

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 16, 2024

INVOCATION

Livet Ojeda gave the invocation in English and Spanish

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Fears, Stewart, McCandless, Hobart, Mayor Rowland

Absent: Perkins

CITIZEN REQUESTS

1) Matt Roberds - Spoke about Rental Ready – non-resident Hobart moved to suspend rules to allow him to speak 2nd by McCandless;

Passed 5-0

2) Colleen Huff – Spoke about her comments regarding the Englewood Overlay Arts Project during the 12/18 meeting.

3) Jason White – spoke about Englewood Arts Project Overlay and the disinformation from the people who are running for council.

PRESENTATION RESOLUTIONS

24-703 A resolution recognizing Phil Camerlynck, Warehouse Superintendent, with the IPL Department, as the I-STAR Award Recipient for January 2024 Res# 6980

Motion: Hobart

Second: McCandless

Pass 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager

Hobart Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

Second: Fears

Pass 5-0

Items pulled #1- McCandless

1. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meetings on December 4 and December 18, 2023 - Very minor corrections

Motion for approval to amend by McCandless

Second: Hobart

Approved 5-0

2. Council action is requested to expend \$375,000.00 in expenditures for Ductile Iron Pipe and Gate Valves with Blue Springs Winwater, Core & Main, Ferguson Plumbing Supply and Schulte Supply for the Water Construction Maintenance Division for the Municipal Services Department for fiscal year 2023-2024.

3. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to approve a construction contract with Linaweaver Construction, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$1,485,591 authorizing future minor change orders not to exceed \$148,559 and/or time extensions for the Raymond, Harkless to Mills Project (No. 131806 & 302102).

4. Council action is requested to issue Change Order #1 to Purchase Order 24000435 to Stella-Jones in the amount of \$100,000 for additional expenses for Wood Transmission & Distribution Poles, for the Power & Light Department. New revised amount of PO will be \$200,000.00.

Motion:

Second:

Approved 5-0

Resolutions

24-704 A resolution appointing Allie

Zaroor to the Tax Increment Financing Commission of the City of Independence, Missouri, Res # 6981

REGULAR AGENDA

Ordinances

23-108 2R An ordinance amending Article 15 of Chapter 4 Rental Ready Program to be effective January 1, 2024.

2R

Hobart: I agree with some observations that the citizen raised. He made a motion to postpone indefinitely for further review—McCandless 2nd.

Motion to postpone indefinitely passes 5-0

24-001 2R An ordinance declaring two tracts of land, hereinafter designated as 23-01 & 23-02, as surplus property; and authorizing the disposition of said property in accordance with Chapter 20 of the City Code. 2R

A question from Councilmember Stewart to City Manager Walker asked about the significance of this ordinance.

Response from CM Walker: This is related to Crysler Stadium at 23rd and Crysler. It belongs to the City of Independence and is managed by the Parks and Rec Department. It has become underutilized. The ordinance's purpose was to enter into a lease agreement with ISD that would allow Van Horn to play their baseball games at this facility. However, several parties now want to take on the site permanently. This ordinance authorizes the City to solicit offers for the property.

Passes 5-0 Ord# 19521

24-002 2R An ordinance finding, determining and declaring the necessity of acquiring temporary construction and grading easements, general utility easements, and Right of Way for the Valley View Parkway Extension Project (Project No. 512001); 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. 2R

Ord# 1922

Passes 5-0

First Reading(s)

24-003 1R An ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance, Chapter 14, of the Independence City Code pertaining to donation bins 1R

24-004 1R An ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance, Chapter 14, of the Independence City Code pertaining to Short Term Loan Services 1R

24-005 1R An ordinance amending the amounts authorized in the Development Agreements with Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity as approved by Ordinance Numbers 19236 and 19237 1R

INFORMATION ONLY

1. *Please Note: In accordance with RSMo 610.021, the City Council may convene in an Executive Session during or after the meeting, in the Council Chambers and move to Conference Room D for the closed meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or*

attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Stewart spoke about the purchase of the GEHA building. After the previous City Council meeting where the ordinance was passed to approve the purchase of the GEHA building, he received an email asking for a copy of the reports stating that City Hall and the Police Department building were not repairable.

He submitted a sunshine request for the reports showing that the police department building and City Hall are not repairable. He received two reports. One from 2018 for the Police Department and a structural report for City Hall from 2014. At no point in the reports does it say these buildings are not repairable. Are there other reports he did not receive, or is there a better explanation for why this isn't in the reports or why they aren't repairable?

He received the 2018 Police Department report and the 2014 structural for City Hall. The report does not mention that City Hall or PD are not repairable.

Question to Zach – are there any reports he did not receive, or can he get a better explanation?

Zach - Cautious to say they are not repairable.

Conversations with engineers mention that the reports he was provided were done in 2017. We can go back to the structural engineer and ask him to put that in writing if that would be the prerogative of the Council.

Stewart - there is the appearance that the Council was misled. Zach takes exception to that. Stewart does not feel he was misled and does not want that perception there. But he thinks that if anyone else got ahold of the reports, they would see that it does not say that in there. If they could get that report, he thinks that would look a lot better.

Zach stated that he would get that taken care of instantly because that is what they heard, and he would go to the mat to defend the integrity of our staff.

Fears - appreciates the citizen who spoke on the Rental Ready program. We are still working on opportunities to improve the program. Kudos to City staff and people who got power back on and cleared city streets during the winter storms, brutal weather, and freezing temperatures.

McCandless – Reminder that some people will be getting a survey – please fill it out.

Second, she agrees with Councilmember Fears, not just with IPL and street crews but also with the firefighters dealing with fires. And police officers working in the cold and those tending to the warming station.

World Cup Committee - We should consider looking at resolution and expanding to those who live, work, and love Independence. I would like to have open applications for the committee.

Kudos to the City for allowing job shadows for ISD students so they can understand what it takes to run a city.

Hot new Item -

66% increase in permits for new family homes in Independence last year and an increase in new and renewal of business licenses for 2023.

Hobart – to CM Walker – I would like to see the City do a web page(s) for each of the sales taxes we have in place to show citizens how we are spending the taxes—for example, the marijuana tax. Information should be easily accessible to residents for transparency. Anything we can do to make it easily accessible to residents will help in the search for transparency.

Zach – Excellent suggestion. We will be working on that.

Seconded Fears and McCandless. He wanted to thank those who had to come to work and go out in these conditions and showed up to do so.

Mr. Nail retired. He will be missed. We have a new director, Joe Hegendeffer. Glad to have him, and welcome.

Mayor Rowland – kudos to the staff for their hard work and those who cleared streets and regained our power.

Speeding and traffic issues – I would like to consider looking at traffic-calming items for various areas in the city. Could we have a Study Session to brainstorm ideas for addressing speeders?

City Manager Walker: Nothing tonight

ADJOURNMENT 6:42 PM



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

ATTEST:



City Clerk

