

REGULAR MEETING June 15, 2020

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, June 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

Laurie Dean Wiley provided the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Eileen Weir, Presiding Officer of the City Council, called the meeting to order. Upon roll call, the following members of the City Council were present: Mike Huff, John Perkins, Curt Dougherty, Karen DeLuccie, Scott Roberson, Tom Van Camp and Mayor Eileen Weir. The following members of the City Council were absent: None.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilmembers Van Camp and Perkins moved to approve the CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Approval is recommended to amend the Schedule of Fees for the City of Independence effective July 1, 2020.
2. Approval is recommended on the certification of the June 2, 2020 District Councilmember election results, from the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners.

Bill No. 20-727, entitled, [Res. #6550]
 “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MUNICIPAL JUDGE GARRY HELM AS THE PRESIDING JUDGE FOR INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, MUNICIPAL COURT.-REQUESTED BY MAYOR EILEEN WEIR.”

Bill No. 20-728, entitled, [Res. #6551]
 “A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

Bill No. 20-729, entitled, [Res. #6552]
 “A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PAY PLAN FOR NON-REPRESENTED CITY EMPLOYEES AS ENUMERATED HEREIN ON AND AFTER THE 15TH DAY OF JUNE 2020; REMOVING ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR (LEVEL 16); RECLASSIFYING ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR (LEVEL 15); RECLASSIFYING DIRECTOR OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL TO DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES (EXECUTIVE 2); ADDING DIGITAL CONTENT SPECIALIST (LEVEL 8); ADDING PAYROLL MANAGER (LEVEL 13); ADDING PLANNER/SCHEDULER (LEVEL 9).”

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the CONSENT AGENDA was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Dougherty, DeLuccie, Roberson, Van Camp and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion carried and the CONSENT AGENDA was approved.

ORDINANCES:

Bill No. 20-041, entitled, [Ord. #19128]
 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 19084, FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENTS, AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING EASEMENTS FOR THE WALNUT GARDENS STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE CRACKERNECK WATERSHED (NO. 70131809); AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION AND EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS IF NECESSARY; APPROVING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EXPERTS AS NEEDED; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THE PAYMENT OF FUNDS TO PROPERTY OWNERS OR OTHERS HOLDING PROPERTY RIGHTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROJECT.”
 was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Dougherty, DeLuccie, Roberson, Van Camp and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent –None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

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Bill No. 20-042, entitled, [Ord. #19129]

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 MIDWEST HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER INITIATIVE, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, WITH THE KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, FOR A GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$143,579.54; MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS; AUTHORIZING FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND/OR TIME EXTENSIONS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.”

was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Dougherty, DeLuccie, Roberson, Van Camp and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent –None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-043, entitled, [Ord. #19130]

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 MIDWEST HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE KANSAS CITY / OVERLAND PARK DEA TASK FORCE INITIATIVE, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, WITH THE KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, FOR A GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$153,166.00; MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS; AUTHORIZING FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND/OR TIME EXTENSIONS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.”

was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Dougherty, DeLuccie, Roberson, Van Camp and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent –None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, City Manager, Zach Walker, stated that the title changes administratively so that no amendment to the budget is needed tonight.

In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Walker stated that the budget being presented tonight is balanced, however, through the Audit and Finance Committee that meets monthly, staff will provide updates and make changes throughout the year.

Bill No. 20-044, entitled, [Ord. #19131]

“AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021, ESTIMATING THE REVENUES FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR; APPROPRIATING SUMS FOR THE PURPOSES STATED IN SAID BUDGET, ESTABLISHING OPERATING TRANSFERS, DESIGNATING FUND BALANCE ALLOCATIONS, ESTABLISHING THE AUTHORIZED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION, AND DESIGNATING THOSE WHO MAY MAKE A REQUISITION FOR ENCUMBRANCES AGAINST APPROPRIATIONS.”

was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Dougherty, DeLuccie, Roberson, Van Camp and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent –None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

Mayor Weir asked to suspend the Council Rules of Procedure to allow outgoing Councilmembers to speak. Hearing no objections, the Council Rules of Procedure were suspended.

Councilmember Roberson thanked the Mayor for the plaque that was presented to him during the Executive Session prior to the Council Meeting. Councilmember Roberson thanked his supporters over the last two terms for their trust. Councilmember Roberson stated that he did his best to represent citizens with the decisions, comments and votes made while holding this office. He stated that the decisions that they have made not only affect the present and future lives, but the future of Independence. He hopes that the Council continues to consider this fact when using guidance and wisdom from experts to formulate policy. Councilmember Roberson stated that he will consider to live in Independence and help whenever possible.

Councilmember Dougherty stated that he has enjoyed his eight years in office. He states that everywhere he goes in Independence he’s able to see wonderful improvements. Councilmember

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Dougherty stated that wonderful new projects are also coming up. Councilmember Dougherty stated that he is happy to be able to see he left things a little bit better.

Councilmember Van Camp stated that he appreciates the time he's been able to serve. Councilmember Van Camp thanked the citizens of the 4th district and the city.

Mayor Weir thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their service and called for a short recess.

Wayne Nelson, Lead Chaplain of the Independence Police Department, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Scouts James Buhler and Drake Ogle, Troop 282.

Mayor Eileen Weir, Presiding Officer of the City Council, directed the City Clerk to call the roll. On roll call, the following members of the City Council were present: Mike Huff, John Perkins, Karen DeLuccie and Mayor Eileen Weir. Absent: None.

Mayor Weir, instructed the City Clerk to administer the Oath of Office to Councilmembers elect, John Perkins, Brice Stewart, Mike Steinmeyer and Daniel Hobart.

Mayor Weir, Presiding Officer of the City Council, instructed the City Clerk to call the roll of the new City Council. On roll call, the following members of the City Council were present: Mike Huff, John Perkins, Brice Stewart, Karen DeLuccie, Mike Steinmeyer, Daniel Hobart and Mayor Eileen Weir. Absent: None.

Mayor Weir called for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmembers Stewart and Perkins nominated Councilmember Mike Huff for Mayor Pro Tem. There being no other nominations, the nominations ceased. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – none. Abstentions – Councilmember DeLuccie. Absent – none. Mayor Weir declared that Councilmember Huff had been elected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. The Council meeting is to be recessed to the Installation Ceremony following consideration of the ordinances on second reading.
2. The City Council is expected to convene in an Executive Session at 5:15 pm, Monday, June 15, 2020, via GoToMeeting and in Conference Room A, on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3).
3. Municipal Division Monthly Case Report May 2020
4. Report on purchase agreements between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per Procurement Policy.
5. COVID-19 Meeting Procedures: The June 15 City Council Meeting will be shared with the public via YouTube and City7. In accordance with social distancing guidelines, very limited public seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The current social distancing maximum capacity is 31 individuals in the audience. Individuals who sign-up to speak can do so in person or online via the live meeting platform. If capacity is exceeded, speakers may be asked to wait in the lobby area and will be called in at the appropriate time. All attendees are asked to wear a cloth face covering and must participate in a health check upon entering the building. Please plan accordingly to allow time for this prior to the 6 p.m. meeting start time. Those individuals with a fever or showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to watch the meeting on one of the virtual formats. Attendees will be required to socially distance in seats as indicated by the markings on the bench, although minors may sit with a custodial adult. Social distancing maximum capacity is currently 31 individuals in the audience.

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COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilmember Perkins thanked everyone who went out and voted. He stated that he takes nothing for granted and that every vote counts. Councilmember Perkins thanked the 1st District for allowing him to be their voice at City Hall. Councilmember Perkins stated that this ceremony is different for him, as his father passed away last year but knows he is with him in spirit. Councilmember Perkins thanked his family and friends who have given him support and encouragement. He stated that the strong leadership and love for this city, community and neighbors has helped make this difficult job much easier as he cannot do this by himself. He stated that it has been a delight working with the different communities in the city. Councilmember Perkins stated that looking back over the last four years the city has been able to increase funding to help fight blight, Street Crimes Unit with IPD, formed Community Improvement Districts, laid groundwork for redevelopment in downtown, with MoDOT we have started improvements on 291 highway to River Boulevard, started Phase 2 for improving 24 Highway. Looking forward, he wants to keep building off the foundations that have been laid. Councilmember Perkins stated that he has respect for his new colleagues who have been elected at a time when things are very difficult, that though they may not always agree, his door is always open to discuss and bounce ideas off of each other. He's looking forward to another four years in office and working with the other members of Council.

Councilmember Stewart thanked his family and the residents of District 2 for their support. Councilmember Stewart stated that he wants to do his part to establish more trust between the city, residents and the Council. Councilmember Stewart thanked Curt Dougherty for serving the community as the District 2 Councilmember for the last eight years. He stated that he is looking forward to working with Council and the Mayor to have a great next four years.

Councilmember Steinmeyer thanked his family for their support. Councilmember Steinmeyer thanked the supporters that helped him during his campaign. Councilmember Steinmeyer thanked all the candidates that ran in this election to try and make a difference as it is not easy. He congratulated the elected Councilmembers. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated to the voters that he hears them and will continue to listen to raise the standard of professionalism and to continue to make Independence the great place it is.

Councilmember Hobart stated he takes his role on the Council very seriously. Councilmember Hobart thanked the support he had from so many people and stated he will do his best in this position for his supporters and for the residents of his district and the city. Councilmember Hobart thanked his parents for their support. Councilmember Hobart congratulated the other newly elected Councilmembers.

Mayor Weir thanked those in attendance for this meeting. She stated that everyone has been through a lot during this difficult time and she is happy to be back in the Council Chambers. Mayor Weir stated that she is thankful for the new Councilmembers and commends their choice to run for City Council during this time. She looks forward to working with them.

Mr. Walker congratulated the new Councilmembers and welcomed them to the City staff.

At 6:41 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., July 6, 2020, in the Council Chambers.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

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City Clerk