**Water & Sewer Commission Meeting October 23, 2023**

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday October 23, 2023 at the City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm by Tom Kloss. In attendance were Richard Warner, Jason Ekern, Joe Galewski, Tom Jenson, Tom Kloss, Tiffany Bautch, Julie Dascher and City Attorney LaVerne Michalak.

**Proof of Giving Public Notice** Public Notice was Given

**Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2023**

Motion by Tom Jenson to approve the minutes from the September 25th meeting as presented. Second by Jason Ekern. All voting aye, Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None

**Old Business:**

1. **Pump Inspection Update**

Estimates from L & S Electric for $9,594.60 and Minnesota Pump Works $8,898.91 for 1 pump installed. Joe stated he could get by with 1 new pump at this time.

Motion made by Richard Warner and Seconded by Jason Ekern to go with the Minnesota Pump Works estimate of $8,898.91. All voting aye, Motion carried.

1. **Sewer Ordinance Discussion/Review/Action**

Discussion was had and reviewed with Attorney Michalak the connection charge ordinance which states “Persons attaching to the Municipal Sewer Utility will pay a connection charge of $200.00 plus they will need to pay at their own expense from the lateral to the sewer main. The City of Independence will extend the sewer mains for new people and charge in accordance with provisions set forth in the city ordinances on cost assessments. It’s the policy of the City of Independence to obtain sufficient revenues to pay the cost of the operations and maintenance of the Water and Sewer Works. Any person violating any provisions of the Ordinance will be liable to the City for expense, loss, or damage.” Anyone violating the provisions of the ordinance of the City of Independence or who connects a service pipe without obtaining a permit will be in violation. The Police Department can get involved if the Water Department Personnel are not allowed in to inspect.

**New business:**

1. **Spanish Cooking Oil Notification**

Spanish brochures are printed. Working to send notifications out to schools to be sent home with students to take home.

They can also be downloaded off the City of Independence Web Site.

1. **Well Permits**

It’s a City Ordinance and the Water Commission needs to make the initial action.

1. **Sewer Rate Discussion/ Review/Action**

This will be added to next month Agenda

1. **Schooling/ Test Update**

Joe has passed all his tests and is now certified.

Ken has passed his 3rd test.

1. **Superintendent’s Report**

2nd Street Water Main broke when flushing fire hydrants and old line cracked. They emergency digging occurred and fixed the pipe, however, overnight it cracked again.

The recommendation is to completely replace the line and hydrant as they are very old and to save further problems down the road.

The plan is to leave the old line in and put a new line 7’ underground. This will take about 1 week to complete, and 5 residents will be without water for 1 day. Residents will be notified. Motion was made by Richard Warner and Seconded by Tom Jensen to completely fix the Water Main from shut off valve to hydrant. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Wednesday October 25th, the utility will be fixing the hydrants on Franklin and River Street.

1. **Date for Future Meeting**

Monthly Water & Sewer Meeting will be Monday November 27, 2023

1. **Items for Next Agenda**

Sewer Ordinances/Discussion/Review/Action

Water Rate Discussion/Review/ Action

2nd Street Water Main Review/ Action

Fire Hydrants Update

Well Permits & Enforcement in 4th Street/ Howard Street

1. **Commissioner’s Comments**

None

**Adjournment** at 8:12pm

Julie Dascher

Deputy Clerk