

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

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 5, 2024 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, Tim Hanson, and Linda Longmore via Teams. Also present were Attorney LaVerne Michalak, City Clerk Tiffany Bautch, Wendy Thompson, Scott Gunderson, Dave Galewski, Elvecia Najera, Bianca Najera, Ann Miemietz, Kayla Mathson, Rita Boland, John Kantlon and Debbie Foss.

Proof of Giving Public Notice Given.

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by Ekern and seconded by Symicek to approve agenda sent. Motion carried. 6-0

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024 City Council minutes. Motion carried. 6-0

Public Comments:

- Najera addressed the council regarding the music permit for La Hacienda. Discussion was had on the criteria of the music permit, the city ordinances, and the responsibility of the property owner. Motioned during licenses and permits.
- Boland addressed the council regarding more information and communication on the website. The city needs to update the city website; noting December minutes were not posted online yet. Requesting that the city should send out a general email list out every week or month to all residents.
- Thompson addressed the council regarding the Hi Crush Reclamation Process that was in January's Paper wanting to remind the Council that when they are in their reclamation process discussions. Keep in mind that there are a lot of "opinions" in the notes. Review to make sure they have the facts. Make sure the City is following through on the City's word and follows the ordinances that the City has enforced. The City has to follow what the City set forth.
 - Alderman Hanson noted that a committee is created and will be working on this project to take this into consideration.

Old Business:

- **Greenwood Cemetery**
 - Certified assessment was given.
 - Review at March Meeting.
- **Dumpster Ordinance**
 - Recommendations regarding dumpsters options were given by Garbage Committee.
 - Discussion was had and Committee will work with Attorney Michalek.
 - Review at March Meeting.
- **Block One Alley**

- Two Bids currently received. Waiting on the third party.
- Mayor will talk to the third party.
- Review at March Meeting.
- **Lake Dredge**
 - Nothing to Report

New Business:

- **Action Lot Incentive**
 - Ron Wanek reached out asking for a one year extension to the covenants for Backwoods Development on Markham Additions.
 - Discussion was had noting the timeframe of the contract runs from July 2022 through July 2024. Alderman Symicek feels right now, they still have three months to sell the properties before a determination is needed.
 - Alderman Ekern noted this is the risk that was taken when they built these properties and extension should not be given.
 - Table discussion with possible action to May meeting for request of possible one year extension pending status of Backwoods Development efforts to sell and upkeep lots.
 - Discussion was also had on recommendation to review ways for the city to sell the lots on Markham additions.
 - Mayor Baecker reviewed different alternatives other municipalities try to work with their communities to offer incentives to purchase lots. Offering discounts or other incentive rates.
 - Review at March Meeting with Council to bring recommendations.
- **City's Locks**
 - Discussion was had on the two proposals presented by Tom's Lock Service regarding the current lock system of City Hall.
 - Motion by Skroch and Seconded by Hanson to approve the proposal of the \$675.00 to re key the City Hall Building. Funds to be taken out of the Police Budget. Motion Carried with Roll Vote 6-0.
- **Friends of City Hall**
 - Friends of City Hall Annual Financial Summary for 2023 was reviewed. Hanson questioned details on the report for clarity of the group being nonprofit.
 - Council determined to review in March or April when Dr. Bill Baxa could attend to answer details regarding the financial summary.
- **Hi Crush Mining & Reclamation Permit Amendment**
 - Attorney Michalek updated the Council of the requests made for a Public Hearing. Hi-Crush advised that they have been in contact with landowners and aware of permits that have been in discussion around the request and aligning details to set up a Public Hearing.
 - The council is not planning to do anything further around this matter until Hi-Crush gives further information to the City.
 - Pending update from Hi-Crush on status of Public Hearing Request to Schedule.
- **Licenses and Permits**
 - **Building Permit**
 - The following applications for Building Permits were presented to Council for approval:

- **Sharon Sluga**
- Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 6-0

- **Brad and Lori Dailey**
- Motion by Symicek and seconded by Ekern to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 6-0
- **Music Permit**
- The following Music Permit Application was presented to Council for approval with the below guidelines with monthly review:
 - **La Hacienda**
 - Music Permit for all events must receive council approval each month. If permits are not handed in for council approval, they will be held until the following council meeting.
 - Must comply with all City ordinances.
 - This will be on a monthly trial basis due to the concerns of noise violations in the residential areas the past month. If Police officers are continuously addressing issues at the establishment, music permits will no longer be granted by the City Council.
 - Motion by Ekern and seconded by Marsolek to approve application presented with guidelines. Motion Carried, 6-0
- **Bartenders License**
- The following applications for Bartenders License were presented to Council for approval:
 - **Railhanai Polk- Dollar General**
 - **Lindsey Lyga- Dollar General**
 - Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 6-0

 - **Joesph Sluga- Welcome Bar**
 - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Ekern to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 6-0
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Library Committee**
 - Chrisine Anderson from Winding Rivers came and presented to the Committee at last meeting.
 - **LEP Committee**
 - In the process of City background check for the tentative Chief of Police applicant.
- **Correspondence**
 - None to Report.
- **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**
 - Motion by Hanson seconded by Ekern to approve the bills as presented. Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 6-0
- **Dates for Next Meeting**
 - City Council Meeting: Monday, March 4th, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.

- **Items for Next Agenda**
 - Review and Possible Action: Greenwood Cemetery
 - Review and Possible Action: Dumpster Ordinance
 - Review and Possible Action: Block One Alley
 - Review and Possible Action: Lake Dredge
 - Update on Hi Crush Reclamation update and Public Hearing
- **Closed Session:**
 - **Per Section 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Statutes to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.**
 - **Per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the City who is rendering advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Council with respect to litigation in which the City is likely to become involved.**
 - Motion by Ekern seconded by Symicek to move into Closed Session.
 - Motion carried 6-0
- **Returned to Open Session**
 - Motion by Marsolek seconded by Hanson to reconvene to open session.
 - Motion carried 6-0
- **Possible Action from Closed Session**
 - Motion by Ekern and Seconded by Hanson to approve the hiring of Jim Waniorek as New Chief of Police. Motion Carried with Roll Vote. 6-0
 - Starting wage of \$36.25.
 - After 6-month probation pending no council concerns or probationary extension wage increase of \$37.00 after.
 - Starting vacation of 2 weeks.
 - After one year with no council concerns or probationary extensions 2 additional weeks of vacation will be given for a total of 4 weeks.
 - Starting sick time of 320 hours given at 1 year. No additional sick time accruals will be given in the first year.
 - After 1st year, with no council concerns or probationary extensions standard sick time accumulations will begin. Max sick time of 90 hours can be carried over.
 - Swearing in date of Chief Waniorek is March 8th with 3-month status review with LEP Committee and Mayor in May 2024 and 6-month probationary review end of July 2024. Motion Carried 6-0 Roll Vote.
 - Motion by Symicek and Seconded by Skroch to approve the purchase of a New 2025 Ford Police Vehicle bid of \$46,545.00. Motion Carried with Roll Vote. 6-0
 - Motion by Marsolek and Seconded by Skroch to approve Attorney Michalek to schedule and address the Title and Survey work for City owned properties. Motion Carried with Roll Vote. 6-0
- **Adjournment**
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk