

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
November 29, 2021

The Independence City Council met for a Special Called Meeting, November 29, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., virtually held via Microsoft Teams and in person, in the Council Chambers, 111 E. Maple.

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.

PRESENTATIONS:

City Manager, Zach Walker, provided background information prior to the presentation being given. Jim Nail, Director of IPL provided an IPL Winter Preparedness presentation to Council.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Nail stated that we purchase all of our energy from SPP. Mr. Nail stated that solar wind amounts vary day to day, and he does not have an average number available at this time that he can confirm. Mr. Nail provided information about why it is important to have a diverse portfolio. Mayor Weir clarified the numbers being talked about. In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Nail stated that the gas suppliers set the gas index. Mr. Nail stated that IPL provides the prices for our units to SPP. Mr. Nail provided additional information for how we set our unit prices that are provided to SPP. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Nail stated there is a membership fee, and he will get back to Council about what our membership fee is. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Nail provided information about forecasting for power usage.

In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Nail stated he would get more information about the Forbes article that was used as an example. Mr. Nail stated that we watch the market and when we see dips in the market, we will take advantage of it when possible. Mr. Nail provided more information about purchasing energy. Mr. Nail provided information about nuclear power. In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Nail stated that wind and solar power receive government rebates that others do not. Mr. Nail stated that so far this year we are profitable. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Nail provided information about shelf life of diesel fuel.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Weir opened a full public hearing to receive input on potential increased utility costs and remedies. Kenneth Love spoke to Council regarding the public hearing. Lowell Croft spoke to Council regarding the public hearing. Brent Schondelmeyer spoke to Council regarding the public hearing. There being no additional speakers, Mayor Weir declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. A quorum of the Public Utilities Advisory Board may be in attendance.
2. 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 stated he would like a presentation in a Study Session regarding sewer rates.

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November 29, 2021

Councilmember DeLuccie stated that she believes the best place to have public hearings and conversations about these issues starts with the PUAB. Councilmember DeLuccie commended and thanked Mr. Nail.

Councilmember Huff stated that he agrees with Councilmember DeLuccie but feels that the PUAB meetings being held at 2:30 p.m. might have to be changed to accommodate a public hearing for citizens that work during the day.

Councilmember Perkins recommended having a Town Hall Meeting to have these discussions.

Councilmember Steinmeyer shared his thoughts about making these decisions. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated he hopes we have multiple hearings and discussions and that we keep moving forward with our decisions. Councilmember Steinmeyer encouraged citizens to get more involved.

Councilmember Hobart thanked Mr. Walker and Mr. Nail for the presentation tonight. Councilmember Hobart thanked the PUAB members for their attendance. Councilmember Hobart stated he agrees that we need massive citizen input. Councilmember Hobart stated that he feels there should be a public vote on the final decision made for our energy.

Mayor Weir stated that citizen and expert input is very important before any Council decisions are made moving forward. Mayor Weir stated that many times when these things are hosted by the city there is not a large citizen attendance. Mayor Weir stated she would suggest the PUAB also hold public hearings. The Mayor provided her thoughts on a Town Hall Meeting, and stated that those are typically not hosted by the city but by other groups. Mayor Weir stated that we would need to have a better understanding about how this may go for a vote to the citizens. Mayor Weir stated that if the public has questions, the city staff, the Council and the PUAB are resources, and she encourages citizens to reach out.

At 7:17 p.m., there being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., December 6, 2021, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk