

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

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Thursday, June 6, 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

- Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Linda Longmore, and Randy Symicek missing Tim Hanson. Also present were Attorney April Lande, City Clerk Tiffany Bautch, Street Superintendent Eli Castleberry, Police Chief Jim Waniorek, Elain Conrad, Ann Miemietz, Kevin and Leah Kubis, Kayla Mathson, Rita Boland, and Luis Gonzalez from the Trempealeau County Times.

Proof of Giving Public Notice Given.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 City Council Minutes. Motion carried. 5 Aye and 1 Absent

Public Comments:

- Kevin and Leah Kubis presented on behalf of Backwoods Development regarding amending the council decision from April meeting regarding extending Backwoods Developments covenant agreement with the City. Alderman Ekern if council would consider amending April's decision what is there ask? Kubis's would like to extend covenant until property is sold. Kubis's would attend council meetings every 3 or 6 months with a progress status update. Council will consider and review at July meeting.
- Ann Miemietz addressed the council of her disappointment in the city office and council for the length of time it takes to amend the garbage ordinance. Miemietz commented on how taxpayer's dollars are being wasted on meetings. She also addressed the frustration of her name being publicly posted in the Trempealeau County Times for her comments at the meetings. Mayor Baecker addressed the concern stating, council meetings are public record. Representatives from the Trempealeau County Times attend every meeting for articles in the paper. City Council minutes do not get publicly posted to the paper until the following months council meeting after being publicly approved. The city council cannot control what or when the Trempealeau County Times publishes articles in the paper regarding topics discussed in council meetings.
- Rita Boland addressed council agreeing with Miemietz on her concerns and the garbage ordinance needs to be resolved.

Old Business:

- **Block One Alley**
 - Review at July Meeting.
- **Lake Dredge**
 - Public Notification will be sent out mid- June and posted in the paper regarding the request to the DNR for dredging permit.

- If a Public hearing is requested by anyone in the public; a 30-Day notification will be posted for a public hearing following the first notification.
- Next phase of project would be to receive permit from the DNR and City can open the project up for bids.
- Review at July Meeting.
- **Dumpster Ordinance Amendment**
 - Discussion was had regarding presented ordinance amendment.
 - Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Longmore to approve the amendment resolution to the Solid Waste Ordinance as presented.
 - Motion Carried by Roll Vote; 2 Ney, 3 Ayes, and 1 Absent
- **Evaluation on TIF District Covidence/Lot Evaluation**
 - Postponed to July Meeting for Council to further review information.
 - Review at July Meeting
- **Sister City Signage**
 - Discussion was had regarding a potential sign acknowledging being a Sister City.
 - The City did not pay or file paperwork to become an official affiliation of the Sister City.
 - City Attorney can look into the legal part and cost for the City to officially become part of it. At this time, the City is not officially part of the Sister City.
- **2024 Street Projects**
 - Discussion was had on the street painting, curb and gutter estimated pricing.
 - Table topic until July meeting to receive estimates for Jefferson Street and Water & Sewer Commission regarding Second Street Repair.

New Business:

- **Property and Lot Maintenance**
 - Discussion was had moving forward with the Community properties need to be cleaned up.
 - Marsolek commented that the City needs to begin working with the Chief of Police and getting tickets issued for properties. The committee would then be responsible for doing follow-up addressing the issues.
 - Ordinance Committee is planning to meet June 27th at 4:30pm to address this.
- **Employee Handbook**
 - Discussion was Tabled until July meeting for Council review.
- **Police Purchases**
 - Discussion was had on estimates for dash and body cameras, and New squad computer dock station.
 - Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Longmore to approve 1 dash cam and 2 body cams from Axon for Total of \$19,631.40 for the Independence Police Department. Motion Carried by Roll Vote, 5 Aye and 1 Absent
 - Motion by Skroch and seconded by Symicek to approve estimates for the New Police Squad Car Lights of \$4,698 and Computer Dock Station for \$3,399 from Kohnert Communications. Along with estimate of \$1,500 for the installation with David Witte. Motion Carried by Roll Vote, 5 Aye and 1 Absent

- **Senty Shelter Outside Park Wall Lights**
 - Estimates were presented to the Council to fix shelter outside wall lights.
 - Motion by Skroch and seconded by Longmore to approve the bid by Jacobson Electric for \$2,480.00 to replace the outside shelter lights. Funds will be paid out of the Park Fund. Motion Carried by Roll Vote, 5 Aye and 1 Absent
- **Sidewalk by Osseo Rd.**
 - Discussion was had regarding the concern brought to Council of Osseo Rd. sidewalks and tree branches.
 - Longmore and Skroch reviewed the location and walked the sidewalks looking at the area of concern. The sidewalks and area around them are clean with no blocking of sidewalks or debris. As weather changes in seasons the area could get branches that may fall from the side hill area however the area is maintained very well.
 - Council will discuss the area with the Street department when they do their monthly routes to review however the hillside trees belong to residents.
- **Community Conversations Forums**
 - Kayla Mathson Librarian updated Council of the two community conversation meetings that occurred. Conversations were lead by the UW Extension as an outside resource to help facilitate the meeting as a liaison for the City/Library and Community residence to help gain insight on Community feedback to areas of improvements and development needs within the City of Independence.

- **Licenses and Permits**

- **Picnic License:**

- The following Picnic License Application was presented to the council for approval.

- ***SS Peter & Paul Parish***

- ***Fall Festival – August 3rd & 4th, 2024***

- ***Independence Lions Club***

- ***Independence Day's- June 7th- 9th, 2024***

- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Symicek to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 1 absent.

- **Cigarette Licenses:**

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

East End Bar

Sylver's Bar

Indee Mini Mart

Pietrek's Service Station

The Zoo Bar

Cantina Cruz

Independence Market

Dollar General

- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to approve the above applications as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 1 absent

- **Game/Coin Operation Licenses:**

- The following applications for Game/Coin Operation Licenses were presented to the Council for Approval:

East End Bar	The Zoo Bar
Sylver's Bar	Eagles Bar
Cantina Cruz	

- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Marsolek to approve the above applications as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 1 absent

- **Liquor Licenses:**

- The following applications for Class "A" Retailers licenses were presented to the Council for Approval:

Maple Leaf Meats, LLC (Bushy's)
DOLGENCORP, LLC
Independence Stores, LLC (Indee Mini Mart)
Independence Stores, LLC (Independence Market)

- Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to approve the above applications and grant the licenses. Motion carried with 5 ayes and 1 absent

- The following renewal applications for Class "B" Licenses were presented to the Council for Approval:

<i>Eagles Bar</i>	<i>Sylver's Bar</i>
<i>The Zoo Bar</i>	<i>East End Bar & Grill</i>
<i>Cantina Cruz</i>	

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Ekern to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion carried with 4 Ayes, 1 Absent, and 1 Abstained

- The following renewal application for a Class "B" Licenses to sell Fermented Malt Beverages was presented to the Council for Approval:

Taqueria El Buen Pastor

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Longmore to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion carried with 5 Ayes and 1 Absent

- The following Class B Retailer Fermented Beverage On Premise License Initial Application was presented to Council for approval:

McPherson Investments, LLC dba Ruby Glass Café

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Longmore to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion carried with 5 Ayes and 1 Absent

- The following Class C Retailer Wine On Premise License Initial Application was presented to Council for approval:

McPherson Investments, LLC dba Ruby Glass Café

- Motion by Symicek and seconded by Skroch to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion carried with 5 Ayes and 1 Absent

- **Bartender Licenses:**

- The following Bartender License renewals were presented to the council for approval.

- Robert Baecker- Sylver's
- Cleo Skroch- Sylver's
- Larissa Utecht- Sylver's
- Michelle Halverson- Sylver's
- Lisa Filla- Sylver's
- Nancy Christanson- Sylver's
- Deb Prudlick- Sylver's
- Nikki Filla- Sylver's

- Adrian Mish- Eagle's
- Richard Filla- Eagle's

- Wayne Palkowski- The Zoo Bar
- Christine Hensley- The Zoo Bar
- Eric Wilber- The Zoo Bar
- Cindy Putman- The Zoo Bar
- Scott Roskos- The Zoo Bar
- Linus Waldera- Other (The Zoo Bar)

- Jason Sobczak- East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Samantha McReynolds- East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Crystal Bahnub- East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Amy Schuck- East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Michelle Brenner, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Susan Prudlick, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Lenice Pronschinske, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Bruce Gamroth, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Yoselin, Marinez Garcia, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Mikayla Olson, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Melissa Nichols, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Mary Nichols, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Amy Puchalla, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Stephanie Urbick, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Robert Czerwinski, East End Bar & Grill, LLC

- Laura Mueller, East End Bar & Grill, LLC
- Cynthia Zeller, Maple Leaf Meats dba Bushy's Meat Market

- Nadeep Chib- Independence Stores, LLC dba Indee Mini Mart
- Ajay Singh- Independence Stores, LLC dba Indee Mini Mart
- Sukhampauet Sinorh- Independence Stores, LLC dba Independence Market
- Elvecia Najera- La Hacienda

- Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Ekern to approve ALL the above application and grant the license but Elvecia Najera and Linus Waldera contingent on giving 7 days to supply proof of active operational occupancy licensed establishment of where they are working within the City.
- Motion carried with 4 Ayes, 1 Absent, and 1 Abstained

- **Committee Reports**
 - **Water and Sewer Commission**
 - Discussions have been had with the Public School to work with the School try to find the steps of what is causing the high ammonia levels.
 - Review with Davy Engineering on actions on the Water Waste Treatment Plant Facility Plan for the Treatment Plant for the DNR.
 - **Ambulance Committee**
 - Arcadia American Legion gave donation to help off-set the debit in the department.
 - Tabled discussions around ordering another New Ambulance.
 - **Fire Department**
 - Fire Department Purchased a New Fire Truck for the Department.

- **Correspondence**
 - None to Report

- **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**
 - Motion by Marsolek seconded by Ekern to approve the bills pending review of alder report the following week. Motion Carried on Roll Vote, 5 Aye – 1 Absent

- **Dates for Next Meeting**
 - Council Monday, July 1st at 6:15 p.m.

- **Items for Next Agenda**
 - Review and Possible Action: Block One Alley
 - Review and Possible Action: Lake Dredge
 - Review and Possible Action: Markham Addition Lot Price Review
 - Review and Possible Action: 2024 Street Projects
 - Review and Possible Action: City Vehicle Purchase
 - Review and Possible Action: Backwood Development Possible Amendment
 - Review and Possible Action: City Handbook

- **Adjournment**
 - Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk