

REGULAR MEETING
June 7, 2021

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, June 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., virtually held via Microsoft Teams and in person, in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

Laurie Dean Wiley, member, EPIC 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.

CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK:

Bruce Gordon spoke to Council regarding changing the name of the Little Blue Parkway.

Dr. Ralph Ruckman spoke to Council regarding the Health Department.

Dr. Terry Morris spoke to Council regarding the Health Department.

PRESENTATION RESOLUTION:

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Perkins moved to approve Bill No. 21-755.

Bill No. 21-755, entitled, [Res. #6682]

“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANET JACKSON, METER RECORDS CLERK, WITH THE INDEPENDENCE POWER AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE 2021.”

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.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to approve the State of Emergency Proclamation. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember Stewart requested that Item No. 8 and Bill No. 21-752 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Item No. 8 and Bill No. 21-752 considered separately.

1. Approval of minutes for the Regular Meetings on May 3, 2021 and May 17, 2021.
2. Consider amending the Schedule of Fees for the City of Independence effective July 1, 2021.
3. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to HDR Engineering Inc, in the amount of \$127,065.00 for an Arc Flash study for the water plant and reservoirs for the Courtney Bend Water Treatment Plant for the Water Department.
4. Council action is recommended to approve a change order to the contract between the City and SoftResources LLC. in the amount of \$65,000 to provide implementation services management of the Tyler Munis Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) financial and human resources software system.

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5. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to Riverside Technologies Inc, in the amount of \$50,265.00 for hardware and Aruba software licenses for a Wi-Fi upgrade for various City locations for the Finance and Administration Department.
6. Council Action is requested to issue a purchase order to Genesis Environmental Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$108,759.00 for the Courtney Bend Water Treatment Plant Filter No. 12 coating system replacement project for the Water Department.
7. Council Action is requested to issue a purchase order to Marathon Engineering Corporation in the amount of \$58,407.00 for padded detention cells for the Police Department.

Bill No. 21-756, entitled, [Res. #6684]

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE INDEBUS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN.”

Bill No. 21-757, entitled, [Res. #6685]

“A RESOLUTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF MORRIS HEIDE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INDEPENDENCE EVENTS CENTER COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.”

Bill No. 21-758, entitled, [Res. #6686]

“A RESOLUTION NAMING J.T. HILDERBRAND AND TIM COSENS AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 23RD & STERLING COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.” – *Individual Appointment-Mayor Eileen Weir*

Bill No. 21-759, entitled, [Res. #6687]

“A RESOLUTION NAMING J.T. HILDERBRAND AND TIM COSENS AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARKETPLACE SHOPPING CENTER COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.” – *Individual Appointment-Mayor Eileen Weir*

Bill No. 21-760, entitled, [Res. #6688]

“A RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEVE MCBEE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF BUILDING AND ENGINEERING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.” – *Individual Appointment Mayor Eileen Weir*

Bill No. 21-761, entitled, [Res. #6689]

“A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON IPL NEW GENERATION.” – *Requested by Councilmember Dan Hobart*

Bill No. 21-762, entitled, [Res. #6690]

“A RESOLUTION SETTING RATES FOR THE CITY’S SELF-INSURANCE HEALTH PLANS.”

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 the motion carried, and the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA was approved.

In response to Councilmember Stewart, Zach Walker, City Manager, stated we wanted to put some anti-graffiti coding on these so that it helps with long term maintenance. Mr. Walker stated that there also were issues with the base we are putting in when running the conduit. Mr. Walker stated that the company did not bid the project incorrectly, it was not known that the additional conduit would be needed for this project.

Councilmembers Stewart and DeLuccie moved to approve Item No. 8.

8. Council action is recommended to approve a change order to a purchase order between the City and Daktronics Inc. in the amount of \$14,050.00 increasing the total purchase order to \$104,050.00 to provide Digital Marquee Signs at the Independence Uptown Market and City Hall.

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.

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Councilmember Stewart stated that he does not think that we can look at how many reports have been made with the Police Department to determine if this is a problem. Councilmember Stewart stated a number of crimes go unreported for a variety of reasons. Councilmember Stewart stated he agrees that parts of this therapy may already be illegal with existing ordinances and he has an issue with making something illegal that already is. Councilmember Stewart stated that if this passes and the Human Relations Commission makes a suggestion to create a new ordinance then we need to be very careful about how we word the ordinance, so we do not trample on any constitutional rights of citizens.

Councilmembers Stewart and Hobart moved to approve Bill No. 21-752.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated she said at the last meeting that this resolution is a solution looking for a problem, because assault and deprivation of civil rights is already outlawed. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that the Human Relations Commission does not need us to tell them to do their job. They can investigate this and report on this. Councilmember DeLuccie stated she is concerned with media outlets stating that Independence has an issue with Conversion Therapy. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she believes we are putting the cart before the horse and looking for a solution to a problem that does not exist.

In response to Councilmember Huff, Mitch Langford, Acting City Counselor, stated that passing this resolution would not be in violation of civil rights. Mr. Langford stated that it would be different if we were passing an ordinance that had some sort of enforcement parameters.

Councilmember Hobart stated that Conversion Therapy has become more common recently and there has more political action to pass these sorts of ordinances especially in Missouri because the state has not added LGBTQ+ as a protected class. Councilmember Hobart stated that this seems to be in line with what some cities are doing.

Bill No. 21-752, entitled, [Res. #6683]

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION TO EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND POLICIES REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION AND CONVERSION THERAPY.” – *Requested by Mayor Eileen Weir*

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Weir opened a full public hearing for the proposed First Amendment of the Crackerneck Creek Tax Increment Financing Plan. Director of Community Development, Tom Scannell, provided background information on this item. Bill Moore spoke in support of this amendment. Scott Case spoke in support of this amendment. Byron Constance spoke in support of this amendment. There being no additional speakers, Mayor Weir declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

Bill No. 21-764, entitled, failed

“A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NOLAND ROAD BETWEEN 24 HIGHWAY AND 40 HIGHWAY AS THE "HONORARY CHARLIE FRANKLIN JR. ROAD" AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND INSTALL FOUR HONORARY STREET SIGN MARKERS AT INTERSECTIONS THROUGHOUT THIS CORRIDOR.” – *Requested by Mayor Eileen Weir.*

Councilmember Stewart stated he understands that this is for an honorary name, but Noland Road was named after a family that settled here in the 1820s. In response to Councilmember Stewart, Mr. Walker stated that staff has not contacted any living decedents of the Noland family. Councilmember Hobart stated that he has spoken to a decedent of the Noland family that lives near 39th Street and Spring Street. Mayor

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Weir stated that this would not be replacing the name Noland Road in any way, this would only be adding an honorary designation on this stretch of Noland Road. Councilmember Stewart stated that he would prefer it be a different road.

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

2. Council action is requested in approving the Independence Power & Light Strategic Priorities for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

In response to Councilmember Hobart, Mr. Walker stated that the PUAB took a vote and recommended approval of this priority list that was reviewed on May 20, 2021 PUAB meeting.

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.

3. Council action is requested in approving a Use Agreement between the City of Independence, Missouri and the Independence Chamber of Commerce to provide the terms and conditions under which patrons of the Independence Uptown Market may use the designated parking areas of the Independence Chamber of Commerce at 210 W. Truman Road and to provide the terms and conditions under which the Chamber of Commerce may use the designated parking areas and building and facilities of the Uptown Market at 211 W. Truman Road.

In response to Councilmember Stewart, Mr. Walker stated that a few years ago a former Councilmember initiated this discussion with the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Walker stated that those conversations fizzled out over time and then a couple of weeks ago the Chamber of Commerce President contacted Mr. Walker and asked that the conversation be looked at again because they recently resurfaced their lot. Mr. Walker stated that this was the proposal taken to the Chamber Board for recommendation to bring forth to the City Council. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Walker stated that the Chamber would continue to be responsible for the maintenance of their lot. Mr. Walker stated that this agreement will memorialize the public's ability to park at that lot during non-business hours for events at the Uptown Market. Mr. Walker stated that this proposal has not been provided to the Parks Commission.

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.

4. Budget Amendment Request No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. – *Requested by Councilmember Karen DeLuccie*

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she asked the City Manager to put this item on the agenda because she was concerned that we are not opening the National Frontier Trails Museum. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she understands we have not taken this to the appropriate committees yet.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Hobart moved to postpone Item No. 4 until the June 21, 2021 Council Meeting.

In response to Councilmember Hobart, Mr. Walker stated that the Tourism Commission has expressed a desire to have a meeting before the next Council Meeting so staff will work with them to get that done so they can review this item and provide a recommendation to the Council.

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.

ORDINANCES:

Bill No. 21-023, entitled, [Ord. #19218]

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 28 OF CHAPTER 1 OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS.”

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:

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Bill No. 21-024, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING EASEMENTS AND GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENTS FOR THE RAYMOND, HACKLESS TO MILLS STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 70131806); 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. 21-025, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2021 MIDWEST HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE KANSAS CITY / OVERLAND PARK DEA TASK FORCE INITIATIVE, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, WITH THE KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, FOR A GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$153,166.00; MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS; AUTHORIZING FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND/OR TIME EXTENSIONS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.”

Bill No. 21-026, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING FAÇADE EASEMENTS FOR THE TRUMAN MURAL AND TRAILS MURAL PROJECT; AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION WITH THE PROPERTY OWNERS AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EXPERTS AS NEEDED; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROJECT.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-027, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2021 MIDWEST HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER INITIATIVE, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, WITH THE KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, FOR A GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$148,326.00; MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS; AUTHORIZING FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND/OR TIME EXTENSIONS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-028, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CRACKERNECK CREEK TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-029, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) TO DISTRICT R-30/PUD (HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL/PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) AND A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4580 E. BASS PRO DRIVE IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-030, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2901-2925 S. HARVARD AVENUE IN DISTRICT R-6/PUD (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL/PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-031, entitled

“AN ORDINANCE FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING EASEMENTS, NEW RIGHT-OF-WAY AND GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENTS FOR THE 24 HWY COMPLETE STREETS PHASE 1 (PROJECT NO.70111801); 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

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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. 21-032, entitled
“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1, “CITY CEMETERY”; OF CHAPTER 6 OF THE CITY CODE, SETTING FEES FOR CITY CEMETERY GRAVE SPACE AND MONUMENT BASE PRICES, AND MOVING SAID FEES TO THE SCHEDULE OF FEES, ALL AMENDMENTS OUTLINED IN THIS ORDINANCE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.”
was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-033, entitled
“AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022, ESTIMATING THE REVENUES FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR; APPROPRIATING SUMS FOR THE PURPOSES STATED IN SAID BUDGET, ESTABLISHING OPERATING TRANSFERS, DESIGNATING FUND BALANCE ALLOCATIONS, ESTABLISHING THE AUTHORIZED TABLE OF ORGANIZATION, AND DESIGNATING THOSE WHO MAY MAKE A REQUISITION FOR ENCUMBRANCES AGAINST APPROPRIATIONS.”
was given its first reading by title.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. COVID-19 Semi-Monthly Update.
2. Purchase order 21000802, in the amount of \$53,519.00 was issued to Layne Christensen – A Granite Company (“Layne”) for emergency repairs to Well No. 22 at the Courtney Bend Water Plant for the Water Department.
3. The City Clerk's Office is in receipt of the Trinity Woods Community Improvement District Annual Report ending June 30, 2022.
4. Purchase order 21000980, in the amount of \$60,000.00 was issued to Beemer Construction Company Inc for a 20" Emergency Main Repair on Powell Road for the Water Department.
5. Please Note: In accordance with RSMo 610.021, the City Council may convene in an Executive Session at 5:15 pm, in the Council Chambers and move to Conference Room D for the closed meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

In response to Councilmember Stewart, Mr. Walker stated that details have not been worked out yet regarding sign on bonus amounts for police officers if the \$20 million stimulus is passed. Mr. Walker stated we are talking with command staff and representatives with the FOP about how to best allocate both the amount and terms. Mr. Walker stated that if approved staff will provide a recommendation to Council. Councilmember Stewart stated a few weeks ago he did a six-hour ride a long with a police officer and the officer responded to thirteen calls. Councilmember Stewart stated that shows we need more officers and explains why they are not able to have proactive policing. Councilmember Stewart stated we need to be offering the biggest signing bonuses, paying the highest salaries, college tuition reimbursement if possible so that we can get officers staffed.

Councilmember Perkins stated he agrees with Councilmember Stewart. Councilmember Perkins stated he would take it a step further and begin to look at how we can bring our police station up to date. He stated that this may be an incentive to attract new recruits as well.

Councilmember Perkins stated that on June 5, 2021 there was a community cleanup project that was community driven. Councilmember Perkins stated that this one was for trash pickup with over 100

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people there. He stated that 4 forty-yard dumpsters were filled up with large item pickups within about three hours. Councilmember Perkins thanked Northwest CDC and Independence Police Department for their help and support. He stated that CSL helped with fundraising for this project. Councilmember Perkins stated that he heard from the Director of Northwest CDC today saying he has more grant funding coming for more cleanup projects. Councilmember Perkins stated that the Sustainability Commission has a clean up planned for June 19, 2021 at Rotary Park. In response to Councilmember Perkins, Mr. Walker stated we can see how we can aggressively apply the codes we already have on the books as well as look at best practices in other communities and bring recommendations back to the Council at a future Study Session.

Councilmember Huff stated he agrees with the hiring of new officers and safety of our community being top priority. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Walker stated he has had conversations with leadership and the FOP and they will be taking a look at best practices and opportunities there might be to collaborate and work together to try to be the most competitive we can in regards to recruiting and retaining talent. Mr. Walker stated that they are trying to put together an aggressive timeline of 30-45 days to come up with some solutions because time is of the essence.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that while she hates spending money, she will be preparing an amendment to increase the Health Department Funding by the \$300,000 that was discussed earlier tonight during citizen comment. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she attended the last Board of Health Meeting and learned that it is not good enough to fund the \$400,000. She stated that this will not be the minimum and will not get us where we need to be. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that we have a gift right now with the American Recovery Plan money that is available, and she believes that if we do not use it this year to jump start the Health Department while we can, then we will always be playing catch-up. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she voted to defund the Health Department a few years ago to provide more funding for police because she believed it was the right thing to do at the time. She stated that she has learned a hard lesson during this pandemic because it was not the right thing to do.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated she would like to thank city staff for the savings from not doing meetings and events over the last year. She stated that staff has saved more than \$750,000. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she knows this was in part because of the pandemic, but by doing online trainings and virtual meetings the savings really helps the General Fund. She encourages staff to do the same for the next fiscal year.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that over the weekend she received a few calls from citizens stating that their water had just stopped. She stated that she would like to thank the Water Department Director, Supervisor and Field Worker who were out there and had the issue resolved within two hours. It turned out that someone was boring that didn't have proper markings on the ground and staff quickly stopped the boring and reestablished the water supply.

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that Project Shine is June 19, 2021 to go along with the other cleanup project. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she feels that if we continue to have it listed that Council may convene for an Executive Session listed on an agenda then we should still let the public know when we are actually going to meet. Mayor Weir confirmed that the public will be notified.

Councilmember Steinmeyer commended Councilmember DeLuccie for wanting to fund the Health Department. He believes we should do what is right for our Health Department and should seriously look at funding that is available to help us do that. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that we should go above and beyond the minimum as well because we need to be better prepared for anything that nature throws at us.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he is glad we are allowing our officers the ability to give some input. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that the community wants to see a healthy Police

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Department, that is not overburdened. We need our officers to have the opportunity to be well trained and move forward in their careers. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that with the current conditions of our Police Department we are limited in both safety and promotion, and that is an issue we need to talk about. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that candidates are more likely to come to a place where they are well trained, valued, promoted and happy with the culture. He stated that we should be looking at more than just money that is of concern when we sit down with leadership from the FOP.

Councilmember Hobart stated his father was a police officer in Independence and Independence has always been a very competitive place for police officers to apply. He stated that its good to hear that officers want to move forward in their careers within Independence because that means they are happy here. Councilmember Hobart wanted to remind citizens that part of what has made our police offers so good at their job is the competitiveness we offer.

Mayor Weir stated she would like to add an item on an upcoming Study Session agenda about how we will interact with advisory committees in the future when there is something we would like for them to consider. Mayor Weir stated we should come to an agreement on how we do that.

Mayor Weir stated that we had a goal to get our Health Department certified as a local public health agency or authority and we have done that. The Mayor stated that this would not have been possible if we required it to be funded at the same time. Mayor Weir stated that there are certain things we have to do in order to have our certification and we are doing those things, such as hiring incredibly talented and experienced individuals for our Health Department. Mayor Weir stated she is looking into longer term funding once the Federal Stimulus money is no longer available. The Mayor stated that Independence has been a leader in public health for many decades and we want to maintain that reputation.

Mayor Weir stated that we all understand the police workforce crisis that has been an issue for a number of years. The Mayor stated we passed Prop P to add additional funding for the police force and now that the funding is there the people are not and we need to figure that out. Mayor Weir stated she prepared some of her thoughts for the City Manager on other things we might consider doing to help with hiring. Mayor Weir stated there is a lot of discussion happening around solutions for this issue.

Mayor Weir stated that June is Pride Month. She stated that we have a lot of activities that are planned for Pride Month like we have done for other heritage months we have celebrated this year. The Mayor stated that you can look for interesting history, interviews and events happening around our community in celebration.

Mayor Weir stated that we hosted the Truman Award on Friday at the Uptown Market. The award was presented to Senator Roy Blunt and Congressman Cleaver was in attendance to give the invocation. The Mayor stated that we recognized the Medical Reserve Core with our Special Recognition Award which has been invaluable to us with the number of volunteers rising from approximately 60 people to over 1700 people this year. Mayor Weir stated that these volunteers have helped us with testing, contact tracing, calling to check on people, helping to distribute food boxes, helping to distribute PPE and now helping us with vaccinations. The Mayor stated that afterward some members of the Council and staff were able to do a sneak peak tour of the Truman Library which is spectacular and is expected to be open with limited capacity in July with a full opening in September or October.

Mayor Weir stated sometimes items on the Consent Agenda aren't discussed, but Council always reads though those items for careful consideration. The Mayor stated the need for padded cells in our detention center is quite concerning. Mayor Weir stated that this points out the inadequacy of our police facilities. The Mayor stated that she thinks about that back stairway and taking people up and down to detention and believes it can be a very dangerous situation as well. Mayor Weir stated that when we think

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about the types of crime and intensity of the individuals that our officers are dealing with it is very concerning. Mayor Weir stated that the entire community is working hard and is stepping forward when our police need them. Mayor Weir stated that we are working hard to give them the resources that they need and prays for their safety every day.

Mr. Walker stated that he would like to recognize the officers in the Police Department who crisscross the Midwest going to these recruiting events in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. Mr. Walker stated they have a lot of recruiting events and they go out and try to share the pride they have for their Department. Mr. Walker stated that the rules are certainly different than they used to be, but that said, our last effort at a job posting generated 142 applications. 133 of those for one reason or another were disqualified. Mr. Walker stated we still try to have an elevated standard for the folks who will be policing our community and that can be challenging at times. However, staff will continue working on it and bring recommendations to Council to try and be at the front end of the line for recruiting officers into our community.

At 7:29 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., June 21, 2021, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk