to move forward with the reclamation permit amendment they will have to re-apply.
 - Review at April Meeting.
- **Licenses and Permits**
 - **Building Permit**
 - The following applications for Building Permits were presented to Council for approval:
 - **Dave Galewski**
 - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5- 1 Absent
 - **Music Permit**
 - The following Music Permit Application was presented to Council for approval with guidelines and monthly review:
 - **La Hacienda**
 - Discussion was had regarding the city and state ordinance, building codes, and security plan for hosting the party. Addressing this is only a music permit.
 - Discussion was had that they must abide by the same responsibilities as other establishments.
 - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Ekern to approve application presented with following guidelines, ordinance, building codes, and security plan. Motion Carried, 3 Aye, 2 Nye, and 1 Absent.
 - **Picnic License**
 - The following application for Picnic License were presented to Council for approval:
 - **Education Celebration- SSPP School**

- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Symicek to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5-1 Absent
- **Conservation Club**
- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Marsolek to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5-1 Absent
- **Whitetails**
- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Symicek to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5-1 Absent
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Ambulance Committee**
 - New Ambulance Vehicle is now in service and operational.
 - Old Ambulance Vehicle they are looking into making upgrades to it and/or to purchase a new one.
 - Ambulance service is looking into grants for the department to help fund parts of the department.
 - They are looking into bids for a new parking lot construction due to issues where the new building is.
 - New wage scale for ambulance employees went into effect on March 1, 2024.
 - **LEP Committee**
 - March 8th, 2024 Chief of Police start date
 - March 15, 2024 is Chief Swearing in event
 - Administrator Vold will be remaining on currently staying within 20 hours or less a week.
 - New Chief has been making appearances within the community and introducing himself to the local business in the City.
 - **Water and Sewer Commission**
 - Review of current grease trap ordinance is under review.
 - Commission is requested to be added to the Public School Board meeting agenda regarding the chemical spills in the City sewer system and the cost caused by the incident.
- **Correspondence**
 - None to Report.
- **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**
 - Motion by Hanson seconded by Symicek to approve the bills as presented. Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 5-1 Absent
- **Dates for Next Meeting**
 - City Council Meeting: Monday, April 1st, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.
 - LEP Committee Meeting: Monday, March 11th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
 - Election Day: Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024
 - Special Council Meeting Reorganization: Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.
- **Items for Next Agenda**
 - Review and Possible Action: Greenwood Cemetery
 - Review and Possible Action: Block One Alley
 - Review and Possible Action: Lake Dredge

- Update on Hi Crush Reclamation update and Public Hearing
 - Update on Friends of City Hall Annual Summary
- **Adjournment**
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk