

REGULAR MEETING December 20, 2021

The Independence City Council met for a Regular Meeting, December 20, 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:

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Perkins moved to suspend the Council Rules of Procedure to allow for non-residents to speak.

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.

Laura Dominik spoke to Council regarding Bill No. 21-836.

Yolanda Hershel spoke to Council regarding City of Independence Utilities.

Gerry Winship spoke to Council regarding Bill No. 21-518.

PRESENTATION RESOLUTION:

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Perkins moved to approve Bill No. 21-835.

Bill No. 21-835, entitled, [Res. #6755]

“A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHARLOTTE OLEJKO, HORTICULTURALIST, WITH THE PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT, AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 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.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember Huff requested that Item No. 3 and Item No. 5 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmember DeLuccie requested that Item No. 7 be pulled for separate consideration.

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to approve the AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA minus Item No. 3, Item No. 5, and Item No. 7.

1. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to approve an engineering design contract with Renaissance Infrastructure Consulting for an amount not to exceed \$57,335, authorizing future change orders for an amount not to exceed \$5,734 for the Leslie to Crane at Hereford Drainage Improvement (Project No. 132201).
2. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to ConvergeOne, in the amount of \$131,866.46 for additional backup storage for disaster recovery.

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4. Council action is requested to approve an Inspection Services Contract with Cook Flatt & Strobel Engineers, PA (CFSE), for an amount not to exceed \$83,008.99 authorizing future change orders not to exceed \$8,300 and/or time extensions to perform construction inspection for the 40 Highway Complete Streets Project (No. 111802).
6. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to approve an acquisition services contract with Allen Skeens for an amount not to exceed \$58,520, authorizing future minor change orders for an amount not to exceed \$5,800, for the 24 Highway Complete Streets Phase 1 Improvements (Project No. 111801).
8. Council action is requested to issue a purchase order to MegaKC Corporation (MegaKC), in the amount of \$65,700.00, for Dust Collectors for existing Lime Bins at the Courtney Bend Water Plant for the Water Department.

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 AMENDED CONSENT AGENDA was approved.

Councilmember Huff stated this item is not in line with our Procurement Policy and would like staff to send this back out for bid so it can be scored.

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to remand Item No. 3 back to staff. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that we didn't have a Management Analyst review the financial information and she feels we still need staff to perform the Management Analyst duties until the position is filled. Deputy City Manager, Adam Norris, asked for clarification on the motion. In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Norris provided more information about the bid process. Mr. Norris advised Council of options moving forward and some details about the options available. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Norris stated that the Procurement Policy was followed for this item. In response to Mayor Weir, City Manager, Zach Walker, (attended virtually) provided additional information about the bid process and the Procurement Policy. Mr. Walker stated that in order to do this differently we would have to identify a scoring criteria, assign weighted percentages to those and then do a type of scoring that Councilmember Huff is referencing for a qualifications-based selection not a bid based selection. In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Norris stated that it would be approximately a six-to-eight-week process at best to bring this back to Council if this is moved to an RFQ process. Mr. Norris stated that because federal funds are involved, we may have to request an extension of our schedule on this project. Mr. Norris stated that it would be helpful for Council to provide specific qualifications they would like used in the selection process.

Upon roll call to remand Item No. 3 back to staff, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Mr. Norris stated that staff did consider and decide that the Purchasing Policy would need to be waived due to not having a Management Analyst in place. Mr. Norris stated that applications for the Management Analyst position are still being accepted. In response to Councilmember Hobart, Mayor Weir stated that our Charter requires that we have a full-time employee serve as Management Analyst, and when this position has been vacant before we were unable to contract with an outside firm to perform that function. Mayor Weir stated that Council will have to consult staff about options until the position is filled. Mr. Walker provided additional information regarding the Management Analyst position and the Charter requirements.

3. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to approve a construction contract with VF Anderson Builders, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$2,285,774.90 authorizing future minor change orders not to exceed \$228,577.49 and/or time extensions for the 40 Highway Complete Streets Project. (No. 111802) and waive section six of the City's Purchasing Policy.

Councilmember Huff stated his concerns with the type of repair being suggested for this roof repair.

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Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to remand Item No. 5 back to staff. Mayor Weir shared her concerns with this item and stated she would be in favor of putting this out for a more competitive bid process. Mayor Weir stated that the situation needs to be addressed soon. Mr. Norris clarified that if this item fails or is remanded back to staff, it is Council's request that this be put out to rebid instead of accessing the National Cooperative Purchasing Agreements.

Upon roll call to remand Item No. 5 back to staff, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – None. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

5. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to approve a roofing repair contract with Tecta America for an amount not to exceed \$79,097, authorizing future minor change orders for an amount not to exceed \$8,000, for Central Garage as part of the Annual City Roof Repairs (Project No. 572201).

Councilmember DeLuccie stated her disagreement with this additional fee.

Councilmembers DeLuccie and Huff moved to approve Item No. 7. In response to Councilmember Hobart, Director of Community Development, Tom Scannell, provided background information on this item. In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Scannell stated that if the applicant does not agree with the Planning Commission decision, the decision can be appealed to the Council. Mayor Weir clarified details of the process. In response to Councilmember Huff, Mr. Scannell stated that this fee would only have to be paid if someone wanted to do a sign that was outside what the UDO allows.

7. Council action is requested to add a new Special Sign Permit Application Fee to the Schedule of Fees. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmembers: DeLuccie and Steinmeyer. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Mayor Weir opened a new information only public hearing for application by Chandra Gunna requesting a rezoning from O-1, Office-Residential, to C-2, General Commercial, for the located at 2400 S. Lee's Summit Road. Assistant Community Development Director, Rick Arroyo, provided background information on this item. Mayor Weir declared the public hearing closed. *New Information Only.*

Bill No. 21-082, entitled, [Ord. #19283]

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REZONING FROM DISTRICT O-1 (OFFICE-RESIDENTIAL) TO DISTRICT C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) FOR THE SOUTH PART OF 2400 S. LEE'S SUMMIT ROAD 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 bill approved.

Mayor Weir opened a new information only public hearing for the application by Lacie Greer requesting a Special Use Permit to operate a body art services at 2400 S. Lee's Summit Road, Unit 150. Mr. Arroyo provided background information. Mayor Weir declared the public hearing closed. *New Information Only.*

Bill No. 21-083, entitled, [Ord. #19284]

“AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A BODY ART SHOP AT 2400 S. LEE'S SUMMIT ROAD, SUITE 150, IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.”

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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.

Mayor Weir opened a full public hearing for the application received from Blue R 3421, LLC for a Restaurant Selling Intoxicating Liquor License for Carmen’s Cantina and Mexican Grill at 3421 S. Blue Ridge Cut-off. Mr. Scannell provided background information on the item. There being no speakers, Mayor Weir declared the public hearing closed. *Full Public Hearing.*

Council action is requested on the application received from Blue R 3421, LLC for a Restaurant Selling Intoxicating Liquor License for Carmen’s Cantina and Mexican Grill at 3421 S. Blue Ridge Cut-off.

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.

NON-ORDINANCE ACTION ITEMS:

Councilmember DeLuccie stated she has concerns with the item following the Charter. Councilmember Steinmeyer advised that the State of Emergency at the state level is ending December 31, 2021 and stated he has requested this item because he feels like the city should fall in line with the state. Mayor Weir advised that the city issued a State of Emergency and provided additional background information. In response to Mayor Weir, Fire Chief, Doug Short, stated he believes the Mayor is authorized to make decisions regarding a State of Emergency. Chief Short advised that while the State of Emergency is anticipated to expire on December 31, 2021 at the state level, it may be extended by the Governor and if we end our State of Emergency now, and the Governor extends it at the state level, the Mayor would then have to reinstate a State of Emergency. Chief Short provided some benefits and examples of how the city is still using the State of Emergency.

Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that in 2020 he was told that the city’s State of Emergency should be in line with the what the state is doing and he believes the city should end the State of Emergency. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he is not challenging the Mayor’s authority in a proper event to declare a State of Emergency, he is just wanting to define a proper event with guidelines and not bypass the Council along the way. Councilmember Steinmeyer shared his feelings about Council being able to vote and the voices of citizens being heard. In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Chief Short stated he doesn’t disagree that if the Governor eliminates the State of Emergency that we should also. Chief Short stated that the provision in the resolution requiring a supermajority vote by Council to declare a State of Emergency in the future is not the standard at any level of government. In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, City Counselor, Jeremy Cover, provided details regarding House Bill No. 271. Councilmember Steinmeyer shared his feelings again about Council being able to vote on future States of Emergency. Councilmember DeLuccie stated that Section 3 of this resolution ignores the Charter Section 2.5 that states the Mayor is authorized to declare a State of Emergency and will not support this resolution. In response to Councilmember Perkins, Chief Short stated that the sponsors of this bill did not contact him prior to bringing this forward. In response to Councilmember Perkins, Mr. Cover stated that House Bill 271 does not address emergency orders generally, it addresses orders related to public health and provided additional specifics. Councilmember Perkins stated that he does not feel proper research was done before this item was brought forward and he will be voting no. Councilmember Steinmeyer stated that he was advised that Section 3 may be an issue and wanted to discuss it but is willing to amend the item to remove that section.

Councilmembers Steinmeyer and Huff moved to remove Section 3 from Bill No. 21-836.

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Councilmember Hobart stated that the resolution is illegal because violates the Charter. Councilmember Hobart stated he will not support the amendment or the item.

Upon roll call to amend Bill No. 21-836, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, DeLuccie, Steinmeyer and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmember Hobart. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

Mayor Weir asked that the City Clerk, Becky Behrens, provide her with minutes from prior meetings regarding discussions about the State of Emergency. Mayor Weir stated that she does not recall having a discussion that the city has to be fully in line with the state regarding the State of Emergency. Mayor Weir stated that we were not lockstep with the state when we declared the State of Emergency. Mr. Cover clarified information about the State of Emergency, stating that while it was approved by the Council on June 7, 2021, it was issued by the Mayor and per the Charter the Mayor has the sole authority to issue and remove a State of Emergency. Mr. Cover provided additional information about what the Charter states. Mr. Cover advised that the Council remove their support of the State of Emergency, but removing support does not end the State of Emergency. Mayor Weir stated that she was in support of amending this item, but will vote no on the item itself for the reasons stated regarding Charter. Mayor Weir stated that we don't know what's around the corner and she feels this resolution is very premature.

Councilmembers Huff and Steinmeyer moved to postpone Bill No. 21-836 to the January 3, 2022 meeting. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Huff, Perkins, Stewart, and Steinmeyer. Noes – Councilmember DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the motion approved.

Bill No. 21-836, entitled
 “A RESOLUTION LIFTING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.” – *Requested by Councilmembers Mike Steinmeyer and Mike Huff*

ORDINANCES:

Bill No. 21-084, entitled, [Ord. #19285]
 “AN ORDINANCE FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING EASEMENTS AND GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENTS FOR THE RALSTON STORMWATER PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 131805); 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 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. 21-085, entitled, [Ord. #19286]
 “AN ORDINANCE TERMINATING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING WITHIN THE HARTMAN HERITAGE PARK REDEVELOPMENT AREA; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATING THERETO.”
 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.

Bill No. 21-086, entitled, [Ord. #19287]
 “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.”

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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.

Bill No. 21-518, entitled, [failed]

“AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE NEED TO ACQUIRE REAL PROPERTY FOR THE AMELIORATION OF CONDITIONS WHICH CONSTITUTE BLIGHT IN THE CITY BY NEGOTIATION, OR, IF NECESSARY, BY CONDEMNATION, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO OBTAIN AND EXECUTE ALL INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY FOR ACQUISITION OF SUCH LAND; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.” – *Second reading was postponed from December 6, 2021 meeting.*

was given its second reading by title and placed on final passage. Councilmember Stewart referenced the Missouri State Constitution, Article 1, Section 28. Councilmember Stewart provided his concerns regarding this item and stated he will not vote in support of this item. Councilmember DeLuccie stated she thought that taking this step may encourage the property owner answer the attempts made by the city to contact them. In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker confirmed that 60 days is the next step of public notification to the property owner. Councilmember Stewart stated that the property owner could be reached a couple years ago for another matter and stated he does not understand why no one else can contact him. Mayor Weir gave details about the many attempts made by the city and other individuals to contact the property owner, and all have communicated that they have not received any response. In response to Councilmember Hobart, Mr. Walker stated we paid approximately \$75,000 to tear down the garden center at that location. Mr. Scannell provided additional information about the Special Tax Bill that was sent to the property owner and stated at this time we have not been reimbursed for that expense. Mr. Cover stated that we could file suit to collect the funds owed but could not foreclose on the property through that process. Mr. Cover confirmed that if the eminent domain goes through, the property owner will be compensated based on fair market value. Councilmember Hobart stated he wanted to clarify that the city is not stealing someone’s private property and giving it to someone else. In response to Councilmember Steinmeyer, Mr. Cover stated that there are ways for us to proceed without the property owner’s involvement but if this property is tied up in bankruptcy, then it’s possible another court could step in and not allow things to move forward. Mr. Cover stated that there would have to be a blight analysis done by a third party to justify this is blight and if there was a history of code violations then they would likely be used toward their findings, but it is not required. Mr. Cover stated that the property would not have to be tied to an economic development plan. Councilmember Steinmeyer referenced RSMo. 523.271, shared his feelings about the development group and stated he wants to make sure we do not do something that has the appearance that we are taking this property without due process. Mr. Cover stated that this is the very first step in this process and if Council decides to proceed, he will ensure we are not violating any applicable statutes. Councilmember Perkins stated that the city has done this before and referenced the Englewood area. In response to Mayor Weir, Ms. Behrens confirmed that this is still an emergency item and will require five votes for passage. Mayor Weir discussed Englewood and explained how this situation is even better because we have a developer who is ready to accept this property so the city will not have to hold onto the property. In response to Mayor Weir, Mr. Walker confirmed that this developer does not have an exclusive right to the property and there is nothing preventing other developers coming forward and submitting plans for this property. Councilmember Huff stated his concerns with this process on this property. Councilmember Huff referenced Noland Fashion Square that has had many code violations while this property owes one Special Tax Bill with no code violations written. Councilmember Huff stated that he does not feel like due diligence has been done for this item and he will not support this. Mayor Weir provided details about the difference between Noland Fashion Square and this property. Upon roll call, the vote was: Ayes – Councilmembers: Perkins, DeLuccie, Hobart and Mayor Weir. Noes – Councilmembers: Huff, Stewart and Steinmeyer. Absent – None. The Mayor declared the bill failed.

In response to Councilmember DeLuccie, Ms. Behrens explained that Bill No. 21-518 failed because it did not receive the five votes required to pass an emergency ordinance and she advised that only the second reading of the item was postponed but it remains an emergency item.

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FIRST READINGS:

Bill No. 21-087, entitled
“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12, “OFFENSES AND PENALTIES” OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE AND ADDING ARTICLE 9 OFFENSES AND PENALTIES OF SHOPPING CARTS.”
was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-088, entitled
“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,504.00 FOR OPERATING EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSIT SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022; AND MAKING THE NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS.”
was given its first reading by title.

Bill No. 21-089, entitled
“AN ORDINANCE FINDING, DETERMINING AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GRADING EASEMENTS AND GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENTS FOR THE W. JONES ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT (PROJECT NO. 70131802); 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. 21-090, entitled
“AN ORDINANCE TERMINATING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING WITHIN THE MOUNT WASHINGTON REDEVELOPMENT AREA; DISSOLVING THE SPECIAL ALLOCATION FUND ACCOUNTS RELATED THERETO; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATING THERETO.”
was given its first reading by title.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. The City Council is expected to convene in an Executive Session at 5:30 pm, Monday, December 20, 2021, in the Council Chambers with the closed session taking place in Conference Room D, on Legal Matters, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), RSMO.
2. Municipal Division monthly case report November 2021.
3. The City Clerk's Office is in receipt of the 39th Street Transportation Development District's Annual Report ending June 30, 2021.
4. The City Clerk's Office is in receipt of the Hartman Heritage Center Community Improvement District Annual Report ending June 30, 2021.
5. COVID-19 Semi-Monthly Update.
6. 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 DeLuccie asked that someone provide her with the variance requirements under the state statue because she feels it is inappropriate to take it from the variance and give it to the Planning Commission. Councilmember DeLuccie provided information for citizens who would like to receive a copy of City Scene.

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Councilmember Hobart wished everyone happy holidays. Councilmember Hobart asked that those who particularly struggle during the holidays to reach out for help and for everyone to stay safe.

Mayor Weir stated she regrets not being able to hold the Town Hall meeting regarding mental health due to severe weather and stated it will be rescheduled hoping for great citizen participation. Mayor Weir discussed COVID-19 testing opportunities. In response to Mayor Weir, Director of Health and Animal Services, Christina Heinen, stated that we still have many openings for testing available. Communications Manager, Meg Lewis, provided the link to sign up for testing.

Mayor Weir stated that on November 8, 2021, the Governments Finance Officers Association presented a Certificate of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting to the City of Independence Finance Department for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020. Mayor Weir provided background information about this achievement. Mayor Weir presented a plaque to staff.

Mayor Weir wished everyone happy holidays and stated there will not be a Study Session on December 28, 2021.

At 7:49 p.m. the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned to a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m., January 3, 2022, in the Council Chambers.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk