

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

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 1, 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**

- Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek, Deb Marsolek, Tim Hanson, Linda Longmore. Absent Jason Ekern. Also present were Attorney LaVerne Michalak, City Clerk Tiffany Bautch, Joe Frye, Bill Thoma, Richard Warner, Dr. William Baxa, Leon Przybylla, Alan Przybylla, Elaine Conrad, Mark Garlic, Rita Boland, Kayla Mathson, and Police Chief James Waniorek, and Adrew Dannehy from the Trempealeau County Times.

**Proof of Giving Public Notice Given.**

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve agenda sent. Motion carried. 5- 1 Absent

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 City Council minutes. Motion carried. 5-1 Absent

**Public Comments:**

- Discussion if there has been any updates regarding the Sister City of Poland. Hanson will review.

**Old Business:**

- **Greenwood Cemetery**
  - Discussion was had on the recommended Greenwood Cemetery adaptation.
  - Motion by Skroch and seconded by Hanson to approve the adopt the resolution for Greenwood Cemetery as presented.
- **Block One Alley**
  - Attorney Michalek updated Council that all landowners have signed dead for the alley project. Meeting with the Mayor and Surveyors will be the next phase in the process. The timeframe of the project will be July 2024-June 2025 for Completion.
  - Review at July Meeting.
- **Lake Dredge**
  - Paperwork was signed and sent on to the DNR to review. Pending DNR review to determine the next phase of project.
  - Review at May Meeting.
- **Hi-Crush Mining & Reclamation Permit Amendment**
  - Attorney Michalek updated the Council of the requests made for public hearing. Hi-Crush is not ready to present a public hearing currently.
  - Review of remaining sand onsite at the property will need to be addressed. Once Hi- Crush has addressed the concerns, they will come back to Council and start the reclamation process over again.
- **Friends of City Hall**

- Dr. William Baxa liaison from the Friends of City Hall Group presented to the Council a summary of the background of the Friends of City Hall and questions regarding Annual Financial Summary.
- It was discussed that the Friends are not a 501-C group.
- Events fees have increased to \$600 with a \$1,000 Deposit Fee. Deposit is returned if facilities are cleaned following the event.
- He also discussed meeting room locations available to City Residents and Clubs such as the SSPP Church and Opera House. He recommends the City not move forward with these expansion avenues and to expand onto the City Garage by City Hall.

**New Business:**

- **American Legion**
  - Bill Thoma and Joe Frye from American Legion Post 186 of Independence came to present 50 Flags to the City of Independence to hang throughout the City.
- **Property Reassessment/Chimney Rock Appraisals**
  - Discussion was had regarding the updated contract from Mark Garlic from Chimney Rock Appraisals for a maintenance re-evaluation. Contract would be a Total cost of \$13,000.00 which would include the 2024 re-evaluation.
  - Evaluation will be done Mid-August and would review in September or October for open book review.
  - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to accept the presented contract from Chimney Rock Appraisals for \$13,000.00.
  - Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 5 Ayes and 1 Absent
- **City Wide Mailing/Logistics**
  - Discussion was had on the presented draft of a City wide mailing to residents with updates to send out every month. Evaluation of time, cost, and materials to send a monthly mailing based on the number of City residents was reviewed.
  - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Skroch to forgo send a mailing. Monthly letters are to be added to the City website and facebook account. Copies of letters would be available at City Hall office once standard process is determined. Motion Carried, 5 Ayes and 1 Absent
- **Dumpster Ordinance**
  - Resolution has wording in the contract that will need to be reviewed. Tri-City does not do contracts for Dumpsters. Meeting with Tri-City will be scheduled in April regarding letters and wording of the contract.
  - Table resolution to the dumpster ordinance and accepting of dumpster contract letters.
  - Review at May Meeting.
- **Computer Server System**
  - Discussion was had regarding the Computer Server System(s).
  - Table until May meeting to review with the Water/Sewer Commission.
- **Evaluation of TIF District**
  - No Council Recommendations to Report.
  - Review at May Meeting

- **Licenses and Permits**
  - **Building Permit**
  - The following applications for Building Permits were presented to Council for approval:
    - **Richard Warner**
    - Motion by Skroch and seconded by Hanson to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5- 1 Absent
  - **Alcohol Beverage Retail Class B Operator License**
  - The following applications for Alcohol Beverage Retail Class B Operator License were presented to Council for approval:
    - **Welcome Bar- Gerardo Cruz**
    - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Marsolek to approve application presented. Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 5 Aye and 1 Absent.
  - **Bartenders License**
  - The following applications for Bartenders License were presented to Council for approval:
    - **Chib Navdeep- Indee Mini Mart**
    - Motion by Symicek and seconded by to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5 Aye and 1 Absent
    - **Ankush Tusan- Indee Mini Mart**
    - Motion by Symicek and seconded Hanson by to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5 Aye and 1 Absent
    - **Ajay Sinyh- Indee Mini Mart**
    - Motion by Marsolek and seconded Skroch by to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5 Aye and 1 Absent
    - **Alex Mathews- BP**
    - Motion by Longmore and seconded by Marsolek to approve application presented. Motion Carried, 5 Aye and 1 Absent
    - **Michelle Brenner- East End**
    - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve application contingent of suppling photo ID. Motion Carried, 5 Aye and 1 Absent
    - **Stephanie Urbick- East End**
    - Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve application contingent of suppling photo ID. Motion Carried, 3 Aye and 1 Absent, and 1 Abstained.
- **Committee Reports**
  - **LEP Committee**
    - LEP Committee Meeting April 16<sup>th</sup> status review of Police Department.
    - Review of Employee Handbook draft to review.
  - **Water and Sewer Commission**
    - Review of Sewer Ordinance has been done and in next stages for Council review.
    - Discussions have been had with the Public School following an incident in August to the Water Waste Treatment Plant.

- Review of the Water Waste Treatment Plant and determining if an upgrade to the plant is needed.
  - **Library**
    - Little learners' program is held on Friday afternoons.
    - Discussion has been had regarding grant opportunities for building a new library or remodeling.
  - **Fire District**
    - Concrete work has started April 1<sup>st</sup> to fix the approach of the Fire Station.
- **Correspondence**
  - Dave Carlson will be working with the Library for a Music in the Park Event on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**
  - Motion by Skroch seconded by Hanson to approve the bills as presented. Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 5-1 Absent
- **Dates for Next Meeting**
  - Garbage Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.
  - Re-Organization Meeting: Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.
  - LEP Meeting: Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.
  - Fire District Meeting: Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.
- **Items for Next Agenda**
  - Review and Possible Action: Block One Alley
  - Review and Possible Action: Lake Dredge
  - Review and Possible Action: Dumpster Ordinance Amendment
  - Review and Possible Action: TIF District
- **Adjournment**
  - Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk**