

REGULAR MEETING May 3, 2021

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, May 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., virtually held via Microsoft Teams and in person, in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

Councilmember Steinmeyer 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. The following members of the City Council were absent: Mayor Eileen Weir.

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK:

Catherine Alexander spoke to Council regarding crime and disorder meeting.

PRESENTATION RESOLUTION:

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve Bill No. 21-750.

Bill No. 21-750, entitled, [Res. #6678]
 “A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHASE CARPER, FACILITY AND PROGRAM SUPERVISOR, WITH THE PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2021.”
 Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, and Hobart. Noes – None. Absent – Mayor Weir. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember Stewart requested that Bill No. 21-752 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and DeLuccie moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Bill No. 21-752 considered separately.

1. Approval of minutes for the Regular Meetings on April 5, 2021 and April 19, 2021.
2. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to enter into a tender agreement with the surety, North American Specialty Insurance Company. This tender agreement will result in hiring the Completion Contractor, Lineaweaver Construction, to complete the construction contract for the Walnut Gardens Phase 2 Stormwater Improvements project (project number 131809) for an amount not to exceed \$353,781.78, authorizing future minor change orders for an amount not to exceed \$33,859.15 and/or time extensions.
3. Council action is requested to issue a one (1) year contract with three (3) one-year renewal periods for Substation Battery Replacements with Ash Battery Systems for the Power & Light Department.
4. Council action to issue a purchase order to Toth & Associates, in the amount of \$566,024.00, for Substation E Switchgear Replacement for the Power & Light Department.

Bill No. 21-751, entitled, [Res. #6679]
 “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS-WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BARGAINING UNIT, LOCAL UNION 53, FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023.”

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

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Councilmembers Stewart and Hobart moved to postpone this item until the May 17, 2021 meeting when the Mayor can be present to provide more details about this item.

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

Bill No. 21-752, entitled, *[Postponed]*
 “A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION TO EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND POLICIES REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION AND CONVERSION THERAPY.” – *Requested by Mayor Eileen Weir*

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Pro Tem Huff opened a full public hearing for the application received from The 40, LLC for a Restaurant Selling Intoxicating Liquor License for The 40 Restaurant & Bar at 12949 E. US 40 Highway. Director of Community Development, Tom Scannell, provided background information on this item. In response to Councilmember Hobart, Mr. Scannell stated that we had not heard from any residents in the area regarding this application. There being no speakers, Mayor Pro Tem Huff declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

Council action is requested on the application received from The 40, LLC for a Restaurant Selling Intoxicating Liquor License for The 40 Restaurant & Bar at 12949 E. US 40 Highway.

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

NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

1. Council action is requested on the change of ownership application from Value Grocers, LLC for the Retail Selling of Intoxicating Liquor of All Kinds in the Original Package License for the Save-A-Lot location at 17403 E. US 24 Highway.

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

2. Council action is requested on the change of ownership application from Value Grocers, LLC for the Retail Selling of Intoxicating Liquor of All Kinds in the Original Package for the Save-A-Lot location at 3500 S. Blue Ridge Cutoff.

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

3. Council action is requested on the change of ownership application from Value Grocers, LLC for the Retail Selling of Intoxicating Liquor of All Kinds in the Original Package for the Save-A-Lot location at 11200 E. Truman Road.

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

Bill No. 21-753, entitled, *[Res. #6680]*
 “A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER CONCLUDE WAIVING ALL CONVENIENCE FEES FOR ALL CUSTOMER CREDIT CARD AND E-CHECK PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES, INCLUDING UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1ST.” – *Requested by the Public Utilities Advisory Board*

In response to Councilmember Huff, City Manager, Zach Walker, stated that the RFP will be issued later this year to try and get a better rate and a vendor selected shortly after. Mr. Walker stated that this should come within the next year, if not sooner. In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Water Department Director, Dan Montgomery, stated that if customers pay their bill in person at the IUC, mail

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payment or do an ACH straight from their checking account, there is no fee assessed to them. The only time a customer is assessed the fee is if they pay online with a credit card.

Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer and Hobart. Noes – Councilmember Stewart. Absent – Mayor Weir. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

ORDINANCES:

Bill No. 21-018, entitled, [Ord. #19211]

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE A COST SHARE AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 1 WITH THE MISSOURI HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE US 24 COST SHARE PROJECT PHASE 1 (PROJECT NO. 111801); AND MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS.”

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 and Hobart. Noes – None. Absent – Mayor Weir. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

Bill No. 21-019, entitled, [Ord. #19212]

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 40 “TOURISM COMMISSION”.”

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 and Hobart. Noes – None. Absent – Mayor Weir. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill approved.

FIRST READINGS:

Bill No. 21-020, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT C-1 (NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL) TO DISTRICT R-A (RESIDENTIAL - AGRICULTURAL) FOR THE PROPERTY AT 1801 S. M-7 HIGHWAY IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-021, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) TO DISTRICT R-12 (TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR THE PROPERTY AT 16403 E. 3RD STREET N. IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI. “

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-022, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPERTY AT 3232 S. NOLAND ROAD IN DISTRICT C-2/PUD (GENERAL COMMERCIAL/PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

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, May 3, 2021, in Conference Room A, on matters of litigation, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), RSMO.
2. COVID-19 Semi-Monthly Update.

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COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilmember Stewart stated that in lieu of his comments this evening he would like to share a video for National Police week which is May 9, 2021 through May 15, 2021. Video was played.

Councilmember Hobart thanked Ms. Alexander for her comments this evening and for working with Councilmember DeLuccie to set up the Neighborhood Watch meeting that was held. Councilmember Hobart stated it was a very positive experience for the city officials, the neighborhood and the IPD officers that were able to participate. Councilmember Hobart encouraged any other neighborhoods or groups that would be interested in reaching out to learn more about how to make their neighborhoods safer to contact their Councilmember so that they can help.

Councilmember Steinmeyer shared a compliment received from a constituent. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that the resident had a pothole in front of his house that was rather large and after contacting the city, only two days later we had a team out there to fix the pothole. The resident asked that his thanks be passed along.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she visited the Bingham-Waggoner Estate and Vaile Mansion and stated they are so gorgeous, and the volunteers are so excited to be back and they really want people to come out and see them. The Vaile Mansion is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and open on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Bingham-Waggoner will be open Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she was told that the 1859 Jail and Museum would be open again once it has been thoroughly cleaned, expecting around June 1, 2021 for a reopen date. She stated she spoke to the man in charge of the Chicago Alton Depot who will be meeting with his volunteers next week to see how many are able to continue volunteering so they can hopefully reopen June 1, 2021. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that the support of our tourist sites is very important for our future and our children's future. She stated that she spoke Nancy Eppert about City Theatre and was told they are holding auditions to have shows again this fall. Councilmember DeLuccie asked that everyone do what they can to support our tourist sites.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that this Saturday is Harry S. Truman's 137th birthday and if you visit the Square or are around town you will see Truman quotes in windows. She asked that we please remember how important he was to our city. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that if you're able to take pictures of events around town, please email them to our Public Information Officer, Meg Lewis, at mlewis@indepmo.org and she will post them on our social media sites.

Councilmember Huff stated he is seeing more and more retirees from the Police Department and not a lot of new faces. Councilmember Huff stated that we need to be thinking outside the box to attract the new trainees coming out of police academies. He stated that he understands numbers are low across the nation for people signing up for training, but we have to try and do our part to get people interested in police work, especially in our city.

Mr. Walker stated that this is the last Council Meeting for our Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director, Eric Urfer, who is retiring. Mr. Walker stated that during the 16 years Mr. Urfer has spent with the city there have been a lot of fine accomplishments, including the construction of the Adventure Oasis Water Park, the Cable Dahmer Arena and the all-inclusive playground at McCoy Park and many more to name. Mr. Walker stated that he is grateful for the team that Mr. Urfer has built and the way they approach their work. Mr. Walker, on behalf of the city, thanked Mr. Urfer for his service over the last 16 years.

At 6:30 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor Pro Tem declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., May 17, 2021, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk