**April 4, 2022**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 6:15 pm in the Council Room of the City Hall.

Mayor Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz and Jason Ekern were present. Also present were Dan Filla, Attorney Michalak and Andrew Dannehy from the Trempealeau County Times.

Public Notice was given.

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

**Public Comments**

* Mayor Baecker gave a Thank You to the Fire Department, Police Department, and all Emergency Serviced that helped with the Bugle Apartment Fire.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Dredge Update**

Nothing new.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

We are working with Attorney Michalak on this matter.

**New Business:**

**City Hall Landscaping**

Riley Foltz brough in some options for putting in some sidewalk into the landscaping project and Dan Filla from Winona Nursery had revised the bid taking out some of the planting options. Motion by Foltz and seconded by Ekern to approve a budget of not more than $15,500.00 for the total project which includes $10,000.00 in donations and a start date of early May. Motion carried with Connie Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye. Rich Theisen and Brad Rebarchek voted nay.

**Tri-City Sanitation/Price of Garbage Bags**

After some discussion it was unanimously decided that the price of garbage bags will remain the same as previously voted on in March ($30.00 for large and $24.00 for the small).

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**County Road Q – ATV Discussion**

The Street Committee should set up a meeting with Al Rinka at the County Highway Department to gather more information and bring back to the council.

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**Block 1 Original Plat Alley and Parking**

This will also go to the Street Committee to get a meeting set up with abutting property owners and then bring back to the council.

**ARPA Committee Discussion**

Items considered for ARPA funds are paying off the cities portion of the ambulance building, re-doing the bathrooms at 4-seasons park, sewer pipe lining at Franklin and Washington Streets, radar gun speed signs and tuckpointing on city hall. Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz to approve spending up to $5690.00 of these funds to purchase the radar gun and speed signs. Motion carried with Rich Theisen, Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Connie Marsolek voting aye.

**Industrial Park Land Rent**

This will be put on the April 19th reorganization meeting agenda for action.

**City Hall Entry Flooring/Lighting**

Motion by Rebarchek and seconded by Theisen to approve the bid from Jacobson Electric for purchasing new lights for the hallway outside of city hall. Motion carried with Brad Rebarchek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Rich Theisen voting aye.

Also get some bids for replacing the flooring on the stairway landings in the city hall entry and bring back to the May meeting.

**Licenses & Permits**

**Building Permits**

* The following building permit applications was presented to the council for approval:

Randy Przybilla -

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

**Bartender Licenses**

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

Dollar General - Aubrey Wozney

Maribel Flores

Motion by Foltz and seconded by Ekern to approve the above applications and grant the licenses. Motion carried.

East End Bar – Julio Rodriguez

Caitlyn Jiskra

Jenassa Ames

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

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**Committee Reports**

* Property Aesthetics and Safety – 11 letters were sent out and 2 letters will be delivered by the police department to property owners of unsightly properties.
* Water/Sewer – Working on getting the back-up issue at NIC resolved, doing some valve replacements and working on getting numbers from SEH on upgrading the sewer plant.

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

**Return to Open Session**

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

**Possible Action from Closes Session**

Motions from closed session as follows:

* Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to hire Chad Halverson as Chief of Police with a 6-month probation period. Motion carried.
* Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Foltz to offer the Assistant Chief position to Robert Tiedje at a rate of $28.00 per hour with a 6-month probation period.

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

**Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

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

Reorganization Meeting – Tuesday, April 19th @ 6:15

City Council Meeting – Monday, May 2nd @ 6:15

**Adjournment**

Motion by Rebarchek and seconded by Theisen to adjourn. Motion Carried at 8:50 pm.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk