

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

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

- Mayor Baecker presided

**Roll Call of Members**

- Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek, Deb Marsolek, Linda Longmore and Tim Hanson. Also present were, Attorney Laverne Michalak, City Clerk Tiffany Bautch, Ben Pierce from the Trempealeau County Times. Members of the Community Katie Murphy, Erica Bauer, and Barbara Peterlin.

**Proof of Giving Public Notice Given.**

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Ekern to approve agenda with corrections sent. Motion carried. 6-0

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Marsolek to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 City Council minutes with corrections sent. Motion carried. 6-0

**Public Comments:**

- Barbara Peterlin addressed the council regarding after hour noise concerns and concern of bright red light shining into the Markham addition.

**Old Business:**

- **Lake Dredge Update**
  - DNR has not come to do the samples yet.
  - Discussion was had with local property owners regarding the dumping of lake sediment on the property.
- **Greenwood Cemetery Update**
  - A notification letter was sent to the City clerk's office regarding the disbandment of the Cemetery Board.

**New Business:**

- **Library Update**
  - Motion by Skroch and Second by Hanson to move down in the agenda. Motion Carried. 6-0
  - Motion by Skroch and Seconded by Ekern to move back up in the agenda to review Library Updates. Motion Carried 6-0
  - Librarian Kayla Mathson presented updates to the Council on Nights of Lights, Scams and Frauds Targeting Seniors, Feria De Salud, Charitable Art Night, and Self- Defense Class.
- **Appointment by Mayor for Library Board**
  - Mayor Baecker gives recommendation to appoint Jessica Hunter to Library Board. Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to accept and appoint Jessica Hunter to Library Board. Motion carried with 6-0.
- **Discuss Possibility of Vacating a Street**

- Discussion was had in regard to vacating the 1878 Tracy Outlet decades old former road that is Plat Recorded that the City of Independence owns as a former road.
- Motion by Marsolek and Seconded by Skroch to have Attorney Michalek draft letter for the City Clerk office to send to property owners of next step options. Motion Carried with 6-0
- **Committee Appointment**
  - Purchasing, Real Estate, and Personal Prop: Marsolek, Symicek, Longmore
  - Ordinance and Resolutions: Marsolek, Ekern, Longmore
  - Property Aesthetics and Safety: Skroch, Marsolek, Longmore
  - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to appointment Linda Longmore to the stated committee. Motion Carried. 6-0
- **Welcome Sign**
  - Discussion was had regarding the appearance and up-keep of the Welcome Signs coming into the City. Past discussions were had by Council to create a City and Committee involvement project in updating the City Welcome Signs.
  - Motion by Skroch and seconded by Symicek to create a committee to update the Welcome Signs in Independence. Hanson and Longmore were appointed as Council Committee Chair and will work to get the committee created in the next year. Motion Carried. 6-0
- **Parking Restrictions on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson Street**
  - Discussion was had on dual parking on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and corner of Jefferson Street.
  - Discussion around the No Truck Parking Signs placed on 4<sup>th</sup> Street but making this a one side parking or alternative parking area as well.
  - Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Hanson for the street department to action the decision of making this a one side or alternative parking decision on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and the corner of Jefferson Street. Motion Carried. 6-0
- **Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2023-07 Resolution Authorizing a Signatory Municipality to Exceed the Levy Limit for the Joint Ambulance Contract.**
  - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Skroch to accept the Resolution 2023-07 as stated and approve the increased Levy of \$1,769.37 for the City of Independence. Motion carried with 6-0 with a roll vote.
- **Discuss and Possible Approval of 2024 City Assessor/Maintenance Contract**
  - Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Hanson to accept the 2024 Chimney Rock Appraisal Contract for \$6,900 as stated. Motion carried with a roll vote of 5 Aye 1 Nay.
- **2024 Budget Discussion/Review**
  - Discussion was had regarding the 2024 Proposed Budget.
  - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve 2024 Proposed Budget of Tax Levy \$788,136.00 Mill Rate (Tax per \$1,000) 2024 Budget 9.11 pending the Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing.
  - Motion Carried. 6-0
- **Date for Budget Hearing and Actions**
  - Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm
- **Alleys and Open Space in Block 1 of the Original Plat**
  - Discussion was had on the Block 1 Alley Maintenance

- **Licenses and Permits**
  - **Building Permits:** The following applications for Building Permits were presented to Council for Approval:
    - **Michael & Dena Severson- House Addition**
    - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Marsolek to not approve application presented and request a new application to be completed with correct photo and dimension information. Motion Carried. 6-0
  - **Picnic License:** The following Picnic License Application was presented to Council for Approval:
    - **S.S Peter and Paul/ Knights of Columbus**
    - **Poultry Fest-** November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023
    - Motion by Symicek and seconded by Skroch to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion Carried. 6-0
  - **Bartender License:** The following applications for Bartender Licenses were presented to the Council for Approval:
    - **East End Bar**—Kayla Knopps Renewal Motion Carried. 6-0
    - **Dollar General**—Lee Kong Motion Carried. 5 Aye 1 Nay
    - **Welcome Bar**—Katie Murphy Motion Carried. 6-0
    - **Welcome Bar**—Laura Mueller Motion Carried. 6-0
    - Motion by Skroch and seconded by Symicek to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion Carried. 6-0
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Law Enforcement and Personnel**
    - Employee annual reviews were completed.
  - **Finance Committee**
    - 2024 Budget review was completed.
  - **Fire Department**
    - Nothing to Report
  - **Water & Sewer**
    - Working to review current Sewer Ordinances and Sewer Rates
    - Replacement of Cracked Water Main on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Street will tentatively be closed x1 week to complete project
    - Replacement of Franklin and River Street Water Hydrants
    - City Wide Hydrant Flushing is being worked on
  - **Street**
    - Maple Street and Silver Court paving will be completed.
    - Adding a wash bay into the street machinery shop.
    - John Deere Tractor Mower was added to online auction should know outcome within a few weeks.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Adams and Jefferson Street is down due to the broken water main. Street will remain gravel until next spring.
    - City will pave the street in spring along with the completion of storm sewer.
- **Correspondence**
  - Ashley Furniture reached out regarding to another year of tree planting.
  - Hi Crush reached out of a possible proposal of a reclamation for the City of Independence portion.
- **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

- Motion by Skroch seconded by Ekern to approve the bills as presented.  
Motion Carried 6-0
- **Closed session per section 19.85 (1) (e) Wi Stat for the purpose of deliberating and negotiating the purchase of public properties where bargaining reasons require a closed session.**
  - Motion by Ekern seconded by Longmore to move into Closed Session.  
Motion carried 6-0
- **Returned to Open Session**
  - Motion by Hanson seconded by Ekern to return to Open Session.
  - Motion carried 6-0
- **Possible Action from Closed Session**
  - Motion by Hanson and Seconded by Symicek acting from closed session to move forward with the proposal of Veteran Memorial Park and Alley Block 1 Acquisition. Motion Carried 6-0 roll vote.
- **Date for Next Meeting**
  - City Council Meeting: December 4, 2023 at 6:15 p.m.
  - Budget Hearing and Action Meeting: December 4, 2023 at 6:15pm
  - Street Committee Meeting: November 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm
  - Ordinance and Resolution Committee Meeting: November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm
  - Property, Aesthetic, & Safety Committee Meeting: November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p
  - LEP Committee Meeting: November 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm
- **Items for Next Agenda**
  - Review and Possible Action on Parking Restrictions
  - Review and Possible Action on Greenwood Cemetery
  - Review and Possible Action on City Tree Planting
  - Discussion of Possible Action Prospect Hi Crush Reclamation Bond- January
  - 2024 Budget Approval
  - 2024 Wage Discussion/Approval
- **Adjournment**
  - Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk