**September 6, 2022**

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

Mayor Robert Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz and Jason Ekern. Also present were Attorney Mark Franklin, Attorney Jerilyn Jacobs, Rick Parsons, Kayla Mathson, Jim Guza and Julie Dick.

Public Notice was given.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Foltz and seconded by C. Marsolek to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Foltz and seconded by Ekern to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2022. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Old Business:**

**Closed Session Pursuant to 19.85(1) (g) Conferring with Legal Counsel who will be Rendering Advice Concerning Litigation Strategy Regarding Pending Litigation by Former Employee.**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Skroch to move to Closed Session Pursuant to 19.85(1) (g) Conferring with Legal Counsel who will be Rendering Advice Concerning Litigation Strategy Regarding Pending Litigation by Former Employee. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek and Riley Foltz voting aye.

**Return to Open Session to conduct further business as indicated on agenda.**

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

**Lake Dredge Update**

This was done at the Annual Lake meeting held just prior to this meeting.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

Rick Parsons gave the council an update on what is going on with the Guza sand mine. He will be checking with Randy Spangler on the city bills and get back to us. The city council would like to hear from him a little more often, maybe another update in November.

**New Business:**

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Ekern to move ahead on the agenda to the Public Library. Motion carried.

**Kayla Mathson – Independence Public Library**

Kayla gave an update on the library; they had Music in the Park on August 30th and it was the 61st event they have held. The also volunteered for Ashley for the Arts and will be getting a donation of $2600.00 from them.

**Nature Energy – Ray Davy**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Theisen to allow 2 council members to go on the Nature Energy trip to Denmark. Motion carried with Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz and Jason Ekern voting aye. Volunteers to go are Jason Ekern and Rich Theisen.

Motion by Ekern and seconded by Skroch to cover the cost of air fare and room up to $2500.00 per person for this trip. Motion carried with Connie Marsolek, Rich Theisen, Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye.

It was suggested that we reimbursement up to $75.00 per day for incidentals. Motion by Skroch and seconded by D. Marsolek to finalize reimbursement costs at the October city council meeting. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Pricing on Garbage Cans**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Ekern to charge $2.00 above what Tri-City Sanitation will be charging the city to cover administration fees. After some discussion it was decided that a committee will be formed and something will be brought back for action at the October council meeting.

Motion by Theisen and seconded by Foltz that the committee will be council members Deb Marsolek, Cleo Skroch, Jason Ekern and City Clerk Lenice Pronschinske. Motion carried. Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Rich Theisen voting aye.

**American Rescue Plan Funding/Projects**

We will have an update for October 3rd meeting.

**Employee Health Insurance**

This will be moved to the October agenda since we are still waiting on numbers from our insurance representative.

**Unsightly Properties/Fencing Issues**

We are still in the process of finalizing fines for unsightly properties. Also, a reminder letter should be sent out on fencing issues.

**City Hall Furnace/Air Conditioning**

No updates at this time.

**Licenses & Permits:**

There were no licenses or permits this month.

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**Committee Reports**

* Street Committee – Streets have been seal coated and we are waiting on getting the other street work done.
* Water & Sewer – The Sewer issue at Northern Investment has been resolved and now we are moving on to getting water valves replaced. We are also approaching a public hearing on upgrades to the sewer plant.
* Ambulance Committee – Numbers are not looking good for next year’s budget. It was sent back for reductions.

**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 and seconded by Theisen 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 Deb Marsolek, Riley Foltz, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Connie Marsolek and Rich Theisen voting aye.

**Return to Open Session**

Motion by Foltz and seconded by C. Marsolek to return to open session. Motion carried.

Motion by Foltz and seconded by Ekern to approve the motion from closed session to hire Natalie Landrum as a police officer for the City of Independence upon completion of a background check. Motion carried.

**Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

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

**Correspondence**

* A letter from the League of Municipalities, their annual meeting will be held from October19th to October 21st.
* We received a letter from the CN Railroad – They are offering a grant (America in Bloom) for beautification along the railroad.

**Dates for Future Meeting**

City Council Meeting – Monday, October 3rd @ 6:15

Fire District – Wednesday, September 28th @ 7:00

Ambulance Board – September 28th

**Items for Next Agenda**

Lake Update

Parsons Energy

Report on Denmark Trip

Update on Trash Cans

Employee Health Insurance

ARPA Fund – Spread Sheet

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk