**March 7, 2022**

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

Council President Jason Ekern 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 Dave Pientok, Wayne Palkowski, Kayla Mathson, Patti Kulig, Dan Filla, Attorney April Lande and Debbie Foss from the Trempealeau County Times.

Public Notice was given.

Motion by Rebarchek and seconded by Marsolek to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2022 meetings as presented. Motion Carried.

**Public Comments**

* Wayne Palkowski – Showed the Council the Christmas lights that he has been changing over to LEP. He also asked the Council for approximately $500.00 to cover the cost of purchasing lights to convert the rest of the decorations. Motion by Theisen and seconded by Skroch to approve the funding but not to exceed $500.00. Motion carried with Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz and Jason Ekern voting aye. Cleo Skroch thanked Wayne for a job well done!
* Patti Kulig - asked if we can get the web-site updated with contact information for the city council and get the agendas and minutes added. She also asked if we ever get a follow-up report from the DNR on the Compliance Maintenance Report that is posted on the website.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Dredge Update**

This will be discussed in closed session.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

A letter will go out to Parsons, there was a misunderstanding on who was getting the letter sent out.

**New Business:**

**Library**

The librarian Kayla Mathson gave the council an update on things happening in the library. She is also helping with updates to the city website. The library will be sponsoring bingo in Tuesday, March 22nd.

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**City Hall Landscaping**

Dan Filla from Winona Nursery was here with an updated landscaping plan for around city hall. He will continue working with Riley Foltz on the plan.

**Dave Pientok – Tri-City Sanitation**

Dave Pientok came before the council to talk about the possibility of changing to garbage cans rather than bags. He brought along a sample can and would like to put a few cans in each ward to try and see how it goes. Raising the cost of garbage bags was also discussed. Motion by Rebarchek and seconded Marsolek to raise the price of large bags from $25.00 to $30.00 and small from $20.00 to $24.00. Motion carried with Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye.

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**County Road Q – ATV Discussion**

This will go back on the agenda for the next meeting

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**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 were bathrooms in the park, ambulance long term billing and employee bonuses. We will bring this back to the April meeting.

**Dates for Open Book and Board of Review**

Open Book is scheduled for May 10th from 2 pm to 4 pm

Board of Review is scheduled for May 24th from 6 pm to 8 pm.

**Licenses & Permits**

**Picnic Licenses**

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

SS Peter & Paul – Education Celebration

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

**Bartender Licenses**

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

Hope Chambers – Dollar General

Motion by Skroch to approve, there was no second. Motion by Theisen and seconded by Rebarchek to table until next month. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

* Water/Sewer – Nothing much because of the bugle apartment fire, most of the agenda as tabled.
* Law Enforcement/Personnel - Jason – We are conducting interviews on Thursday, March 10th.

**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 and Closed session per Section 19.85.85(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.**

Motion by Foltz and seconded by Theisen 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 and Closed session per Section 19.85.85(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.

Motion carried with Rich Theisen, Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Connie Marsolek voting aye.

**Return to Open Session**

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

**Possible Action from Closes Session**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz approve motions from closed session as follows:

* Move Chad Halverson up to Assistant Chief with a $1.00 per hour raise retroactive back to January 18th and another 50 cents after 6 months.
* The Law Enforcement/Personnel Committee can make the decision to hire a deputy after interviews.

Motion carried with Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Brad Rebarchek voting aye.

**Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

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

**Items for Next Agenda**

Lake Update

Parsons Energy

Tri-City Sanitation

County Road Q/ATV Update

City Hall Landscaping

ARPA Funding

Block 1 Alley

**Dates for Future Meeting**

Law Enforcement/Personnel – Thursday, March 10th @5:15

City Council Meeting – Monday, April 4th @ 6:15

**Adjournment**

Motion by Rebarchek and seconded by Marsolek to adjourn. Motion Carried at 8:45 pm.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk