**COMMON COUNCIL**

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, WISCONSIN**

**Meeting Minutes**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

* Mayor Baecker presided

**Roll Call of Members**

* Cleo Skroch, Randy Symicek, Deb Marsolek, Tim Hanson, and Jason Ekern. Also present were, Attorney Laverne Michalak, City Clerk Tiffany Bautch, Luis Gonzalez from the Trempealeau County Times, Isaac Martinez, Madelyn Martinez, and Randy Conrad.

**Proof of Giving Public Notice Given.**

**Approval of Agenda:**

* Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* Motion by Skroch and seconded by Marsolek to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023 City Council minutes with corrections sent, motion carried.

**Public Comments:**

* Randy Conrad questioned why garbage contract for the city was not bid out to other contractors. Discussion was had that it is legal to contract with one contractor for service.
* Conrad also questioned why the billing and administration work is being added to the caseload of the City Clerk’s Office; noting this should be completed by the contractor’s office since the Clerk’s Office is not being compensated for this added work.
* Alderman Ekern stated other municipalities in the area are taking this responsibility on in their City Clerk’s Office. This is the route the Garbage Committee chose to take at this time.
* Madelyn Martinez inquired what the garbage contract term is and if the City will be open to bidding the contract out to other competitors when the 2-year contract review is due. Ekern stated this is something the committee is looking into for the next term.

**Old Business:**

* **Halverson Lake Property-Easement Approval**
  + Discussion was had regarding the Certified Survey Map for a 25-foot-wide easement of Halverson Lake Property.
  + Motion by Skroch to accept a 25-foot-wide access easement instead of full ownership of a street access for Lot 1 of a proposed Certified Survey Map (CSM) affecting Lot 33 of the City’s Assessor’s Plat currently owned by PP Halvorson Properties LLC. If a buyer of Lot 1 of the CSM applies for a building permit for an allowable structure on the lot, the City will accept the proposed easement as suitable access to Highway 93 (Osseo Road). Motion was seconded by Hanson, motion carried.
* **Fire Department Repair Bid Update**
  + Nothing to Report until after September 27th Fire District Meeting
* **Garbage Contract Update**
  + Review of Draft 7 dated 8/22/23 Garbage Contract with Tri-City Sanitation LLC.
  + Motion by Marsolek to approve Draft 7 dated 8/22/23 as it states and seconded by Hanson, motion carried.
  + Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to approve adopting the resolution of the ordinance of Collection of Solid Waste presented to council, motion carried.
* **SEH- Block 1 Alley Update**
  + Attorney Michalak is working to align the drafting plan deeds for SEA Block 1 Alley. Council will follow up after deeds are complete.
* **Street Light Repair Update**
  + City Lights on Osseo Rd have been completed.
    - Police Report is Sent to Insurance on the incident.
    - City’s Insurance covered the damages. Payment has been received.
    - Decorative Replacement Pole during the Highway 93 Project Costs $6,000 per pole.
    - No donations for the decorative poles was ever sent to the city for the Highway 93 Project light pole project.

**New Business:**

* **Licenses and Permits**
  + The following applications for Bartender Licenses were presented to the Council for Approval:
* ***Welcome Bar*** – Sara Leopneta Vargas
  + Motion by Symicek and seconded by Ekern to approve bartender, motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

* + ***Law Enforcement and Personnel***
    - Nothing to report
  + ***Fire Department***
    - Nothing to report
  + ***Water & Sewer***
    - Request of Garbage Committee representatives to attend Public Meeting with Rental Property Owners on September 20th at 5:30p.
    - Davy Engineering to send a Sewer Plant Assessment Summary end October/Early November determining Options for the Current Sewer Plant.
    - W/S Commission will be reviewing Sewer Ordinances.
    - Reviewing Grease Concern and working to align an Annual/Bi-Annual Grease Trap Cleaning Policy.
  + ***Street***
    - Maple Street Resurfacing Project should begin end of September/Early October.
    - Follow Up with Street Committee on the Walnut Street addition.
  + **Friends of City Hall**
    - Changes to Lease Agreement:
      * Dumpster will be removed from City Hall December 31, 2023
      * Friends will take Dumpster Over starting January 1, 2024.
      * Friends will handle the cleaning Lake Room & Opera House.
      * Friends will pay the City for the Stairway & Lower Bathroom Areas during Scheduled Events Day Cleaning.
      * Quarterly Financial Summary presented to City Council was changed to Annual Financial Summary.
    - Motion by Symicek and seconded by Hanson to approve the 2 year lease agreement contract that what was presented to council from the Friends of City Hall, with 4 ayes and 1 Nay, motion was carried.
  + **Ambulance Committee**
    - Discussion was had regarding the Lease Agreement for the Arcadia Ambulance Service about the Annual Budget renewal.
    - Review of the Given Agreement will be known after October meeting.
  + **Property** **of Anesthetics**
    - Dead Trees— Court dates in October regarding properties who deem not to pay fines given.
* **Correspondence**
  + Nothing to Report
* **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**
  + Motion by Skroch seconded by Hanson to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried
* **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 Hanson and seconded by Skroch to move to closed session per Section 19.85.85(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, Tim Hanson, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Randy Symicek voting aye.
* **Return to Open Session**
  + Motion by Hanson and seconded by Symicek to return to open session. Motion carried.
* **Possible Action from Closed Session**
  + No Action to be taken from Closed Session
* **Date for September Meeting**
  + City Council meeting Tuesday, October 2, 2023 @ 6:15 p.m.
* **Items for Next Agenda** 
  + Lake Dredge Update
  + SEH- Block 1 Alley Update
  + Set Date for Budget Meeting
  + Set Date for Employee Reviews
* **Adjournment**
  + Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk