**January 2, 2023**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 2, 2023 at 6:15pm in the Council Room of the City Hall.

Mayor Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Connie Marsolek. Riley Foltz was absent. Also Present were Attorney Michalak, City Clerk Lenice Pronschinske and Julie Dick from the Trempealeau County Times,

**Public Notice was given.**

**Approval of Agenda** Motion by Ekern and seconded by Theisen to approve agenda with the correction of

numbering agenda item #9. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** Motion by D. Marsolek and seconded by Ekern to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2022 City Council meeting. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Old Business:**

**Nature Energy Update**

Nothing this month

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

Attorney Michalak sent a lengthy letter to Parsons Energy hoping they have some answers by the February meeting.

**New Business:**

**Firefighter, EMT and 1st Responder Service Program**

Nothing this month. Put back on the February agenda.

**Discussion/Possible Action on Board Compensation**

Waiting on response from other communities, it will go back on next month’s agenda.

**Discussion/Possible Action on ARPA Funds**

The Fire Department is working on a getting an Emergency Plan in place and have asked again if the City would reconsider purchasing a generator to be kept at the fire station with ARPA Funds after all the power outages that have happening this winter. Mayor Baecker asked them to get some other generator options and if they would be willing to match funds or do some raising for this. We will put this back on next month’s agenda.

**Elk Rod & Gun Club Use of Old Fire station/Closing Street**

Motion by Ekern and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve letting the Elk Rod & Gun Club close off 2nd Street and use the old fire station for the annual ice fishing contest from Thursday, February 2nd through Sunday, February 5th. Motion carried as long as they notify all property owners and tenants surrounding the area. They also asked about the possibility of storing propane cylinders in the old fire station before the contest to save on handling them numerous times. We will check with Eli to make sure its ok.

**Ice Skating Rink**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Theisen to have the city guys get the skating rink set up on the lake again this year. Motion carried,

**Ordinance Updates**

An update from the Ordinance Committee was sent out to the Mayor and Council members with recommendation on changes for Titles 5, 6 and 7. They are also working on an index for the Ordinance Book and have created Title 1. Deb Marsolek thanked Attorney Michalak for all his help with updating ordinances.

**Police Officer Hiring and Training**

This was briefly discussed and will be put back on the February agenda.

**License & Permits**

**Operator Licenses**: The following operator license applications were presented to the council for approval.

**Jason Sobczak, Samantha McReynolds and Robert Czerwinski – East End Bar & Grill**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to approve the above applications and grant the licenses. Motion carried.

**Picnic License**: The following picnic license application was presented to the council for approval.

**Elk Rod & Gun Club – Annual Fishing Contest**

 Motion by Skroch and seconded by Theisen to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

* **Summer Rec –** A letter is being circulated to local businesses and the Townships within our school district asking for donations to help support our program. We are changing the program from Summer Rec to Park & Rec in order to add flag football and basketball. Also have some young and energetic parents willing to help.
* **Water & Sewer –** Not much to report this month. No one from SEH was at the meeting for any updates.
* **Law Enforcement/Personnel –** Chief Halvorson has passed the Leadership Program. They have 5 and possible 6 candidates to fill the open position. Login has been requested by the committee and clerk’s office should have a copy of the schedule with shift beginning times. Chief Halvorson will continue playing taps at military funerals, but this will be unpaid by the city. Daily logs look good. Officer Landrum will be starting the academy next week. The police office access is via touch pad. The Mayor, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Street Superintendent have keys to the office. Chief Halvorson would like to purchase his gun form the City and is checking into options for cell coverage.
* **Garbage/Trash Receptacle –** Still making headway on new contract with Tri-City Sanitation. Had discussion with a few owners of multi-family dwellings with plenty of good input. Jurowski apartments will be putting in a dumpster for their tenants. Tri-City has a new truck for trach bin pick-up. There have been approximately 240 cand distributed so far.
* **Lake –** Russ should be getting permits to the DNR this month. We are looking for more land options for disposal and checking prices on purchasing our own equipment. Looking at starting in the fall.

**Closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) Wis stats for the purpose of deliberating and/or negotiating the purchase of public property where competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Theisen to move to Closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) Wis stats for the purpose of deliberating and/or negotiating the purchase of public property where competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Rich Theisen voting aye. Riley Foltz was absent for the vote.

**Return to Session**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by D. Marsolek to return to open session. Motion carried.

**Possible Action from Closed Session**

There was no action from closed session, but put back on next month’s agenda.

**Approval of Invoices & Payroll** Motion by Theisen seconded by Ekern to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen and Deb Marsolek voting aye. Riley Foltz was absent.

**Correspondence**

The council received a letter of resignation from Riley Foltz and was also informed that it would be his last meeting also due to the fact he has his house for sale and will be moving out of his ward.

**Items for next Agenda**

Lake District

Nature Energy

Parsons Energy Group

Hi-Crush

Firefighter Retirement

Board Compensation

ARPA Funds

Possible Closed Session - Personnel

**Future Meetings**

City Council meeting Monday, February 6, 2023 at 6:15 pm.

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk