

REGULAR MEETING
July 6, 2020

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

Shirley Murdock 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, Brice Stewart, Karen DeLuccie, Mike Steinmeyer, Daniel Hobart and Mayor Eileen Weir. The following members of the City Council were absent: None.

CITIZENS REQUESTS:

Joshua Hasam spoke to Council regarding the Police Fund allocation.

Laura Dominik spoke to Council regarding Lobbying Firms.

PRESENTATION RESOLUTION:

Councilmembers Perkins and DeLuccie moved to approve Bill No. 20-730.

Bill No. 20-730, entitled, [Res. #6553]
“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ALICIA NELSON, OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL, 2020.”
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

Councilmembers Huff and DeLuccie moved to approve Bill No. 20-731.

Bill No. 20-731, entitled, [Res. #6554]
“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUSTIN JETT, OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY, 2020.”
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

Councilmembers Huff and DeLuccie moved to approve Bill No. 20-732.

Bill No. 20-732, entitled, [Res. #6555]
“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING STEVE ARNOLD, OF THE INDEPENDENCE POWER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE, 2020.”
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

Councilmembers Huff and DeLuccie moved to approve Bill No. 20-733.

Bill No. 20-733, entitled, [Res. #6556]
“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JENNIFER KIM, OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JULY, 2020.”
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

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Councilmember Steinmeyer requested that Bill No. 20-752, Bill No. 20-753 and Bill No. 20-754 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmember DeLuccie requested that Bill No. 20-751 be pulled for separate consideration.

Mayor Weir requested that Bill No. 20-755 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Huff and DeLuccie moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Bill No. 20-752, Bill No. 20-753, Bill No. 20-754, Bill No. 20-755 and Bill No. 20-751 to be considered separately.

1. Approval of minutes for the Regular Meetings on June 1, 2020 and June 15, 2020.
2. Council action is requested to approve a contract with Superior Bowen Asphalt Company for the 2020 Asphalt Overlay Project in the amount of \$3,877,263.60 and authorizing administrative approval of the change order not to exceed \$387,700.00 and/or time extensions.
3. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Layne, a Granite Company, in the amount of \$192,085.00 for Courtney Bend Water Treatment Plant Well Rehabilitation for the Water Department.

Bill No. 20-734, entitled, [Res. #6557]
“A RESOLUTION UPDATING MEMBERSHIP FOR THE JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE.”

Bill No. 20-735, entitled, [Res. #6558]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KAREN MEHL AS THE CITY REPRESENTATIVE AND LYLE REEDER AS AN ALTERNATE CITY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION WHEN SAID BOARD IS CONSIDERING ASSESSMENTS OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE.”

Bill No. 20-736, entitled, [Res. #6559]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CASSY PALLO, JEANNAE SEGURA-BROWN AND TRACIE WHITING KIPPER AS MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE.”

Bill No. 20-737, entitled, [Res. #6560]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHRISTINE HUGHES AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.-COUNCIL INTERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION .”

Bill No. 20-738, entitled, [Res. #6561]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CINDY MCCLAIN AND APPOINTING PAUL MICHELL TO THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.-COUNCIL INTERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.”

Bill No. 20-739, entitled, [Res. #6562]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RONALD ADAMS AND KENDRA BROCKMAN AS MEMBERS OF THE PERSONNEL BOARD OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.-COUNCIL INTERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.”

Bill No. 20-740, entitled, [Res. #6563]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ALLIE ZAROOR TO THE INDEPENDENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INCENTIVE COMMISSION.-COUNCIL INTERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.”

Bill No. 20-741, entitled, [Res. #6564]
“A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AARON CROSSLEY AND JAMES ARCANO AS MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.-COUNCIL INTERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.”

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Bill No. 20-742, entitled, [Res. #6565]

“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LAWRENCE PORTER AND APPOINTING BRIDGET MCCANDLESS AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.- COUNCIL INTERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.”

Bill No. 20-743, entitled, [Res. #6566]

“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING NINA ANDERS AND APPOINTING CHRIS ROSSON AS MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENCE HARRY S TRUMAN AWARD COMMISSION.-INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENT MAYOR EILEEN WEIR.”

Bill No. 20-744, entitled, [Res. #6567]

“A RESOLUTION APPOINTING LINDA SEEVER TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS.-INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENT MAYOR EILEEN WEIR.”

Bill No. 20-745, entitled, [Res. #6568]

“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING COUNCILMEMBERS JOHN PERKINS AND KAREN DELUCCIE AND APPOINTING COUNCILMEMBER DANIEL HOBART TO THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

Bill No. 20-746, entitled, [Res. #6569]

“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MAYOR EILEEN WEIR AND APPOINTING COUNCILMEMBERS MIKE HUFF AND DANIEL HOBART TO THE EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

Bill No. 20-747, entitled, [Res. #6570]

“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MAYOR EILEEN WEIR AND APPOINTING COUNCILMEMBERS JOHN PERKINS AND KAREN DELUCCIE TO THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE.”

Bill No. 20-748, entitled, [Res. #6571]

“A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AND INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS-WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BARGAINING UNIT FROM JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2020.”

Bill No. 20-749 entitled, [Res. #6572]

“A RESOLUTION WAIVING HEALTH PERMIT AND BUSINESS LICENSE FEES FOR MOBILE FOOD UNITS FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS. “

Bill No. 20-750, entitled, [Res. #6573]

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 REGIONAL MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.”

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion carried and the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA was approved.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, City Manager, Zach Walker, stated that the City of Independence owns the facility and we contract with a third part to manage the facility. Under that agreement, the city has access to two suites during tenant events such as Comets and Mavericks and during other special events, the city has access to one suite. Currently there are not protocols for how those suites are to be utilized. This resolution would allow staff to report back within 30 days with recommendations to prioritize groups like boards and commissions members, city volunteers and other groups.

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Councilmember Perkins stated that there is already priority given to the schools, community organizations and boards and commissions members. He thinks that the system has been working well.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and Huff moved to approve Bill No. 20-752.

Bill No. 20-752, entitled, [Res. #6575]

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND PROTOCOLS FOR USE OF THE CITY-OWNED SUITES AT THE CABLE DAHMER ARENA.” -*Requested by Councilmember Michael Steinmeyer*

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item approved.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that with the first Independence Fire Fighter testing positive for COVID-19 he just wants to be sure that Council is provided the most up to date information regarding safety protocols and how to protect our employees and citizens adequately.

In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Walker stated that we have received a declaration from the Governor that stated if a member of Public Safety receives a confirmed COVID-19 positive test it will be presumed to have been contracted through the work place and will be treated under Worker’s Compensation.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and Huff moved to approve Bill No. 20-753.

Bill No. 20-753, entitled, [Res. #6576]

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE INDEPENDENCE ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH TO EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND POLICIES TO PROTECT CITY OF INDEPENDENCE EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY DURING AND THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.” -*Requested by Councilmember Michael Steinmeyer*

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item approved.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated the motivation of this resolution is strictly economical. He stated that being new to the Council he wants to be sure that money is being spent as intended. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that there was no malicious intent toward the Chamber. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that the Chamber plays a large role in our business community and we need to continue to invest in the Chamber. He stated that we are looking for a value proposition in our relationship tied to the investment so that we can be accountable to the tax payers as to the return on investment. He stated he would like this item postponed until the July 20, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and asked that the City Manager meet with the Chamber leadership to develop a contract for services at a negotiable rate.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and Stewart moved to postpone Bill No. 20-754.

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item postponed until the Regular Meeting on July, 20, 2020.

Bill No. 20-754, entitled, [Postponed]

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THAT NO CITY FUNDS BE EXPENDED ON MEMBERSHIP DUES WITH THE INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 AND THAT ALL EXPENDITURES FOR INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS AND SPONSORSHIPS BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE CITY MANAGER.” -*Requested by Councilmember Michael Steinmeyer*

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Mayor Weir stated she shares concerns about our city economics and the unknown future of our revenues and what will be available for various consulting services we use throughout the year. However, she stated that she feels this resolution is premature. Mayor Weir stated that our lobbying contracts expire at the end of October 2020. Mayor Weir stated that there is a lot to consider. Mayor Weir stated that our lobbying team has done a great job. The Mayor stated that there is a lot still on the plate in Jefferson City, including House Bill 1854 that has great implications for us, the Wayfair legislation which could bring an incredible amount of new revenue to the city and the cable franchise fee. Mayor Weir asked the Council to vote this down and revisit this at a later time when we have a clearer picture of the future.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that the first lobbying contract expires in August and the second expires in October. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that when she joined the Council in 2014 we spent \$60,000 a year on a lobbyists. In 2016, that amount went up to \$90,000 and then it became \$180,000. She stated that over the years we have spent upwards of \$240,000 each year for lobbyists. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that there is no reason that one lobbying firm cannot represent the city interests of this town. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that we cannot afford this, especially when we are having to borrow \$25 million from our enterprise funds. She stated she isn't trying to choose between the two firms we have, she would like the most effective firm, but we cannot afford two. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she wants this bill to pass.

Councilmember Perkins stated that he was on the screening committee when this discussion about hiring another firm came up that could give us some lobbying strength in Jefferson City. He stated that we were a municipality that owned our own utility that did not have our own lobbyist designated team down there that could really focus in on helping us. Councilmember Perkins stated that it isn't just what our lobbyists bring home, but it is also what they keep us, and our tax payers, from having to spend to help offset what legislation Jefferson City tries to push through. Councilmember Perkins stated that at the time the Council thought it wise to get another firm down there to help get legislation passed, or blocked. He stated that this is money well spent.

Councilmember Perkins stated that in regards to the \$25 Million, he wanted it made clear that we have not spent \$25 Million. Councilmember Perkins stated that he will vote this bill down as well.

Councilmember Huff stated that at the time this utility lobbyist was introduced for IPL, they were specialized in that end of things and has been able to assist us in accomplishing movement of a couple of the towers. Councilmember stated he will also be voting no on this bill.

Mayor Weir and Councilmember Perkins moved to approve Bill No. 20-755.

Bill No. 20-755, entitled

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO RETAIN ONLY ONE LOBBYING FIRM FOR ALL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY IN AN AMOUNT TO RANGE BETWEEN \$90,000-\$120,000." -*Requested by Councilmember Karen DeLuccie*

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Stewart, DeLuccie and Hobart. Noes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Steinmeyer and Mayor Weir. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item failed.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that this is a contract for the IBEW to approve a contract wage increase of 1% for two consecutive years. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that our IBEW of IPL are the highest paid workers in the area. She stated this is going to cost the city \$94,000 in retroactive increase in pay and \$144,000 in perspective increases in pay. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that every other Independence city employee is not getting a raise. She stated that this cannot be justified and we cannot afford it.

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Councilmember Huff stated that he could remember a time when our workers were the lowest paid and we just took anyone with a journeyman's ticket whether they were adequately qualified or not. Councilmember Huff stated that through the years, the city has worked very hard to get skilled workers and that has increased the efficiencies here. Councilmember Huff stated that he knows they are highly paid and does not feel like the 1% increase is unreasonable. He stated that at this time the city has cut benefits and feels that in order to keep good employees working in IPL that this is justified.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Walker stated that the work agreement expired in November of 2019 and negotiations began prior to the pandemic. Mr. Walker stated that the vote on this agreement was done after the State of Emergency was declared.

Councilmember Hobart stated that we need to start somewhere with getting employees raises again. Councilmember Hobart stated that we cannot begin with what the raises for IBEW have been historically, as they have been larger than other places, that's admitted. In response to Councilmember Hobart, Mr. Walker confirmed that the Police Department has agreed to put off negotiations until next year and we are still working on an agreement with the Fire Department. Councilmember Hobart stated that his goal is that his would be a baseline for other city employees to receive raises and he understands that is not happening this year which is unfortunate. He is hoping that this is the starting mark for bringing back everyone's benefits and wage increases.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve Bill No. 20-751.

Bill No. 20-751, entitled, [Res. #6574]

"A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL UNION 53, FOR THE TERM OF NOVEMBER 1, 2019 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2021."

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmember DeLuccie. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item approved.

NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

1. 2nd Amendment to the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement between the Noland Road Community Improvement District and the City of Independence.

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item approved.

FIRST READINGS:

Bill No. 20-045, entitled

"AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN EXISTING 5 FOOT SANITARY EASEMENT, RECORDED IN BOOK 1478 AT PAGE 18, OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND LOCATED AT 11004 E 40 HIGHWAY." was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-046, entitled

"AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN EXISTING 15 FOOT SANITARY EASEMENT, RECORDED IN BOOK 1478 AT PAGE 18, OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND LOCATED AT 11004 E 40 HIGHWAY." was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-047, entitled

"AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN EXISTING 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT, RECORDED ON INSTRUMENT NUMBER 2014E0029183, BOOK 149, PAGE 83, OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND LOCATED AT 11004 E 40 HIGHWAY." was given its first reading by title.

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Bill No. 20-048, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) TO DISTRICT R-6 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR THE PROPERTY AT 2415 S. R. D. MIZE ROAD, IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-049, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICTS R-6 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) AND C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) TO DISTRICT C-3 (SERVICE COMMERCIAL) FOR THE PROPERTY AT 603 E. US 24 HIGHWAY AND 909 N. EMERY STREET, IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-050, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT C-1 (NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL) TO DISTRICT R-A (RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURE) FOR THE PROPERTY AT 2000 N. ELSEA SMITH ROAD, IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-051, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED AT 2740 AND 2742 S. ENGLEWOOD TERRACE.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-052, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE 2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,415.00; APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET; MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS; AUTHORIZING FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND/OR TIME EXTENSIONS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-053, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING EASEMENTS FOR THE BISON PARK SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 302003); 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 first reading by title.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. The City Clerk's Office is in receipt of the Noland Road Community Improvement District resolution approving the budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.
2. Purchase order 20001025, in the amount of \$106,466.00 was issued to Rebuild-it Services Group LLC. for replacement and repair of Contact Basin No.6 Turbine Drive and Rake at the Courtney Bend Water Plant for the Water Department.
3. This is to notify the City Council that a petition to establish the Independence Square Community Improvement District was received by the City Clerk on June 30, 2020 and is being processed.
4. 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

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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.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilmember DeLuccie thanked the Mayor and city employees. She stated that this is a hard time and each day it gets harder. Councilmember DeLuccie thanked our residents for their cooperation with all the changes being implemented because of this pandemic.

Councilmember Huff stated that at 23rd Street and Lee's Summit road the sidewalk seems to be being worked on. He said he would like to be sure that these issues are being looked at to determine who is responsible for the repairs, not just always using city funds for repairs even if the site should be repaired by a contractor or other party. Councilmember Huff thanked everyone who put in their applications for Boards and Commissions. He stated that the Council Interview Committee was very pleased to see so many applications, many being younger people who are wanting to get involved in their community.

Mayor Weir stated she was very impressed with those that applied for our Boards and Commissions. The Mayor encouraged others to step forward and submit applications as well. Mayor Weir stated that we will be establishing a Southwest 353 Redevelopment District and received many applications for that as well which will be reviewed soon. Mayor Weir thanked Councilmember DeLuccie for her kind words. She stated that this has been a very challenging last four months. Mayor Weir stated that the current mask order by the County has added additional confusion. She stated that the County website has very good information and a forum to help with understanding guidelines. Mayor Weir stated she hopes to see positive movement in our city, county and state and hopefully the current situation will not last very long. Mayor Weir stated that we are continuing to do all we can to keep our community safe.

At 6:45 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., July 20, 2020, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk