

REGULAR MEETING September 8, 2020

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, September 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

Shirley Murdock, member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints provided the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem, Mike Huff, 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 and Daniel Hobart. Mayor Eileen Weir attended virtually. The following members of the City Council were absent: None.

CITIZENS REQUESTS:

Catherine Alexander spoke to Council regarding culture compliance with laws.

Sharon Bernard spoke to Council regarding commercial property.

PRESENTATION RESOLUTION:

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve Bill No. 20-768.

Bill No. 20-768, entitled, [Res. #6589]
“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MICK HENRY, FLEET ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE POWER AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER 2020.”

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

PROCLAMATIONS:

City Clerk, Becky Behrens, read a proclamation for Constitution Week.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember DeLuccie requested that Item No. 1, Item No. 2, Item No. 3, Item No. 4, Bill No. 20-775 and Bill No. 20-776 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and DeLuccie moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Item No. 1, Item No. 2, Item No. 3, Item No. 4, Bill No. 20-775 and Bill No. 20-776 to be considered separately.

5. Council action is requested to issue a contract with Andrew and Johnson County Sheriff Offices for Prisoner Housing Services for one year, with four possible one-year extensions for the Police Department.
6. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to C & C Sales Inc, in the amount of \$107,980.00 for Security Camera Systems for the ten (10) Fire Stations and Training Facility for the Fire Department.
7. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Precision Industries for a Precision/Spartan Custom 4 Door Pumper for the Fire Department.
8. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Layne, a Granite Company, in the amount of \$240,544.00 for a Well Rehabilitation Project for the Water Department.

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9. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Utility Service Company, in the amount of \$398,291.00 for Protective Coating System Replacement for Contact Basin No. 2 and Splitter Basin No. 1 at the Courtney Bend Water Plant for the Water Department.
10. Council action is requested to issue a three-year contract with the United States Geological Survey Department of the Interior for Ground Water Sampling for the Water Department.
11. Approval of minutes for the Regular Meetings on August 3, 2020 and August 17, 2020.

Bill No. 20-769, entitled, [Res. #6590]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LARA ASHBAUGH AS A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE.”

Bill No. 20-770, entitled, [Res. #6591]
“A RESOLUTION APPOINTING EDWARD NESBITT TO THE STREET IMPROVEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.” - *Individual Appointment Councilmember Mike Steinmeyer*

Bill No. 20-771, entitled, [Res. #6592]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ZACHARY GALL TO THE INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.” - *Individual Appointment Mayor Eileen Weir*

Bill No. 20-772, entitled, [Res. #6593]
“A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CINDY MCCLAIN AND STACIE SHORT AND APPOINTING TRENT AUSTIN TO THE MAYOR’S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE ARTS.” - *Individual Appointment Mayor Eileen Weir*

Bill No. 20-773, entitled, [Res. #6594]
“A RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCILMEMBER MIKE STEINMEYER TO THE INDEPENDENCE ON A ROLL WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE AS A COUNCILMEMBER ALTERNATE FOR THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

Bill No. 20-774, entitled, [Res. #6595]
“A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE EVENTS CENTER MANAGEMENT CORPORATION AND MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION IN CONNECTION WITH SAID AMENDMENT.”

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 Pro Tem declared the motion carried and the CONSENT AGENDA was approved.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated she would like to discuss Items 1 through 4 at the same time. They all deal with purchases for the Police Department through the Public Safety Sales Tax, which she does not have a problem with. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that Prop P funds are also being used for these purchases and she has an issue with that. Councilmember DeLuccie stated these purchases allow for \$100,000 of Prop P funds for these purchases. She stated that the Use Tax was approved by the citizens to be used for police officers and animal services, she stated that it is not appropriate to use this for equipment. She stated that there is \$1.4 million of unallocated funds in the Public Safety Sales Tax money.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved amend Item No. 1 to remove the Use Tax appropriations and replace it with funds from the Public Safety Sales Tax.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, City Manager, Zach Walker, stated that the ballot language that was drafted in a very open-ended way so that this Council and future Councils could determine what it meant to hire thirty new police officers. Mr. Walker stated that it does not state salary

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and benefits in the ballot language. Mr. Walker stated that this was brought forth to get some direction. Mr. Walker stated that staff supports the opportunity to use the Public Safety Sales Tax for these items. Mr. Walker stated that we currently have not hired any new officers, but there are four in the academy that have not started with the department yet.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Walker stated that staff will continue to ask Council to provide interpretation and direction just as we do with the other five Sales Taxes we have. Mr. Walker stated that we also have the citizen oversight committees that weigh in on the appropriateness of those purchases.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he thinks that the citizen oversight committees need information that helps them understand what they are voting for and he does not feel they had enough information.

Mayor Weir stated a lot went into deciding to put this on the ballot and to execute a successful campaign. She stated that it was estimated that it would cost approximately \$100,000 per officer. Mayor Weir stated that she believes that there are people who understood that the dollar amount would include things above salary and benefits, knowing that our officers need uniforms, weapons, vehicles. Mayor Weir stated that she did not find anything in writing that clearly stated that, so she does think it has caused some confusion and that is not what we want. Mayor Weir stated that she does not feel comfortable doing anything with these funds, except hiring police officers.

In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker stated that he will have the cost associated with hiring new officers adjusted in future reports. Mayor Weir stated that this is good news, because we will be able to fund those needs sooner.

Upon roll call, the vote to amend Item No. 1 to remove the Use Tax funds and replace with Public Safety Sales Tax funds was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the amendment approved.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart move amend Item No. 2 to remove the Use Tax appropriations and replace it with funds from the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Upon roll call, the vote to amend Item No. 2 to remove the Use Tax funds and replace with Public Safety Sales Tax funds was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the amendment approved.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved amend Item No. 3 to remove the Use Tax appropriations and replace it with funds from the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Upon roll call, the vote to amend Item No. 3 to remove the Use Tax funds and replace with Public Safety Sales Tax funds was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the amendment approved.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved amend Item No. 4 to remove the Use Tax appropriations and replace it with funds from the Public Safety Sales Tax.

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Upon roll call, the vote to amend Item No. 4 to remove the Use Tax funds and replace with Public Safety Sales Tax funds was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the amendment approved.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve Item No. 1.

1. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Motorola, in the amount of \$249,873.12 for Portable Radios for the Police Department.

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

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve Item No. 2.

2. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to SF Mobile-Vision Inc, in the amount of \$129,275.00 for a Car Video Systems for the Police Department.

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

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve Item No. 3.

3. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to 13 Ford Explorer Police Package Vehicles (PPV's), in the amount of \$498,017.00 from Shawnee Mission Ford for the Police Department.

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

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve Item No. 4.

4. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Broadcast Microwave Services (BMS), in the amount of \$196,691.49 for Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) for the Police Department.

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

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mayor Weir stated that Mayor Reimal passed away on August 17, 2020 after a long illness. One of his great accomplishments for the City of Independence was the construction of what is now the Cable Dahmer Arena. Mayor Weir provided more information about how much Mayor Reimal did for the Arena. In an effort to honor him and his decades of service to the community, she thought nothing was more fitting than to name our City suite in his honor.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Perkins moved to approve Bill No. 20-775.

Bill No. 20-775, entitled, [Res. #6596]

“A RESOLUTION OFFICIALLY NAMING THE DESIGNATED SUITE FOR CITY USE AT THE CABLE DAHMER ARENA AS THE DON B. REIMAL COMMUNITY SUITE.”

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

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Walker stated that we are trying to refinance a series of bonds through Independence Power and Light which would save IPL a significant amount of money based on the current market conditions. Director of Finance and Administration, Bryan Kidney, provided background information about 2010 B bonds and stated that they are currently trying to get a lower interest rate. Chris Lover with Public Financial Management (PFM) was on the call and provided a PowerPoint regarding this item. Mr. Lover provided more information about debt associated with the

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three city utilities and what savings the City would benefit from refinancing these bonds. Mr. Lover provided a detailed slideshow with additional information and recommendations. Mr. Kidney stated that this has been provided to the PUAB and has been recommended to move forward with the refunding.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Kidney stated that the cost is included in the net present savings of \$2.3 million. He stated that if you take \$10 million of cash on hand, that would save \$3.2 million in interest over the life of the bonds. Mr. Lover stated that the bonds go out to 2035. Mr. Kidney stated that we would not be lengthening the time for the bonds. Mr. Kidney stated that we can look at shortening the length of the bonds, but there isn't a lot of interest savings from year to year.

In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Kidney stated that the resolution would allow staff to move forward with the refunding. Mr. Kidney stated that staff's recommendation is to refund the entire debt. He stated that we have just started a financial assessment of all debt and this assessment will be done in November or December of this year. Mr. Kidney stated that staff anticipates bringing refunding recommendations to Council each year for the next three to four years and other options will be available, such as using cash on hand.

In response to Councilmember Hobart, that moving forward there will be different options and recommendations for how to move forward with the other debt. Mr. Kidney stated that in the past staff has not been ready to answer questions about cash virus refunding and right now they are asking to give staff until the end of the year to have the financial assessment back to better answer questions moving forward. Mr. Kidney stated that they aren't wanting to slowly work through other debt and bonds to see if we can get lower rates, it will be more of a shotgun approach to move as quickly as possible for the lowest rates possible. Mr. Kidney stated that PFM is only our utility finance advisor. He stated that we have already been working on non-utility debt as well and Council will see more recommendations regarding these things in the future.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Kidney stated it is safer for us to have liquidity now, and in December after the assessment is back we will have more information about where the market is and the strength of the utility. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we have a strong rating and asked if we paid off this debt with cash on hand, if we would be able to borrow against our strong rating if we get into a bind. Councilmember Hobart stated that our rating could go down if we spend our cash. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he does not think it is a smart idea to carry debt if we can pay it off.

In response to Councilmember Perkins, Mr. Kidney stated that staff is trying to make sure that we move forward in the most cost effective and safe way possible. Mr. Kidney confirmed that when staff brings this back after December, they will have more information about how to proceed beyond the current bond refunding.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Kidney stated that the liquidity question would be addressed after the financial assessment is completed at the end of the year. Mr. Kidney asked that the Council trust that their professionals are showing fiduciary responsibility.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Perkins moved to approve Bill No. 20-776.

Bill No. 20-776, entitled, [Res. #6597]

"RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, TO SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR A LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFINANCING CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY UNDER THAT CERTAIN LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2010 BETWEEN THE MISSOURI DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD AND THE CITY, PREVIOUSLY ENTERED INTO FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING CERTAIN ELECTRIC SYSTEM PROJECTS."

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Pro Tem Huff opened a new information only public hearing for the application by the City of Independence requesting a rezoning from I-1, Industrial, to R-6, Single-Family Residential, for the property located at 711 and 715 S. Northern Blvd. Community Development Director, Tom Scannell, stated that the Planning Commission recommends approval of this rezoning and stated that there is no new information to report. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the public hearing closed. *New Information Only.*

Bill No. 20-065, entitled, [Ord. #19151]
“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT I-1 (INDUSTRIAL) TO DISTRICT R-6 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR THE PROPERTIES AT 711 AND 715 S. NORTHERN BOULEVARD, IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”
was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

1. Council action is requested regarding the change in ownership application received from Saints Independence LLC, for a Restaurant Bar Intoxicating Liquor License and a Sunday Restaurant Intoxicating Liquor License located at 20220 E. Jackson Dr.

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

2. Council action is requested regarding the outdoor expansion of the licensed premises for the Place of Entertainment Intoxicating Liquor License and the Sunday Place of Entertainment Intoxicating Liquor License for the Cable Dahmer Arena located at 19100 E. Valley View Parkway.

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

ORDINANCES:

Bill No. 20-056, entitled, [Ord. #19152]
“AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A 20 FOOT GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENT TO THE CITY ACROSS LITTLE BLUE VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT’S PROPERTY AT 21101 E 78 HIGHWAY.”
was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-066, entitled, [Ord #19153]
“AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN EXISTING 3 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT, RECORDED IN BOOK 1539 AT PAGE 476, OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND LOCATED AT 11004 E. 40 HIGHWAY.”
was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-067, entitled, [Ord. #19154]
“AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN EXISTING 10 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT, RECORDED IN BOOK 1387 AT PAGE 1367, OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND LOCATED AT 11004 E. 40 HIGHWAY.”

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was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent –None. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

FIRST READINGS:

Bill No. 20-068, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE TERMINATING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT II OF THE NORTH INDEPENDENCE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN; DISSOLVING THE SPECIAL ALLOCATION FUND ACCOUNT FOR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT II OF THE NORTH INDEPENDENCE REDEVELOPMENT AREA; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR THE CITY MANAGER'S DESIGNEE TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THESE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIONS.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-069, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CERTAIN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH NKMS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS, INC. TO PLACE A MONUMENT SIGN IN THE SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT AT 20511 E. TRINITY PLACE IN INDEPENDENCE, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI.”

was given its first reading by title.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Walker stated that very early during the COVID-19 public health crisis, Council approved an interfund loan for the General Fund in the amount of \$25 Million. Mr. Walker provided background about the interfund loan. Mr. Walker stated that as we closed out the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2020, our budget outperformed economic expectations. We still had a loss of \$1.5 Million, which drew down our fund balance. Mr. Walker stated that instead of depleting the fund below to 2%, it only depleted it down to 7%. Mr. Walker stated that because of the better than expected performance, we have not had to draw down on the interfund loan. Mr. Walker stated that the fiscally responsible thing to do is to reduce the interfund loan from \$25 Million down to \$12.5 Million. Mr. Walker stated that midway through the fiscal year, staff will provide a financial update to Council on the status of the need for the remaining \$12.5 million.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Walker stated that these funds were from Pooled Cash Funds so the money will go back to the that Fund. Mr. Walker stated that under the provisions of the Charter we were not able to borrow from the Water Department, because we borrowed from their fund for the Farmer's Market.

Bill No. 20-070, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 19108 TO AUTHORIZING AN INTERFUND LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500,000 TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY FUNDING TO THE GENERAL FUND.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-071, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000 FOR THE CITY'S SENIOR ADULT NUTRITION SITE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021, AND EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT COMMUNITY CENTER SERVICES AGREEMENT; 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.

INFORMATION ONLY:

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1. The City Council has requested that the State of Emergency Proclamation be reviewed every 30 days for wording and compliance as directed at the August 3, 2020 Regular Meeting of the City Council.
2. COVID-19 Semi-Monthly Update.
3. The public hearing regarding the Eastland, North Independence, Old Landfill, Mt. Washington, Santa Fe and Trinity Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plans has been continued to the September 21, 2020 Council Meeting for a Full Public Hearing.
4. COVID-19 Meeting Procedures: The September 8 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 must participate in a health check and be wearing a cloth face covering 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 Steinmeyer stated that one of his greatest concerns in the State of Emergency Proclamation is the undue burden being placed on businesses to enforce the mask requirement under threat of their utilities being shut off. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we must be sympathetic to the businesses in our community. He stated that everyone is getting very wary of mask wearing and stated we need to revisit the proclamation and remove some of the heavy-handed language to maintain support for the mask mandate. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we need more compassion for those in our community, not threatening to shut their utilities off. He stated that we want to partner with the business community. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he knew of one business owner that threatened to sue the City and we do not need that. He asked for the proclamation to be added to the next Study Session for review. Mr. Walker stated that he will get the item added to the Study Session. Mr. Walker stated that even when businesses have received their final warning, they are being allowed one or two additional warnings as well and we have not shut off utilities at this time. Mr. Walker stated that staff will provide more information at the Study Session.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that a gentleman named Drew Mahurin did a Saturday Night Community Pizza Event on Facebook where he said that families in Independence are hurting and can't afford a pizza night. He suggested people post their addresses if they would like a pizza and other people could order a pizza to give back to their fellow community members. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that there were more than 440 comments with addresses and pictures of delivered pizzas. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that the greatest strength of this city is that people are willing to help each other.

Councilmember Perkins asked that Mr. Walker add information to the next Study Session Meeting about what other local municipalities are doing to enforce the mask mandate by the county. Mr. Walker stated he will add that information.

Councilmember Stewart asked what the policy is for city employees taking home city vehicles. Mr. Walker stated if the position requires the employee to report outside of normal city business working hours, then departments have the discretion to decide if a vehicle can be taken home. Mr. Walker stated it is a requirement to show a need to respond and ability to respond and the vehicle still needs to be utilized for city business. Mr. Walker stated that he will provide the distance restrictions to Council by email as he does not have it readily available at this time.

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Mayor Weir stated that she is happy to revisit the State of Emergency Proclamation and bring forward more information. Mayor Weir stated that we have been working on having our Regulated Services come to a Study Session and thinks will be a great time to do that. The Mayor stated that she is in daily contact with our inspectors in Regulated Services regarding complaints that are being received. Mayor Weir stated that our goal is always education and assisting businesses. Mayor Weir stated that it would be helpful for Council to have a better understanding for what our normal operation procedures are. Mayor Weir stated that she appreciates the opportunity to revisit this.

Mr. Walker stated that the bond item will come back before Council in the future. The item tonight approved moving forward in the process, but this is not the last time Council will have the opportunity to weigh in on this item.

At 7:30 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor Pro Tem declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., September 21, 2020, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk