**May 2, 2022**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:15 pm in the Council Room of the City Hall.

Mayor Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows Rich Theisen, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Rich Theisen were present. Also present were Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Brad Rebarchek (by phone), Attorney Michalak and Julie Dick from the Trempealeau County Times.

Public Notice was given.

**Appointment of Council Members:**

* 2nd Ward Alderperson – Motion by Skroch and seconded by C. Marsolek to nominate Riley Foltz as Alderperson for the 2nd Ward. There were no other nominations so Riley was appointed. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Rich Theisen voting aye. Riley Foltz was then sworn in as Alderperson.
* 3rd Ward Alderperson – Mayor Baecker asked both Deb Marsolek and Brad Rebarchek to introduce themselves and explain why they would like to serve on the City Council. Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz to nominate Deb Marsolek to fill the open position. Motion by Ekern and seconded by Theisen to nominate Brad Rebarchek to fill the open position. Vote was taken by open paper ballot with Deb Marsolek getting 3 votes and Brad Rebarchek getting 2 votes. Deb Marsolek was then sworn in as alderperson.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Foltz and seconded by Marsolek to approve the minutes from the April 4th & 19th, 2022 meetings as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

* Cleo Skroch stated that she has gotten complaints about Kathy Skroch’s property and them parking on the sidewalk.
* A question on building permit requirements was asked.
* Doug Ferguson will be working on getting the fence around his garbage dumpsters repaired and Brittney Blasing is getting her fence in compliance.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Dredge Update**

Nothing new.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

We are working with Attorney Michalak on this matter.

**New Business:**

**Joe Bragger – Independence Public School**

Joe was not in attendance.

**Appointment of Committee Members**

* Mayor Baecker made the appointment of Tom Klimek, Eric Theisen and John Zilla to the Board of Review. Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to approve the appointment. Motion carried.
* Taxation & Finance – Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to approve the appointment of Theisen, Skroch and Foltz to the Taxation and Finance Committee. Motion carried.
* Purchasing Real Estate & Personal Property – Motion by Ekern and seconded by Theisen approve the appointment of D. Marsolek, Theisen and C. Marsolek to the Purchasing Real Estate & Personal Property. Motion carried
* Law Enforcement & Personnel – Motion by Ekern and seconded by Skroch to approve the appointment of Ekern, Skroch and Foltz to the Taxation and Law Enforcement & Personnel. Motion carried
* Ordinance & Resolutions – Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz to approve the appointment of D. Marsolek, Foltz and C. Marsolek to the Ordinance & Resolutions Committee. Motion carried
* Property Aesthetics & Safety – Motion by Theisen and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve the appointment of Skroch, D. Marsolek and C. Marsolek to the Property Aesthetics & Safety Committee. Motion carried
* Streets & Utilities – Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to approve the appointment of Foltz, Ekern & Theisen to the Streets & Utilities Committee. Motion carried

**City Hall Landscaping**

It was a unanimous decision that we will not be putting in sidewalk and would prefer hydro=seeding rather than sod.

**County Road Q – ATV Discussion**

Motion by Theisen and seconded Foltz to approve the following streets for the use of ATVs within the city:

6th Street Adams Street Elm Street Maple Street Railroad Street Silver Drive

Citizens living within the city limits will be allowed to drive directly to the designated STV route from their residences. Motion carried with Connie Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Deb Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye.

**Block 1 Original Plat Alley and Parking**

A list of names and numbers of abutting property owners has been compiled, a meeting will be scheduled to get the ball moving.

**ARPA Committee Discussion**

* Cleo Skroch stated that if we decide to do any kind of employee compensation that we consider including the 2 part-time officers that have been covering shifts while we are shorthanded.
* Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to move forward with updating the bathrooms at 4-seasons park at a cost of between $50 to $60 thousand dollars making them ADA compliant. Motion carried with Riley Foltz, Deb Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Connie Marsolek voting aye.
* The Utility is moving forward with the sewer pipe lining on Franklin and Washington Streets and would appreciate anything the city could apply towards this project.
* The Welcome to Independence Signs should also be addresses.

**Markham Hillside Addition Mailboxes.**

The placing of mailboxes in the Markham Hillside addition has finally been approved by the US Postal Service. Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz to order mail boxes for the Markham Hillside addition. These will be places as per approved by the Postal Service and be paid for out of the TID 3 funds. Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Riley Foltz voting aye.

**Update on Unsightly Properties**

The committee will re-visit the properties where letters were sent and follow up with the police department on issuing citations. Also, it has been brought to our attention that there are a few more houses that now have chickens. Letters will be sent out to them with a copy of the poultry ordinance explaining that a permit is required.

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to move back on the agenda to appointment of council members. Motion carried.

Motion by Ekern and seconded by C. Marsolek that the persons elected by the Council to fill the two vacancies on the Council shall serve for the balance of the two-year term of office – until April 2024. Motion carried with Rich Theisen, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Riley Foltz and Deb Marsolek voting aye.

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to go back to Licenses and permits on the agenda. Motion carried.

**Licenses & Permits**

**Bartender Licenses**

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

East End Bar – Kayla Knopps

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

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**Committee Reports**

* Fire Department – Discussion on maintenance for the building was discussed.   
  They would like to have the front 20 ft of concrete replaced. They asked about the generator and cleaning of the building. Eli has fixed the manhole cover in their parking lot and is getting a bid for seal coating.
* Water/Sewer – The Utility is moving forward on the pipe lining on Franklin and Washington Streets. They are also in the process of getting bids for fixing the sewer back-up problem at NIC, valve replacement and digestor cleaning.

**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.**

Motion by Foltz and seconded by C. Marsolek 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. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek and Riley Foltz voting aye.

**Return to Open Session**

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

**Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

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

**Correspondence**

* There were some kids that got into the basement and opera house this last week and did some damage. Chief Halvorson is working on this.
* Officer Spaeth was involved in a high-speed chase and damage was done to the squad car. This will be assessed against the driver’s insurance.
* The Law Enforcement & Personnel Committee needs to set up a meeting to discuss hiring and overtime hours.

**Items for Next Agenda**

Lake Update

Parsons Energy

County Road Q/ATV Update

ARPA Funding

Block 1 Alley

Possible Closed Session

**Dates for Future Meeting**

City Council Meeting – Tuesday, June 7th @ 6:15

**Adjournment**

Motion by D. Marsolek and seconded by Foltz to adjourn. Motion Carried at 8:20 pm.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk