

February 7, 2022

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

Mayor Robert Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen and Brad Rebarchek, were present. Also present were Doreen Olson, Kayla Mathson, Attorney Michalak and Debbie Foss from the Trempealeau County Times.

Public Notice was given.

Motion by Rebarchek and seconded by Foltz to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2022 meetings as presented. Motion Carried.

Public Comments

Jason Ekern stated that he has received phone calls asking if the city website could be updated. Lenice will work with Kayla in the library to get this done.

Old Business:

Lake Dredge Update

This will be discussed in closed session.

Parsons Energy Group Update

No Update. Attorney Michalak will have be sending them a letter asking for an update and will also inquire about road use agreement payments.

City Hall Alarm System

There was no update from NEI Electric so a motion was made by Foltz and seconded by Ekern to approve the bid from B & B Electric in the amount of \$4975.00 to fix the current alarm system in city hall. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Brad Rebarchek and Riley Foltz.

Pest Control City Hall/Library

We are not going to pursue this. Plug-ins and spray have been purchased.

New Business:

Doreen Olson – Ashley for the Arts Grant

Doreen Olson informed the Council that the Rainbow Community Club was the recipient of the Ashley for the Arts in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be used for musical playground equipment for the City Hall Park. So far the committee members are Doreen Olson, Jenna Sonsalla, Cher Schaumberg, Lenice Pronschinske and Kayla Mathson. The Community Club will be hosting a Polish Dinner on Sunday, March 13th as a fundraiser for this project.

Dave Pientok – Tri-City Sanitation

Mayor Baecker and Jason Ekern met with Dave Pientok from Tri-City Sanitation. Tri City Sanitation is looking at possibility moving away from the bag system and would like to do a pilot program within the City of Independence with trying out garbage cans with 3 or 4 households in each ward. We will discuss more next month.

County Road Q – ATV Discussion

Mayor Baecker will get more information from the county. This will go baack on the agenda for the next meeting

City Hall Landscaping

Riley Foltz will meet with Dan Filla from Winona Nursery to go over the landscaping plan and bring it back to the council in March.

Block 1 Original Plat Alley and Parking

Nothing for this meeting, but keep on the agenda.

Furnace Bids for Fire Station

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to approve the bid from Schaffner's Heating in the amount of \$4,250.00 for the fire station if available, if not then purchase the one from Slaby electric in the amount of \$4,853.13. Motion carried with Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz and Jason Ekern voting aye.

ARPA Committee Discussion

A few ideas were brought up. The finance committee will meet and bring back to the March meeting. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23rd at 5:00.

Discussion and Possible Action on Streep Sweeper

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Foltz to give permission to look into purchasing a street sweeper with a budget of up to \$90,000.00. Motion carried with Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye. Brad Rebarchek voted nay.

Licenses & Permits

Building Permits

- The following building permit application was presented to the council for approval:

Rita Boland – Single Family Home w/attached garage – 36186 Willow Court

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Skroch to approve the above building permit as long as it conforms with the Markham Hillside Addition Covenants. Motion carried.

Class “A” Retailers (liquor & fermented beverages – off sale)

- The following Class “A” Retailers License application was presented to the council for approval:

Independence Store LLC – DBA Independence Market

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

Picnic Licenses

- The following picnic license applications were presented to the council for approval:

Knights of Columbus – White Tails Banquet –
Conservation Club Banquet –

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Rebarchek to approve the above applications and grant the licenses. Motion carried.

Bartender Licenses

- The following bartender application was presented to the council for approval:

Kaylee Erickson – Welcome Bar

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

Committee Reports

- Library – The Library has formed a group (Friends of the Library). There will be a Hand Bell Concert at the Opera House on Saturday, March 5th. Circulation numbers are up and the art books have been going out.
- Water/Sewer – The utility is checking on the possibility of putting a sleeve in the sewer pipes behind Olde Creamery Antiques and the lots along River Street.
- Law Enforcement/Personnel - Jason – We have a vacancy in both the clerk’s office and the police department. We are extending the applications until February 28th.
- Summer Rec – Brett is off to a good start. Gilmanton is covering the cost of a new tarp for over the dugouts. Some games and practices will be held in Gilmanton this year.

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

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

Return to Open Session

Motion by Rebarckek and seconded by Foltz to return to open session. Motion carried.

Possible Action from Closes Session

Motion by Foltz and seconded by Skroch to have Northern Investment lower the prices on the lots in the Marham's Hillside Addition by 7% for the next 10 lots sold. Motion carried with Brad Rebarckek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Brad Rebarckek voting aye.

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern not to purchase land from Paul and Peg Halverson that was discussed in closed session, Motion carried.

Approval of Invoices and Payroll

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

Correspondence

Mayor Baecker received a letter from GEM Properties asking questions on the Markham Hillside Addition, Mayor Baecker will follow up with her and answer her questions.

Items for Next Agenda

- Lake Update
- Parsons Energy
- Tri-City Sanitation
- County Road Q/ATV Update
- TIF Update
- City Hall Landscaping
- ARPA Funding
- Block 1 Alley
- Update on Fire Station Furnace
- Possible Hiring

Dates for Future Meeting

Finance Meeting – Wednesday, February 23rd @5:00

City Council Meeting – Monday, March 7th @ 6:15

Adjournment

Motion by Rebarchek and seconded by Ekern to adjourn. Motion Carried at 8:40 pm.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk