

REGULAR MEETING  
September 20, 2021

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, September 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., virtually held via Microsoft Teams and in person, in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

Mayor Weir asked for a moment of silence for Officer Blaize Madrid-Evans. Mayor Weir provided information about visitation and funeral services.

Shirley Murdock, member, 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. The following members of the City Council were absent: Karen DeLuccie.

**CITIZENS REQUEST TO SPEAK:**

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to suspend the Council Rules of Procedure to allow non-residents to speak during Citizens Requests.

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

Katherine Alexander spoke to Council regarding crime and disorder and community mental health due to lack of community standards.

Scott Stoner spoke to Council regarding the homeless.

Jeff Rogers spoke to Council regarding Chalk the Walk and ARP Funds.

Erin Wildman, on behalf of FOP Lodge 1, spoke to Council regarding support for ARPA Expenditure Plan.

**PRESENTATION:**

Past President of the Junior Service League, Stephanie Merriott, announced and presented the 2021 Susan P. Block Distinguished Public Service Award to this year's recipient, Diane Egger, Assistant Director of the Health Department. Ms. Merriott reviewed the outstanding work performed by Ms. Egger. Ms. Egger was in attendance and thanked the committee for the honor of this award. Mayor Weir congratulated Ms. Egger.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:**

Mayor Weir requested that Bill No. 21-804 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Bill No. 21-804 to be considered separately.

1. Council action is requested to issue a one (1) year contract, with three (3), one-year renewal periods with SiteMed North America LLC for Physicals for personnel within the Fire Department.
2. Consider renewal of annual lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management and adding up to five additional units for the Park and Recreation Department to the annual lease.

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3. Council action to issue a purchase order to PAR Electrical Contractors, in the amount of \$2,247,587.96, for E/F Phase II Construction for the Power & Light Department and waive section 6 of the City's Purchasing policy.

Bill No. 21-803, entitled, [Res. #6724]

"A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 6224 AND RESOLUTION NO. 6711 AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS RECORDINGS."

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

In response to Mayor Weir, City Manager, Zach Walker, provided information on this item and invited Mike Veit, Chair of the Staywell Committee, to provide additional details. Mr. Veit provided additional details and background information on this item.

Mayor Weir and Councilmember Huff moved to approve Bill No. 21-804.

Bill No. 21-804, entitled, [Res. #6725]

"A RESOLUTION REVISING RATES FOR THE CITY'S SELF-INSURANCE HEALTH PLANS."

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

### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Weir and Councilmember Huff moved to amend Bill no. 21-065 to change the figures in the ordinance to reflect the current valuations provided to the city.

Mayor Weir opened a full public hearing on proposed property tax rates to be set by the City of Independence for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, based on the current assessed valuation by Jackson and Clay Counties. Kenneth Love spoke in opposition of this item. There being no additional speakers, Mayor Weir declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

Upon roll call to amend Bill No. 21-065, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

Bill No. 21-065, entitled, [Ord. #19261]

"AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX ON ALL REAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION ON JANUARY 1, 2021, WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, FOR GENERAL REVENUE AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND RECREATION PURPOSES, AND FOR THE INDEPENDENCE SQUARE SPECIAL BUSINESS BENEFIT DISTRICT; SAID LEVIES AND ASSESSMENTS BEING SEPARATE AND DISTINCT, ALL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 2021, AND ENDING ON THE 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 2022."

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

Mayor Weir opened a full public hearing for the amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance, Chapter 14, of the Independence City Code relating to group living facilities in Section 14-404. Assistant Community Development Director, Rick Arroyo, provided background information on this item. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Arroyo stated that the management plan includes a staffing plan and emergency contact information if there is an incident.

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Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to amend Bill No. 21-067 to include private or off duty security at these facilities. Councilmember Perkins stated he believes most of these facilities will likely have that built into their plan and he would not want to tie their hands by making it a requirement. Upon roll call to amend Bill No. 21-067, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the motion failed.

Katherine Alexander spoke regarding the item. There being no additional speakers, Mayor Weir declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

Bill No. 21-067, entitled, [failed]  
“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 14, OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO GROUP LIVING FACILITIES.”  
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Perkins, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the item failed.

### NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

#### 1. Consideration of Amended American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Expenditure Plan.

Councilmembers Stewart and Huff moved to amend Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1 to remove \$1,435,000 from the Square Streetscape Funding and reallocate \$678,612 for Police body cameras, \$185,844.96 for de-escalation training simulator, \$290,000 for the first year of the Shot Spotter Program, \$12,672.50 for replacement of gas masks, \$30,000 for a crisis negotiation throw phone, \$237,870.54 to Health Department funding. Councilmember Huff referenced the Strategic Plan and public safety being a priority.

Upon roll call to amend Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1 the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the motion failed.

Councilmember Steinmeyer and Huff moved to amend Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1 to remove \$1,617,285 from Improved Public Infrastructure and Facilities and reallocate \$540,748 to a new Fire Department pumper and \$1,076,537 an Emergency Operations Center Mobile Command Unit. Councilmember Huff stated he will be in favor of this motion.

Upon roll call to amend Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1 the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the motion failed.

Upon roll call for Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Perkins, and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart, Steinmeyer and Hobart. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the item failed.

Bill No. 21-805, entitled, [failed]  
“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (“ARPA”).” – *Requested by Councilmembers Mike Steinmeyer, Mike Huff and Brice Stewart*  
Councilmember Huff explained why this resolution was separated from the rest of the plan.  
Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the bill failed.

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Councilmembers Hobart and Perkins moved to reconsider Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Perkins, Stewart, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmembers: Huff and Steinmeyer. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

Councilmembers Stewart and Steinmeyer moved to reconsider Councilmember Stewart's previous motion to amend Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1 to remove funding from the Square Streetscape funding and reallocate the funding.

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

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and Huff moved to reconsider Councilmember Steinmeyer's previous motion to reallocate funding from Improved Public Infrastructure and Facilities.

Upon roll call to amend Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1 the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmembers: Perkins, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the motion failed.

Upon roll call for Non-Ordinance Action Item No. 1, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmembers: Stewart and Steinmeyer. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the item approved.

### ORDINANCES:

Bill No. 21-064, entitled, [Ord. #19260]

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY FOR THE HOLDING OF A PRIMARY AND GENERAL CITY ELECTION WITHIN THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHARTER ADOPTED BY SAID CITY, AS AMENDED, AND ALL STATE LAWS IN REFERENCE THERETO, AND TO CERTIFY TO THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS ALL NAMES OF CANDIDATES PROPERLY PRESENTED BY PETITIONS UNDER THE CHARTER AND FOR THE HOLDING OF A PRIMARY ELECTION ON FEBRUARY 8, 2022, AND A GENERAL ELECTION ON APRIL 5, 2022.”

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

Bill No. 21-066, entitled, [Ord. #19262]

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EXERCISE, WITHIN A PORTION OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, OF CERTAIN POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF A LAND CLEARANCE FOR REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.”

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

### FIRST READINGS:

Bill No. 21-512, entitled, [Ord. #19263]

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF NOT TO EXCEED \$76,000,000 FROM THE MISSOURI DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD TO REFINANCE THE COSTS OF PROJECTS RELATED TO THE CITY'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM; APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FINANCING 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, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – Councilmember DeLuccie. The Mayor declared the bill approved.

### INFORMATION ONLY:

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1. COVID-19 Semi-Monthly Update.
2. The City Clerk's Office is in receipt of the 23rd & Sterling Community Improvement District Annual Report ending June 30, 2021.
3. Case 21-100-10, a request by Hank Hopkins to rezone the properties located at 19612 & 16914 E. 23rd Street and 2221 S. M-291 Highway from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) to C-2 (General Commercial), was advertised for a new information only public hearing at the September 20, 2021 City Council meeting. As this case has been continued by the Planning Commission, the new information only public hearing is now expected to be heard at the November 15, 2021 City Council meeting.
4. Independence Municipal Division monthly case report August 2021.
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:

Councilmember Stewart offered condolences to the family of Officer Madrid-Evans.

Councilmember Perkins offered condolences to the family of Officer Madrid-Evans. Councilmember Perkins provided information about a Mental Health Town Hall tomorrow at the Truman Memorial Building at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Huff stated he is disappointed that the Council is not putting public safety and welfare of our citizens importance above pet projects.

Councilmember Steinmeyer spoke about his feelings regarding the loss of Officer Madrid-Evans. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated his disappointment about decisions made tonight and shared his feelings regarding support for first responders.

Councilmember Hobart spoke about the loss of Officer Madrid-Evans and the support shown by our community and surrounding communities. Councilmember Hobart stated it is a hard thing to risk your life every day and thanked our public safety personnel.

Mayor Weir stated that our community will have the ability to vote on Prop. P to provide more resources to our Police Department without a tax increase and vote to provide more resources for our Fire Department. The Mayor suggested that individuals vote in the November 2, 2021 election. Mayor Weir that we will continue to be here for Officer Madrid-Evans' family as long as they need us. Mayor Weir recognized some city staff members for their good work and accomplishments. Mayor Weir encouraged citizens to attend the Mental Health Town Hall and clarified that this is not a Councilmember event.

At 7:04 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., October 4, 2021, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

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September 20, 2021

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City Clerk