**August 1, 2022**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 1, 2022 at 6:15 pm in the Council Room of the City Hall.

Mayor Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch Also present was Attorney Michalak, City Clerk Lenice Pronschinske, Deputy Clerk Julie Dascher, Doreen Olson, Rainbow Community Club and Deb Foss from the Trempealeau County Times.

Public Notice was given.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Ekern and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2022 presented with the corrections as stated by Deb Marsolek. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

* No Public Comments.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Dredge Update**

Lake meeting has been set for August 3, 2022 at 4:30 pm in the City Hall.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

Parsons will be present at the September City Council meeting.

**New Business:**

**Doreen Olson/Update on Musical Play Ground/Butterfly Garden**

Doreen Olson updated the council on the Ashley for the Arts Grant Project in the City Hall Park. The cost of the Play Ground equipment was $12,500.00. Grant from Ashley Furniture for $10,000.00 and various donations for $7,361.00.

Discussed a 65’x48’ wide sidewalk to get to the Play Ground. Elk Rod & Gun Club suggested more access to sidewalks.

Discussed removal of Tree in the Park That was damaged and pouring a concrete slab in it’s place.

**Adoption of ATV Ordinance**

Discussion about changing the ATV route. It was decided to leave the route as is.

Motion was made by Foltz and 2nd by Ekern to amend the open intoxicant fine from $20.00 to $100.00. Motion carried with Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Connie Marsolek voting aye.

**American Rescue Plan Funding/Projects**

The bathroom project at 4-Seasons Park shelter is almost complete, we are waiting for the windows to come in, hopefully by September.

**Update on Block 1 Original Plat Alley and Parking**

Riley will get a meeting going.

**Senty Shelter Improvements Update**

The bathrooms are almost complete and they are waiting for the windows. The windows should be delivered sometime in September. The windows will need to be sprayed with frost for privacy purposes. Discussed the location of the paper towel dispensers and garbage cans.

**Park Shelter Deposit**

Motion by Skroch and 2nd by Ekern to raise the Four Seasons Park deposit from $50.00 to $250.00 as recommended by the Ordinance and Resolutions Committee. Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Rich Theisen voting aye.

**City Hall Furnace/Air conditioning**

Tabled till the August 18th meeting.

**Appointment of Library Board Members**

Motion by Skroch and 2nd by Theisen to approve the appointment of Rose Marie Russel and Christine Servais to the Library Board. Motion carried.

**Resignation of Utility Board Member**

The Utility Commission received a letter of resignation from Chad Miemietz.

**Licenses & Permits:**

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

**SS Peter & Paul Parish**

**Fall Festival- August 12th & 13th, 2022**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve the above application and grant the license. Motion caried.

**Cigarette License:** The following Cigarette License Application was presented to the council for approval.

**Independence Store LLC, dba Indee Mini Mart**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve the above application and

Grant the license. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Street Committee** - It was decided not do the other half of Jefferson Street due to the increase cost of the concrete curb. They are doing Madison Street as there is not curb.

**Water & Sewer Commission** - NIC Project shutdown of Hwy 93 redirected to Adams and 4th Street. There will be no parking on either side of the Street for about a week. Target date the 3rd or 4th week of August.

**Ordinance and Resolutions Committee** - Future ordinance code. Letters sent out on property clean up. Chief Halvorson will make a sliding scale for the number of fines for unsightly properties.

5th Street has stumps that have branches growing onto the sidewalk.

**Library Board** - Music in the Park August 30th at 6:00. Entertainment by Dan Backman.

The library did get 1 – I Pad back that was taken from the library.

**Correspondence**

City Council approved a Farmers Market Trial at the bridge shelter starting Aug. 13, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 Noon.

**Closed session per Section 19.85(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.**

Closed session per Section 19.85(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, 2nd by D. Marsolek to move to Closed session per Section 19.85(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 Deb Marsolek voting aye.

**Return to Open Session**

Motion to Return to Open Session by Theisen and 2nd by Foltz. Motion carried.

**Possible Action from Closed Session**

Motion by Foltz and 2nd by Theisen to hire new officers, Lucas Alan and Clayton Utecht. at $26.00 per hour with a 6-month probation period. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek and Riley Foltz voting aye. Cleo Skroch abstained from the vote.

**Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

Motion by Theisen, 2nd by Foltz as presented with Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz and Jason Ekern voting aye.

**Date for meeting with Ray Davy**

August 18th at 6:00 p.m.

**Date for September meeting**

Sept. 6th at 6:15 p.m.

**Items for Next Agenda**

City Hall Air Conditioner

Tuck Pointing City Hall

Refinancing Loan at Independence State Bank

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m**.**

Julie Dascher

Deputy City Clerk