REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2020

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, November 16, 2020, at 5:59 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 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, Mike Steinmeyer, Daniel Hobart and Mayor Eileen Weir. Councilmember Karen DeLuccie attended virtually. The following members of the City Council were absent: None.

CITIZENS REQUESTS:

Angela Pratt spoke to Council regarding the Kentucky Hills Development.

John Roe spoke to Council regarding the Kentucky Hills Development.

Jana Evans spoke to Council regarding the Kentucky Hills Development.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember Perkins requested Bill No. 20-806, Bill No. 20-807, Bill No. 20-808 and Bill No. 20-809 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmember DeLuccie requested that Item No. 2 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Huff and DeLuccie moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Bill No. 20-806, Bill No. 20-807, Bill No. 20-808, Bill No. 20-809 and Item No. 2 to be considered separately.

1. Council action is requested to issue a one (1) year contract, with two (2), one-year renewal periods for Ductile Iron Pipe and Gate Valves with Ferguson Waterworks, Core & Main LP, Blue Springs Winwaterworks and Schulte Supply, Inc. for the Water Department.

Bill No. 20-804, entitled, [Res. #6620]
"A RESOLUTION APPOINTING NANCY KERR TO THE TOURISM COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI."

Bill No. 20-805, entitled, [Res. #6621]
"A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ERIN BOATRIGHT TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI." - *Individual Appointment Councilmember Karen DeLuccie*

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.

Councilmembers Perkins and Stewart moved to approve Bill No. 20-806.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated she received word today that Research Hospital is closing to all visitors starting tomorrow because they have over 100 COVID patients, they have many staff members out, their operating room has been closed for over a week due to lack of supplies and they are no longer

accepting trauma patients. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that for us to say that we will no longer follow future orders no matter what they are is irresponsible.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that this resolution is a show of solidarity with our local businesses that have been vocal about hardships that are being inflicted on them at no fault of their own. He stated that we have a county that has consistently not provided information to us when we have asked for it. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that as a Charter City, we have the right to ask the County Health Department what impact this pandemic has had on Independence specifically. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated this is not just about health issues, but also our economy and our families. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he supports the safety measures such as masks and social distancing, but he believes the county is leaning toward more strict measures and stated that we need to have a seat at the table in regards to our economy.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, City Manager, Zach Walker stated that the city needs approximately $1,000,000 daily and approximately $300,000 in the General Fund daily to operate. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we need to keep that in mind and how if businesses keep closing this will continue to have impacts on the lives of people and their families.

Councilmember Hobart stated that he can appreciate decisions being made on data, not on desire. Councilmember Hobart stated that this has come before Council at three consecutive meetings. He stated that the first time this came to Council, the individuals who came and spoke were public health experts not people saying they wanted small businesses to open. Councilmember Hobart stated that we have not seen any data that says it is better to open your businesses fully than it is to protect your health. Councilmember Hobart stated he feels as though this resolution will ensure that we will never get a seat at the table by saying we will not do what the county wants no matter what. Councilmember Hobart stated he will be voting no.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated for clarification that none of these resolutions have suggested that businesses open fully. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we want to support our small business community. He stated that he just wants a seat at the table so that we can help our business community. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he wants to stand in solidarity with our business community, and that we should not sacrifice one more small business in our community.

Councilmember Perkins stated that we all support small businesses. He stated that this is a unique time in everyone's lives. Councilmember Perkins stated that he believes we are all trying to do the best that we can. Councilmember Perkins stated that in looking at the resolution, he can agree with almost everything there, however, he does not see where the resolution brings us to the table for discussion. Councilmember Perkins stated that it opposes, but not sure what we are opposing since we do not know what the numbers will be tomorrow or next week. Councilmember Perkins stated that he does not see where this will bring us to the table to discuss things in the future with the county.

Bill No. 20-806, entitled, [failed]
"A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC." - *Requested by Councilmembers Mike Huff and Mike Steinmeyer*
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill failed.

Councilmembers Perkins and Hobart moved to approve Bill No. 20-807.

Bill No. 20-807, entitled, [Res. #6622]
"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO REVIEW CURRENT CITY CODES, LAWS, REGULATIONS,

STANDARDS, AND POLICIES PERTAINING TO THE THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF THEFTS OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS." - *Requested by Councilmembers Mike Huff and Mike Steinmeyer*
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

Councilmembers Perkins and Hobart moved to approve Bill No. 20-808.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Walker stated that the estimated revenue loss would be approximately $7,500 out of a total annual estimated revenue of $190,000 that is generated though this fee. Mr. Walker stated that he does not have specific data in front of him tonight regarding impact this fee is having on landlords. Mr. Walker stated that he is not familiar with the terms of Economic Disaster Loan that she referenced as a source for landlords to obtain. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she feels before we give money away, we should be sure there is a need to do so.

Councilmember Huff confirmed with Mr. Walker that landlords are still required to pay for their two-year inspections. Councilmember Huff stated that many landlords are having a hard time collecting rent from their tenants because many of them are out of work and having a hard time making ends meet. He stated that we thought we would look into helping the landlords for once, as long as they are keeping up on their inspections.

Bill No. 20-808, entitled, [failed]
"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUSPEND LANDLORD BUSINESS LICENSE FEES CONCURRENT WITH THE FEDERAL EVICTION MORATORIUM OR ANY STATE OF MISSOURI OR JACKSON COUNTY MORATORIUM." - *Requested by Councilmembers Mike Huff and Mike Steinmeyer*
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill failed.

Councilmembers Perkins and Hobart moved to approve Bill No. 20-809.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Walker stated that staff is finalizing the report which will be presented to the Public Utility Advisory Board (PUAB) on Thursday and will be presented to Council at the December 14, 2020 Study Session. Mr. Walker stated that his understanding of the resolution was that it was to start setting some parameters.

Councilmember Huff stated that this is giving the PUAB surplus money to decide what should be done, such as paying off bonds or giving back to the rate payers. Councilmember Huff stated that he believes there will be at least $20,000,000 in excess funds and this will allow the PUAB to put this on their agenda.

Mayor Weir stated that she would prefer that this be added to the PUAB agenda and for them to hear the presentation and then allow PUAB to make a recommendation to Council.

Bill No. 20-809, entitled, [failed]
"A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR USE OF ANY SURPLUS IN THE INDEPENDENCE POWER AND LIGHT FUND." - *Requested by Councilmembers Mike Huff and Mike Steinmeyer*
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill failed.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Walker provided more information regarding the stop loss insurance. Mr. Walker stated that the Stay Well Fund which is funded 80% by the city and 20% by employees. Mr. Walker stated that this item was a recommendation of the Stay Well Committee.

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

2. Approval of specific and aggregate stop loss insurance renewal for the City's self-insurance program for the 2021 Plan Year in the amount of $1,657,083.

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Weir opened a new information only public hearing for the application by Isosceles Properties, LLC requesting a Preliminary Development Plan for a duplex development for the property located at 3206 N. Spring Street. ***This application requires a two-third majority vote for approval due to a valid legal protest petition received from surrounding property owners.*** Assistant Community Development Director, Rick Arroyo, provided background information on this item. Mr. Arroyo stated that the Planning Commission recommended against approval of this application. The Mayor declared the public hearing closed. *New Information Only.*

Councilmember Perkins stated that he has spoken with the developer and property owners in the area. Councilmember Perkins stated he has also followed all meetings discussing this item as well. Councilmember Perkins stated that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to deny this request, and he will be voting no.

Bill No. 20-076, entitled, [failed]

"AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED AT 3206 N. SPRING STREET IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI."

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

Mayor Weir opened a new information only public hearing for the rezoning of 49-lots in an area between the railroad line, 14th Street, Hardy and Truman Road, from R-18/PUD, High Density Residential/Planned Unit Development) to R-6, Single-Family Residential. Mr. Arroyo, provided background information on this item. The Mayor declared the public hearing closed. *New Information Only.*

Bill No. 20-085, entitled, [Ord. #19173]

"AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT R-18/PUD (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL/PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) TO DISTRICT R-6 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR PROPERTIES GENERALLY LOCATED BETWEEN TRUMAN ROAD AND 14TH STREET AND BETWEEN THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AND HARDY AVENUE, 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 declared the item approved.

Mayor Weir opened a full only public hearing for the application received from Cracker Barrel Old Country Store for a Restaurant Bar Malt Liquor and Light Wine with Sunday Sales License for the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store #179 located at 4110 S. Lee's Summit Road. 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 regarding the application received from Cracker Barrel Old Country Store for a Restaurant Bar Malt Liquor and Light Wine with Sunday Sales License for the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store #179 located at 4110 S. Lee's Summit Road.
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmember Stewart. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the item approved.

NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker provided background information regarding the CARES Act money. Mr. Walker stated that as we are coming closer to the December 30, 2020 deadline to have these funds utilized. Mr. Walker stated that we want to be sure to do this so that we will not have to return any funds and so that we can continue to demonstrate that we have need in the city for these funds. Mr. Walker stated that the funds are not being spent as quickly as anticipated so this is a request that some funds be reallocated for Technical Assistance, which is the upgrade of sound equipment, video and broadcasting equipment necessary for our public meetings, and equipment for staff that is working remotely or in the field more than they typically would. Mr. Walker stated that the second part of this is a Buy Local program. Mr. Walker stated that the Chamber of Commerce vetted a few options for supporting some small businesses in the hospitality, restaurant and retail industries. Mr. Walker stated that this would underwrite the convenience fee for the third-party firm that would organize the Buy Local campaign so that they could keep 100% of the sale and not have to pay the convenience fee.

1. Council Action is requested to approve amending the CARES ACT Budget.

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.

In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker stated that we have some fees and inspection requirements on mobile food units duplicative of the county. Mr. Walker stated that we have gotten feedback from some mobile food vendors that those things are being cost prohibitive for them to come into our community because they are being essentially double inspected and double charged in order to operate here. Mr. Walker stated that we are setting up a reciprocity program that will still have some requirements but would greatly reduce the administrative burden and financial impact by accepting inspections already being done by the county.

2. Council action is requested to amend the Health Permit and Business License fees for Mobile Food Units.

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:

Bill No. 20-084, entitled, [Ord. #19174]
"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 OF THE CITY CODE, "BUILDING, PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS", BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 16, "VACANT STRUCTURE REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE" AND AMENDING THE DANGEROUS BUILDING AND UNSAFE BUILDING SECTION OF CHAPTER 4."
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.

In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Walker stated that staff was trying to be responsive to the Council's request and concerns about the Independence Center specifically, where there have been a number of high-profile incidents recently. Mr. Walker stated this is the area where we are typically having the most calls for service. Mr. Walker stated that City Prosecutor, Mitch Langford, and Police Chief, Brad Halsey, worked on this item.

Deputy Police Chief, Ken Jarnagin, stated that this is a two-prong issue. Deputy Chief Jarnagin stated that the first issue is that most of these kids are fourteen or fifteen years old, most of the kids are not from Independence and are being transported to the mall by businesses like Uber or Lyft. Deputy Chief Jarnagin stated that the parents are as uncooperative as the kids. He stated that the incidents are happening usually somewhere between 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Deputy Chief Jarnagin stated that these large groups are gathering and then when police responds, the kids split up into a number of groups and locations, such as AMC Movie Theater, Chick-Fil-A, the mall and that uses a lot of resources.

Deputy Chief Jarnagin stated that the ordinance will allow the city to be able to hold parents responsible when they are notified to come pick up their children. He stated at this time, the only option available is to charge the teenagers in youth court.

Mayor Weir clarified that this ordinance would hold the parent or guardian responsible if the minor is in violation of the curfew.

Mr. Walker stated that staff has found a concern regarding the Cable Dahmer Arena and youth attending events such as hockey games or concerts at that location. Mr. Walker stated that we would still want individuals to be able to attend organized ticketed functions at that location, so staff is requesting that some amendment language be added to ordinance to allow for youth attendance to Cable Dahmer Arena events.

Councilmembers Perkins and DeLuccie moved to amend Bill No. 20-086 to exempt the Cable Dahmer Arena for ticketed events.

In response to Councilmember Hobart, Deputy Chief Jarnagin confirmed that unaccompanied minors are being dropped off at the Independence Center and treating the mall and surrounding locations as a park and running around causing disturbances.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Deputy Chief Jarnagin stated that staff has met with the mall management and they are putting additional security measures in place. Deputy Chief stated that AMC has changed their ticketing procedure and staff has not had the opportunity to speak with Chick-Fil-A. He stated that we are not seeing the same issues at the Cable Dahmer Arena that we are seeing at the AMC Movie Theater. Deputy Chief Jarnagin stated that one thing that keeps happening is that a couple kids will buy tickets to a movie and then go to side doors and let other friends in as well, and then we have issues with those kids later in the evening.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and Perkins moved to amend the amendment to Bill No. 20-086 to exempt ticketed events in the area and allow minors to attend during the event time and will not permit minors to be in other businesses after the curfew is over.

In response Councilmember Huff, Deputy Chief Jarnagin stated we do have off duty officers at the Independence Center but is not adequately staffed at this time.

Upon roll call to amend Bill No. 20-086 that all ticketed events would be exempt from the curfew during the event time, 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 DeLuccie and Steinmeyer moved to approve Bill No. 20-086 as amended.

Bill No. 20-086, entitled, [Ord. #19175]
"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 3, "CURFEW; PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY" OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE."
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:

In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker stated that staff is requesting that this item be read as an emergency because this item had its first reading at the last Regular Meeting, however, the amount was incorrect in the title.

Councilmembers Huff and Hobart moved to read Bill No. 20-083 as an emergency.
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. 20-083, entitled, [Ord. #19176]
"AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2020 SPARTAN CUSTOM 4-DOOR ALUMINUM SQUAD (PUMPER) FIRE TRUCK FROM PRECISION INDUSTRIES INC. FOR $553,783.00 AND MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS."
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.

Bill No. 20-087, entitled
"AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A 10 FOOT GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENT TO SPIRE MISSOURI INC. ACROSS PART OF LOT 1 OF ANSLEY APARTMENTS FIRST PLAT."
was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-088, entitled
"AN ORDINANCE FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING EASEMENTS AND GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENTS FOR THE VAILE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT NO.70110807); 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.

Bill No. 20-089, entitled
"AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 14, OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO DONATION BINS AND CENTERS."
was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-090, entitled
"AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) TO DISTRICT C-3

(SERVICE COMMERCIAL) FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1026 W. 23RD STREET S., IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI."
was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-091, entitled
"AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT I-1 (INDUSTRIAL) AND DISTRICT R-6 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO C-1 (NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL) FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 1450 W. LEXINGTON AVENUE, IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI."
was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 20-092, entitled
"AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $16,653.00 FOR OPERATING EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSIT SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021; AND MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS."
was given its first reading by title.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. The City Council is expected to convene in an Executive Session at 5:15 pm, Monday, November 16, 2020, in Conference Room A, on matters of real estate, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(2).

2. Municipal Division monthly case report September 2020.

3. Municipal Division Monthly Case Report October 2020.

4. Report on purchase agreements between $50,000 and $100,000 per Procurement Policy.

5. COVID-19 Semi-Monthly Update.

6. 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.

7. 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 that the overall health is crucial. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that the COVID-19 pandemic certainly makes a challenging situation for evaluating and planning our community action. He stated it seems that the direct health viewpoint, while extremely important, is limited in its perspective. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we need to be taking a more comprehensive look at community health which would include health and wellness, both mental and physical and also includes economic conditions that are known social detriments of health. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that now is the time for the Advisory Board of Health to look at the comprehensive health of the community. Councilmember Steinmeyer asked that the Advisory Board of Health report back to the Council regarding a list of topics suggested by a slide shown.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he is asking the Advisory Board of Health to discuss the topics shown. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he asked for the numbers that Christina Heinen,

Acting Director of Health, has provided to Council be listed in the Information Only section on each meeting agenda. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that at this time it more difficult to tell where we stand. Councilmember Steinmeyer asked that the Advisory Board of Health start meeting monthly to start advising the Council. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he has been disappointed in the conversation, such as one time when a member of the Board was trying to discuss impact to small businesses, and it was overlooked. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated he would like the Advisory Board of Health to discuss the bigger picture of health, not just the county mandate.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Ms. Heinen stated that her understanding is that the county will only count individuals that test positive, not the number of tests. Ms. Heinen stated that the state counts both the number of positive tests as well as just the individual in separate reports and have both listed on their website. Ms. Heinen stated that she will send the bullet pointed topics out to the Advisory Board of Health and try to schedule a time to meet in the upcoming week to start discussion on these topics.

In response to Mayor Weir, Councilmember Hobart stated that this should be a resolution on an agenda where authority is provided for Council to direct the Advisory Board of Health to take this action.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and Huff moved to direct the Advisory Board of Health to report back to the Council at the next Regular Meeting with more information about community health topics listed on the slide.
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, Steinmeyer and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmembers: DeLuccie and Hobart. Absent –None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he would like us to start discussing our economic recovery plan for post pandemic.

Councilmember Perkins stated that the Independence On a Roll Committee has been discussing this information and is open to more discussion about an economic recovery plan.

Councilmember Hobart stated that the United States has set record numbers day after day in a row for positive COVID tests. Councilmember Hobart stated that we have had more than 130,000 in the United States, which is more than the entire country of India has had in a day and they have three to four times our population. Councilmember Hobart stated that he continues to encourage people to wear masks, practice social distancing, wash hands regularly and be smart about this. He stated that staying healthy is the most important thing.

Mayor Weir stated we are intending to do the next phase of our Strategic Planning in January. She stated that we are currently doing the public engagement portion right now. She encourages people to complete the survey around town and provide their feedback. Mayor Weir stated that she feels that January is too far in the future for Council to set priorities for our financial recovery and our relief and how we may use Federal CARES Act money to assist with that.

The Mayor Weir stated that she is not against the waiving of landlord fees but stated that she was not comfortable approving that item tonight without more information. The Mayor stated that we are trying every week to come up with ways that we can help the community and have significant impacts. Mayor Weir stated that understanding that the situation is worse than it was and getting worse all the time, that we need to take a more comprehensive approach. Mayor Weir stated that she hosted a restaurant Town Hall meeting last week and heard from restaurant owners about what they are learning in their industries and heard some of their suggestions.

Mayor Weir stated that she would like to schedule a meeting for Council to sit down together and discuss suggestions made by the community as well as options to help businesses. The Mayor would like

the Council to prioritize some things and how they should move forward. Mayor Weir would like to hold this meeting as soon after the Thanksgiving holiday as possible.

Mayor Weir stated that Jackson County updated order was sent out today. The Mayor stated that we have posed many questions to the county and once we have a response and some clarity, we will be putting out a statement from the City of Independence to explain what this means for our businesses and residents.

Mayor Weir stated that she thoroughly understands the intentions of the resolutions that Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer have brought forward in the last few Council Meetings. The Mayor stated that the reality is that our attempt to get the county's attention has not worked. The county has not altered their communication with us in light of these resolutions. The Mayor stated that while most of the resolutions have not been approved by the Council, they have generated a lot of conversation and it has not gotten the county's attention. Mayor Weir stated that she feels we need to continue to try to engage the county and get a seat at the table. Mayor Weir stated that she would like to have a Study Session about what we can do to be more positive and impactful in the regional discussion.

Mayor Weir stated that what she is hearing from business owners is that no matter what the rules and guidelines are, it comes down to consumer confidence. The Mayor stated that right now consumers do not have the confidence to go out and are getting less confident. Mayor Weir stated that a nation wide survey reported that as much as 40% of individuals would not feel comfortable going to a restaurant six months after a vaccine becomes available. The Mayor stated we need to focus on how to raise consumer confidence. Mayor Weir stated that every member of the Council supports masks, social distancing, washing hands and other measures to keep people healthy.

Mayor Weir stated that she had the opportunity to help with a COVID testing site and the city continues to see approximately 250-300 people come out to be tested at these events. Mayor Weir stated that results turn around time has been very fast, some getting results in less than 24 hours. Mayor Weir stated that she has a phone meeting tomorrow with Governor Parsons that he has initiated and we are in the process of preparing the information and will share with the Governor what the needs are within our city for additional resources that may be available through the state. Mayor Weir stated that she has also heard from Congressman Clever in anticipation that there may also be CDBG Funds available as well, so we will be working on a plan on how to utilize those funds if they become available.

Mayor Weir stated, just as said in the beginning, if there is money out there that can help our community then we will do all we can to get it. The Mayor stated that when she looked at the Amended CARES Act Budget provided tonight, she saw $0.29 in the Utility Assistance Fund. The Mayor stated that of millions of dollars put in, only $0.29 remaining shows that out community is going through something very serious and we have not hit the cold weather months quite yet.

At 7:19 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., December 7, 2020, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk