**December 5, 2022**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 20, 2022 at 6:15pm in the Council Room of the City Hall.

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

**Public Notice was given.**

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

**Approval of Minutes** Motion by Ekern and seconded by Theisen to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2022 City Council meeting. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Dredge Update**

A meeting was set for Wednesday, December 14th at 5:00 for discussion on project/disposal sites.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

Attorney Michalak has been in contact with Rick from Parson’s Energy. Rick will be at the next meeting and wished the council a Merry Christmas!

**Nature Energy Update**

Nature Energy has been in contact with Hi-Crush in reference to the dry plant property. Hi-Crush in not doing anything with the property until 2023.

**New Business:**

**Open Public Hearing on the 2023 City Budget**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz to open the Public Hearing on the 2023 City Budget. Motion carried.

**Fire Fighter, EMT and 1st Responder Service Program**

The State has money out there for Firefighters Retirement where they match 2 to 1 up to $400.00. The Clerk will send out the information to the council members and this will go back on the January agenda.

**Appointment of Water/Sewer Commission Member**

Mayor Baecker made the appointment of Richard Warner to fill the open position to the Utility Commission. Motion by Ekern and seconded by Skroch, motion carried with Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Connie Marsolek voting aye.

**Discussion/Possible Action on Board Compensation**

Nothing at this time, it will go back on next month’s agenda.

**Computer/Printer Purchase**

Street Superintendent Eli Castleberry asked permission to purchase a new computer for the street lights and a printer for the city shop. Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz to allow the purchases with the payment for the computer coming out of the Street Light Fund and the printer out of the Street Department budget. Motion carried.

**Update on Garbage Cans**

The Committee met and has some concerns with the proposed contract from Tri-City Sanitation. Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 22nd. We will be inviting owners of multi-family residents to get their input and concerns.

**Discussion on Lots in the Markham Addition**

GEM Properties asked for an extension of 2 years to see if they could sell the 2 undeveloped lots for the amount that they paid for them. Motion by D. Marsolek and seconded by Ekern to give GEM Properties a 2-year extension, but if the lots do not sell the City will buy them back as stated in the convenance. Motion carried.

**Christmas Lighting Compensation**

Motion by D. Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to give Wayne Palkowski compensation in the amount of $500.00 as a thank you for lighting the City with Christmas! Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek an Rich Theisen voting aye.

**Close Public Hearing on 2023 City Budget**

Motion by Foltz and seconded by Theisen to close the public hearing on the 2023 City budget

**Discussion and Action on 2023 City Budget**

After a brief discussion on the 2023 City budget a motion was made by Foltz and seconded by Ekern to approve the 2023 budget as follows:

 Estimated Expenditures $1,463,353.00

 Estimated Revenues 727,669.00

 Tax Levy 735,684.00

Motion carried with Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Conrad Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek and Riley Foltz voting aye.

**License & Permits**

There were no licenses or permits.

**Committee Reports**

* **Ambulance –** The budget passed and everything is going well. The new secretary is doing great! The new ambulance is schedule for 2024 and they already have the funding for it.
* **Library –** Book Club has added a few new members since covid. They had 55 people at their Mexican Dance and 240 Trunk or Treaters. The Librarian is getting her Notary Seal. The Friends of the Library are soliciting for start-up funding.
* **Water & Sewer Commission –** Black Top patching is done around the replaced valves. A new lift gate for the utility truck was approved. There are some sewer lined on 121 that are in need of repair.
* **Ordinance & Resolutions –** The Ordinance Committee discussed parks and what they would like to see as far as compensation for use of city parks. This will be put on January agenda.

**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 Foltz and seconded by D. Marsolek 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 Theisen and seconded by Ekern 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 D. Marsolek seconded by Foltz to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz and Jason Ekern and voting aye.

**Correspondence**

Hi-Crush sent a letter of request for a modification to their Conditional Use Permit. This will be put on next month’s agenda for possible action.

**Future Meetings**

Garbage/Trash meeting, December 22nd @ 5:00

City Council meeting January 2, 2023 at 6:15 pm.

**Items for next Agenda**

Lake District

Parsons Energy Group

Firefighter Retirement

Board Compensation

Compensation for use of Parks

Possible Closed Session

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk