**October 3,2022**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 6:15pm in the Council Room of the City Hall.

Mayor Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek and Jason Ekern. Riley Foltz was absent. Also Present were Attorney Michalak, City Clerk Lenice Pronschinske, Patti Kulig, Julie Dick from the Trempealeau County Times, Dave Carlson, Mark Marsolek, Bill Thoma, Doreen Olson and Karen Geske.

**Public Notice was given.**

**Approval of Agenda** Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** Motion by Skroch and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2022 City Council meeting with the correction of the typos mentioned. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

* Patti Kulig thanked the city for putting out the Halloween poster. The Lions Club handed out 196 candy bars and ran out. She also asked if Parsons Energy holds a current CUP and if it should be looked at. Attorney Michalak will get in contact with Parsons Energy for a follow up.
* Karen Geske asked if the Town of Arcadia is being paid for the Road Use Agreement even though we have not been getting reimbursed from the Sand Mine. The answer to her question is yes.
* Doreen Olson reported that some of the concrete has been poured for the musical playground equipment that will be installed in City Hall Park.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Dredge Update**

Russ Kiviniemi was here last week and is looking into getting the permit applications submitted. Looks like permitting is about a year out. Another lake meeting will need to be scheduled.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

Nothing this month

**New Business:**

**Dave Carlson- Trempealeau County Tourism Director**

Dave Carlson the Economic Development and Tourism Director of Trempealeau County introduced himself and gave a brief speech about what his department has to offer the communities in Trempealeau County. He also stated that there are some grant monies out there to help people putting new businesses into vacant buildings.

**Legion Post 186**

Bill Thoma and Mark Marsolek from Legion Post 186 came before the council asking permission to place a life size statue/memorial on the vacant lot abutting Highway 93 where the old drug store used to sit. The council suggested that the Legion get together with other civic groups and form a committee to work on a plan.

**Recycling/Garbage Disposal**.

Mayor Baecker met with John Berg from Tri-R-Recycling and the cost of monthly curb-side pickup will increase from $492.00 per month to $550.00 per month. Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to approve the new cost of recycling. Motion carried,

It was also decided that we will stay with the monthly curbside pick-up, but all other recycling will have to be taken to the Tri-R-Project drop-off located at the Trempealeau County Health Care Center.

**Ambulance Budget**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to approve the city portion of the 2023 ambulance budget as presented in the amount of $35,457.66. Motion carried with Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye. Riley Foltz was absent for the vote.

**Bathrooms Behind City Shop**

Street Superintendent Eli Castleberry asked permission to open up/remove the partitions in the old Independence Days the bathrooms behind the city shop in order to use the building for storage. Motion by Skroch and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve the above project. Motion carried.

**City Hall Furnace/Air Conditioning**

This has been tabled until the next meeting.

**Block 1 Alley**

Attorney Michalak is working on checking deeds for any easements on the properties abutting this alley

**Property and Aesthetics**

Unsightly properties and a fine schedule were briefly discussed. A committee meeting will be set up in the near future.

**2023 Wage Discussion/Approval**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by D. Marsolek to approve the wages as presented. A raise of $1.25 will be given to Lenice Pronschinske, Elijah Castleberry, Ken Olson and Joe Galewski. Julie Dascher just came off of probation and was given a raise. Chad Halvorson probation has been extended and will be given a raise upon probation completion. Motion carried with Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern Cleo Skroch and Connie Marsolek voting aye. Riley Foltz was absent for the vote.

**Review and Discussion on 2023 City Budget**

After discussion and questions on the 2023 city budget a motion was made by Ekern and seconded by D. Marsolek to tentatively approve the budget. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Deb Marsolek, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Rich Theisen voting aye. Riley Foltz was absent for the vote. The 2023 Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, December 5th at 6:30 pm.

**License & Permits**

**Class “A” Retailer License**: The following Class “A” liquor license applications were presented to the council for approval.

**Vick LLC - DBA One Stop #1 – Independence Store – 23150 Whitehall Rd**

**Manit LLC – One Stop #1 – Formerly Indee Mini Mart - 35194 Diagonal Street**

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

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

**Amber Reed and Tim Kilian – East End Bar & Grill**

**SanJeev Kumaf – One Stop #1**

Motion by D. Marsolek and seconded by Rich Theisen to approve the above applications and grant the licenses. Motion carried.

**Building Permit**: The following building permit application was presented to the council for approval.

**Andrew Brown –** Remove and replace deck at

his property located at 23826 Jefferson Street

Motion by D. Marsolek and seconded by Theisen to approve the above application and grant the permit. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

* **Law Enforcement and Personnel –** The committee is in the process of putting in place some verbiage limiting overtime over 8 hours per week must be pre-approved. Jim Bisek will not be doing utility weekend plant checks any longer after Thanksgiving weekend. The city workers will go back on rotation doing this. The police department has been asked to go back to providing a daily log. They will talk to Eli Castleberry about leaving the flags up until Veterans Day.
* **Water & Sewer Commission –** The Utility Commission is requesting information from SEH on the up-front cost of doing a public hearing for the sewer upgrades.
* **Ordinance & Resolutions –** The Ordinance Committee has been working on some re-wording on the park ordinance. They are working on formatting the ordinance book titles. Chief Halvorson is requesting truancy and sexting ordinances. They are also finalizing a fine schedule for unsightly properties.

**Correspondence**

* The city received an email from Kara Bradley, she is the new Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator for the TVC Schools (Arcadia, Blair-Taylor, Independence and Whitehall) and is looking to form a steering committee and looking for a representative from the city. Council member Deb Marsolek will be following up with Kara

**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 Theisen and seconded by Ekern 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 Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen and Deb Marsolek voting aye. Riley Foltz was absent for the vote.

**Return to Session**

Motion by Ekern and seconded by Theisen to return to open session. Motion carried.

**Possible Action from Closed Session**

There was no action from closed session.

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

**Future Meetings**

City Council meeting December 5, 2022 at 6:15 pm.

Budget Hearing – December 5, 2022 at 6:15 pm.

**Items for next Agenda**

Lake District

Parsons

Furnace & Air Conditioning

Properties & Aesthetics

Block 1 Alley

2023 Budget Hearing and Action

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk