

REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2020

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, October 19, 2020, at 5:59 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

Joey Candillo, Pastor for Grace Church 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.

Councilmembers Huff and DeLuccie moved to suspend the Rules of Procedure to allow non-residents to speak during citizen comments. 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 motion approved.

CITIZENS REQUESTS:

Laura Dominik spoke to Council regarding Bill No. 20-793 (Residency Requirements).

Garland Land spoke to Council regarding Bill No. 20-794 (COVID-19 Restrictions).

Sarah S. Wimberley spoke to Council regarding Bill No. 20-794 (COVID-19 Restrictions).

Dr. Bridget McCandless spoke to Council regarding Bill No. 20-794 (COVID-19 Restrictions).

Dr. Terry Morris spoke to Council regarding Bill No. 20-794 (COVID-19 Restrictions).

John Welcher spoke to Council regarding LAGERS Retirement and Cigna Health Insurance premiums.

Bob Sorensen spoke to Council regarding post 65 insurance premiums and false, misleading information.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember Huff requested Bill No. 20-793 and Bill No. 20-794 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Huff and DeLuccie moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Bill No. 20-793 and Bill No. 20-794 to be considered separately.

1. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Black & Veatch Corporation, in the amount of \$446,406.00 for engineering design and construction phase services to add an additional lime slaker to the existing silo at the Courtney Bend Water Treatment Plant for the Water Department.
2. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to approve a construction contract with Wiedenmann, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$495,270.00, authorizing future minor change orders for an amount not to exceed \$40,685.00 and/or time extensions, for the 2020 Emergency Stormwater Repairs Project (Project No. 131802).
3. Council action is requested to add a new Occupation Business License Fee effective October 20, 2020.

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4. Council action is requested to approve a contract with Mid-America Regional Council in the amount of \$2,500 for a Diversity and Inclusion facilitated listening session.
5. Council Action is requested to approve amending the CARES ACT Budget.

Bill No. 20-792, entitled, [Res. #6611]

“A RESOLUTION REDUCING HEALTH PERMIT FEES FOR RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS FOR 2021.”

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 CONSENT AGENDA was approved.

Councilmember Huff stated staff had been asked that this resolution be vetted and if this would violate the Charter or any policy and he stated he was told this would not be in violation of anything. Councilmember Huff stated since then he has received an email from the City Counselor stating that this could actually be in violation of the Charter. Councilmember Huff stated that he has been doing some research and looking at case studies. He stated that Kansas City has something similar to this resolution for their employees.

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to postpone Bill No. 20-793 indefinitely. Upon roll call to postpone Bill No. 20-793, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-793, entitled, [Postponed Indefinitely]

“A RESOLUTION REQUIRING EXECUTIVE LEVEL EMPLOYEES TO BE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.” – Requested by Councilmembers Mike Steinmeyer and Mike Huff

Councilmember Huff stated that this resolution was poorly written. He stated that neither him nor Councilmember Steinmeyer have ever said anything regarding no longer wearing masks. Councilmember Huff stated since March Council has been discussing helping our small businesses. He stated that he wears his mask everywhere he goes. Councilmember Huff stated knowing this resolution was not popular with some, it is his job to support Councilmember Steinmeyer. He stated this resolution was meant to startle and shake up everyone before Independence wakes up to our small businesses closing doors in record numbers. Councilmember Huff stated that we are failing many constituents if we do not listen to Independence small business owners and concerned citizens employed by these businesses. They are asking us to be proactive and brainstorm possible solutions to normal business with safety procedures.

Councilmember Huff stated that he and Councilmember Steinmeyer have reached out to other Councilmembers and the Mayor to no avail. He stated that some have an issue with the legal aspect of this which he will address shortly. Councilmember Huff stated that he has brought forth possibilities for discussion for the need to create new policy for businesses during COVID-19 on the behalf of the constituents. Councilmember Huff stated that Blue Springs has a similar resolution to this one, allowing their businesses to open and operate at 100% capacity so that people can make a living. Councilmember Huff stated that once the pandemic is over, he is not sure how our city is going to fulfill their obligations to the retirees and citizens.

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to amend Bill No. 20-794 to remove the language referring to legal action against the county. Upon roll call to amend Bill No. 20-794 the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmember Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

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Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to approve amended Bill No. 20-794.

Councilmember Hobart read a portion of an email he received from a citizen in his district. Councilmember Hobart stated that Councilmember Steinmeyer often talks on this subject about being courageous. Councilmember Hobart stated that for him, the definition of being courageous is doing something you don't want to do in service of others. Councilmember Hobart stated he does not support this resolution and will be voting no.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated he has been received many emails with misinformation as well. He stated that the individuals who had the courage to put their phone numbers at the bottom of the emails, he called each one of them. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that there had apparently been a Zoom meeting held by a number of citizens and misinformation was shared during that meeting. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that nowhere in the resolution does it state anything about not wearing a mask. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that mitigating this virus is the biggest challenge in the city. He stated that he wears a mask. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he has had COVID-19 in his home and he finds it insulting when people think he does not have compassion for the most vulnerable people in this community. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he understands that people will disagree, but he wants to have a dialogue about these issues and he wants to get Jackson County's attention to talk to us.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that his purpose is to stand up for the people he knows and loves. He stated that this includes small business owners, his parents were small business owners in this community for over 40 years. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated he lost his father in April of this year and was not able to hold funeral services because of this pandemic. He stated he understands the science behind the virus. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that the average age in Missouri is 38 years old, and we need to consider what is best for everyone from small business owners, retirees, to the youngest people in our community as well. Councilmember Steinmeyer read some information he received from a business owner in Independence. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated he talks to CSL all the time trying to get help, he read comments from individuals who are seeking help through CSL. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he is not the bad guy here, he is fighting for people who are desperate. Councilmember Steinmeyer wants the county's attention to come speak with us.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we have three options: we can continue the course, loosen the restrictions and let businesses start to pay their bills or we can lock it all down again. He stated that if we lock down again, we will have years of recovery. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he understands and respects the issues brought forward by Mr. Sorensen tonight, but if we do not have tax revenue in the city we will have a bigger problem when it comes to paying for our promises to retirees than increased insurance costs. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he is standing with small businesses tonight and will vote for this resolution.

Councilmember Stewart stated that because he is an employee of Jackson County, he will be abstaining on the vote for this item.

Councilmember Hobart stated that this resolution was not drafted in a way to get the attention of the county. Councilmember Hobart stated that this is a declaration of war on the county and it is not our place to do it and we shouldn't be doing it in a resolution. Councilmember Hobart stated the civil right violations listed in the resolution are private rights and the city cannot represent individuals or individual businesses for alleged violations of civil rights. Councilmember Hobart stated he appreciates that the legal language was removed, and he appreciates that. Councilmember Hobart stated that while the resolution might not specifically mention masks, it does state that we are urging the county health department to eliminate all restrictions, and at the top of that list is masks and social distancing.

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Councilmember Hobart stated that accusations, assumptions, name calling against Councilmember Steinmeyer is not right. We as citizens should not be doing that to each other. Councilmember Hobart stated that we all have to work together to get through this.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Perkins moved to question.
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 motion approved.

Bill No. 20-794, entitled, [failed]
“A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.” – *Requested by Councilmembers Mike Steinmeyer and Mike Huff*
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Abstentions – Councilmember Stewart. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill failed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Weir opened a full public hearing for the application received from Family Dollar Stores of Missouri, LLC for an Unlimited Retailer of Malt Liquor and Light Wine with Sunday Sales License for the Family Dollar Store #22913 located at 17911 E US 24 Highway. Community Development Director, Tom Scannell, provided background information on this item. There being no speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

Council action is requested on the application for an Unlimited Retailer of Malt Liquor and Light Wine with Sunday Sales License for the Family Dollar Store located at 17911 E US 24 Highway. *This application requires a two-thirds majority vote for approval due to residential property located within three hundred (300) feet of the establishment.*
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.

Mayor Weir opened a full public hearing for the application received from Happy Spirits Distributor, LLC; for a Wholesale of Intoxicating Liquor License located at 17306 E US 24 Highway, Unit B. Mr. Scannell, provided background information on this item. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that because this application is for his wife, he will be abstaining from this vote. There being no additional speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

Council action is requested regarding the application received from Happy Spirits Distributor, LLC; for a Wholesale of Intoxicating Liquor License located at 17306 E US 24 Highway, Unit B. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Abstentions – Councilmember Steinmeyer. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item approved.

NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she thinks this is a bit premature to discuss. She stated that in November we will be having a cash flow analysis of our utilities.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to amend this item to allow the \$2.2 Million in CARES Act funds that have been dedicated through CSL for utility assistance to be used to help small businesses.

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In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker stated that this amendment can be done to allocate CARES Act funds for this purpose.

Councilmember Huff stated that he wanted to know if this was possible legally and he stated that he wanted this to be a relief for all rate payers. Councilmember Huff stated that he would like to see all rate payers in the city receive a couple months of relief on their electric, water and sewer utilities.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mayor Weir confirmed that the PUAB has asked Council to consider doing this for the rate payers.

In response to Mayor Weir, Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that this item is being brought forward by himself and Councilmember Huff because of discussion a few meetings ago about sending a few things back to the PUAB, this being one of them. He stated that the PUAB voted at their last meeting to approve this and Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he would like to be consistent and listen to the committee.

In response to Mayor Weir, Councilmember Huff stated that he has had this on the agenda since April or May and so has the PUAB. Councilmember Huff stated that the Charter states that any money left over in the unrestricted funds should be refunded back to the rate payers of the city. Councilmember Huff stated that he brought this forward to have staff try to figure out what would be a good program to make this happen. Councilmember Huff confirms that this would be a one time rebate of some kind not a rate change.

In response to Councilmember Hobart, Mr. Walker stated that we have a financial advisor for the utilities (PFM) that is completing a cash flow analysis and will be presenting this to the PUAB and to Council in the next few weeks. Mr. Walker stated that this will give us a better assessment of where each fund stands in the utilities and what we need to do for best practices. Mr. Walker stated that any excess reserves we have above and beyond should be more clear in the next 30 days.

Councilmember Hobart stated his thought is that we can spend the CARES Act funds now, since they must be spent by the end of the calendar year. Including small businesses now with those funds and tabling this item until after we know the economic impact to the utility funds where we can set an actual number to this, he would feel more comfortable. He stated that he would like to know an exact dollar amount before agreeing to this.

Mayor Weir stated that she believes this item is just directing staff to come up with a plan for a relief program. The Mayor stated that she believes we should explore every avenue that we can to help the people in our community that are struggling financially.

Upon roll call to amend this item to allow the \$2.2 million in CARES Act funds that have been dedicated through CSL for utility assistance to include small businesses, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item approved.

1. Consideration of Economic Relief Program to Utility Rate Payers.-Requested by Councilmembers Mike Huff and Mike 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 as amended.

ORDINANCES:

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Bill No. 20-075, entitled, [Ord. #19165]

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO.2 OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, FOR THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, TO SUPPLY WATER TO THEM.”

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 declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-077, entitled, [Ord. #19166]

“AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019- 2020 BUDGET, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 19017. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES MAY RECEIVE TWO READINGS AND BE VOTED ON AT THE SAME MEETING.”

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 declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-078, entitled, [Ord. #19167]

“AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020- 2021 BUDGET, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 19131. APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES MAY RECEIVE TWO READINGS AND BE VOTED ON AT THE SAME MEETING.”

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 declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-079, entitled, [Ord. #19168]

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR A GRANT AWARD FOR THE 2020 IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00; APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGETS; AUTHORIZING FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE SAME PROJECT; APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS.”

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 declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 20-080, entitled, [Ord. #19169]

“AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 18883 PASSED ON MAY 21, 2018 BY THE CITY COUNCIL.”

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 declared the bill approved.

FIRST READINGS:

Bill No. 20-081, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CERTAIN CONTRACT FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE IN EXCHANGE FOR PAYMENT OF \$84,000 FOR LAND DESIGNATED AS CITY SURPLUS PROPERTY ON PERRY ROAD AND TO DO ALL THE THINGS NECESSARY TO CONSUMMATE SAID SALE.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-082, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH PYRAMID EXCAVATION & CONSTRUCTION, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$963,867.00; FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PIPE AND WATER MAIN ON WALNUT STREET FROM LESLIE AVE. TO LEE’S SUMMIT RD; APPROPRIATING \$230,259.00 FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT’S

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UNRESERVED RETAINED EARNINGS TO THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT NO. 70402004; AND AUTHORIZING FUTURE MINOR CHANGE ORDERS NOT TO EXCEED \$96,387.00; AND/OR TIME EXTENSIONS.” was given its first reading by title.

In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Walker stated that this item was before Council approximately a month ago regarding the debt bond. Mr. Walker stated the reason for an emergency tonight is that we want to be able to go to market on the most advantageous date to capture the best interest rate that we can. If authorized, then this would allow for staff to act on the right date for the best rate. Mr. Walker stated that with the election two weeks away, many people are unsure about the market volatility and we would like to get this wrapped up before the election.

In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Walker stated we have this bond and others coming forward in 2021 that will need consideration before the Council. Mr. Walker stated that if we have the ability to pay off any of these bonds, staff will certainly be bringing that information in front of Council to discuss the cash on hand and ability to repay.

Bill No. 20-511, entitled, [Ord. #19170]
“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF, NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000,000 FROM THE MISSOURI DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD TO REFINANCE THE COSTS OF PROJECTS RELATED TO THE CITY’S ELECTRIC UTILITY; AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUED LEASE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT BY THE CITY; APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL BASE LEASE AND A FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH THE MISSOURI DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD; PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.” was given its first and 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 declared the bill approved.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. COVID-19 Semi-Monthly Update
2. 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.
3. Report on purchase agreements between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per Procurement Policy.
4. The City Clerk's Office is in receipt of the Hartman Heritage Center Community Improvement District Annual Report ending June 30, 2020.
5. 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 Hobart asked Mr. Walker and City Clerk, Becky Behrens, to add a Non-Ordinance Action Item to an upcoming agenda to allow for the StayWell Committee to have in person meetings.

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In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker stated that the Assistant City Manager, Adam Norris, emailed one of the StayWell Committee Co-Chairs and informed him that they have the authority to have an in-person meeting. The committee Co-Chair responded that since the meeting notice had already been posted, he did not want to change the information on the agenda and opted not to hold an in-person meeting but plans to hold in person meetings moving forward.

Councilmember Hobart stated that if there is a way for us legally and fairly to force an in-person meeting, then he intends to make it happen. He stated that Council Meetings are hybrid with an in-person option so we need the StayWell Committee meetings to be in person as well. He stated that the only reason the LAGERS decision was able to be made last year is because members of this committee were able to sit in a room and speak with them. Councilmember Hobart stated that with masks and social distancing requirements being met, he will do everything in his power to make sure that this gets done.

Mayor Weir stated that she has given authority for the StayWell Committee to meet in person and the committee has been informed. The Mayor stated that there still needs to be a virtual option for all meetings to accommodate those that are unable to attend in person.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that a friend of his once said, "Communication does not always equal understanding." Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that in a COVID world, technology is not our friend. He stated that we need to respect the need for accommodating beyond what some may be comfortable with, so that our retirees can meet and make decisions. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he expects our city to comply and figure out a way to make it work.

Councilmember Huff stated that he would like an update regarding the recruitment and hiring of new police officers. Councilmember Huff stated that we currently have 20 vacancies with another 10 vacancies expected before the end of the year. Councilmember Huff stated that public safety is first in his book and he would like to do what it takes to get qualified officers on staff. In response, Mr. Walker stated that some of the compensation issues are subject to collective bargaining and staff has been notice that FOP would like to reengage in that discussion.

Councilmember Perkins provided a slide show of images from a community group that got together last weekend with several members of city staff to do some cleanup near 8th Street and Ash near the old railroad bridge to clean up two vacant lots. Councilmember Perkins also provided an image of Liberty Lounge a couple weekends ago. About two months ago the Independence Square Association was awarded a grant to utilize these areas in the Square. Councilmember Perkins stated that this is a great example of what we can see when we pool our resources and get the community together.

Mayor Weir stated the county order has been very complex since COVID-19 started. The Mayor stated that when cities, states and the Federal government declared a State of Emergency, no one thought that 7 months later we would still be under a State of Emergency with no end in sight for the time being. The Mayor stated that it is a very messy process to try and coordinate with all of our surrounding cities and surrounding counties and two states. Mayor Weir stated that as a city we are continuing to participate in those discussions. Mayor Weir stated that the way that our United States Congress has chosen to allocate the CARES Act money gives certain authorities, in this case much of that authority is with the county. Mayor Weir stated that it is a complex thing to understand and certainly some things that we would like to see done differently, and she hopes the conversations can continue to take place.

Mayor Weir stated that she participated in a call today that was organized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the discussion what about what you can do to support your restaurants with the winter approaching. The Mayor stated that many of the recommendations made we are already doing in Independence. The Mayor stated that other ideas we may want to consider, but every community is

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different. Mayor Weir stated that she reached out to local restaurant owners after her call to see about bringing together a group to help advise the Council so that assumptions are not being made about what they need. The Mayor stated that we all want our citizens to be safe. We all want our businesses to survive and thrive in our city so these are important conversations that we will continue to have.

At 7:30 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., November 2, 2020, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk