**May 1, 2023**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Room of the City Hall.

Mayor Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows: Randy Symicek, Debra Marsolek, Tim Hanson, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch. Also Present were, Attorney Michalak, City Clerk Lenice Pronschinske and Julie Dick from the Trempealeau County Times.

**Public Notice was given.**

**Approval of Agenda** Motion by Symicek and seconded by Ekern to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to approve the minutes of the April 3rd and April 18th,2023 City Council minutes with a typo correction as stated. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Project Update**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to approve Mayor Baecker’ s appointment of Randy Symicek as the Lake Representative replacing Rich Theisen who is no longer on the council. Motion carried.

**Nature Energy Update**

Tim Hanson asked of we could get an update from Nature Energy Group for next month’s meeting.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

Attorney Michalak sent notice to Parson’s Energy about the Cities decision to revoke their Conditional Use Permit. Rick Parson’s stated that he was disappointed with the council’s decision.

**City Council Vacancy**

Attorney Michalak advised the Council that we need to get this vacancy filled.

**New Business:**

**Legion Green Space Project Update**

The committee is having a meeting Thursday, May 4th. They are hoping to get this project underway by next spring. Bill Thoma is getting some pricing on pavers.

**Prices of Lots in the Markham Addition**

Motion by Hanson and seconded by Ekern to approve leaving the Markham Hillside Addition lots at the discounted prices. Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Tim Hanson, Jason Ekern and Randy Symicek voting aye. Cleo Skroch voted nay.

**Block 1 Alley - SEH Contract**

Motion by Hanson and seconded by Ekern to approve Proposed Contract Bid from SEH in the amount of $2,950.00 to complete a Map of Survey defining the boundaries of the alley located in Block 1 of the Original Plat of Independence. Motion carried with Tim Hanson, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek and Deb Marsolek voting aye.

**City Hall Air Conditioners**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Marsolek to accept the bid from Slaby Electric LLC in the amount of $15,400.00 for repairs to the air conditioning in the City Hall, Library and Police Department. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek and Deb Marsolek voting aye. Tim Hanson voted nay,

**Update on Unsightly Properties**

There were 17 letters sent out on April 17th. Citations should be issued with a base fine of $50.00 to $250.00 plus court costs. No-mow May was also briefly discussed.

**License & Permits:**

**Bartender Licenses:**

The following applications for Bartender Licenses were presented to the Council for Approval:

***East End Bar*** – Hailey Proctor

***Sylver’s Bar*** – Larissa Utecht

Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve the application. Motion carried with 3 ayes, 1 absent and 1 abstained.

**Picnic License:** The following Picnic License Applications were presented to the council for approval.

***Independence Fire Department/Independence Lions Club***

Independence Days – June 9th & 10th, 2023

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

**Committee Reports**

* **LEP –** The Law Enforcement and Personnel Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 2nd to go through the applications for the Clerk/Treasurer Position.
* **Fire Department –** The approach to the Fire Station in sinking and needs repair. Randy Symicek and Deb Marsolek will attend their Friday night meeting to see exactually what they want done so we can get it bid out.

**Approval of Invoices & Payroll** Motion by Hanson seconded by Skroch to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek, Deb Marsolek and Tim Hanson voting aye. Jason Ekern was absent for the vote.

**Correspondence**

Jodi Meyer, FFA Advisor asked if the FFA students could place cut-out cows around the City for June Dairy month? The council is ok with this as long as the are kept out of the street right-a-way and not blocking intersections.

**Items for next Agenda**

Lake Update

Nature Energy

Parsons Energy Group

Adoption of Ordinance Updates

Greene Space Update

Fire Department Update

Intersection of 4th & Washington Streets

**Future Meetings**

Law Enforcement and Personnel – May 2nd @5:00 pm

Ordinance & Resolutions – May 11th @4:15

City Council meeting Tuesday, June 6th at 6:15 pm.

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk