

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO POST COMPETITIVE BIDS AND HIRE A FORENSIC INVESTIGATION/AUDIT FIRM TO EXAMINE AND EVALUATE THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE'S FISCAL, BUDGETARY AND PROCUREMENT POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE TAXPAYERS AND THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

WHEREAS, one of the recommendations proposed in the July 19, 2022 Dan Nelson, Spencer Fane LLP, Independence Investigation Policy Recommendations Report was to conduct a Citywide audit; and,

WHEREAS; the City Council is hopeful that an audit will provide assurance to city elected officials and the citizens of Independence that the assets of the city are safeguarded through proper internal controls that fully comply with state statutes, the charter of the City of Independence and city ordinances; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council expects the forensic investigator/audit firm to have proven experience in comprehensive investigations and can conduct a detailed thorough investigation of all actions and documentation and can perform a comprehensive performance audit to examine and evaluate the management of the City of Independence's fiscal, budgetary and procurement policies, and procedures to ensure transparency and accountability to the taxpayers and the expenditure of public funds; and,

WHEREAS; one definition of a forensic investigation is a "very specialist type of engagement, which requires highly skilled team members who have experience not only of accounting and auditing techniques, but also of the relevant legal framework."; and,

WHEREAS; the City Council recommends the scope of the forensic audit to include but not limited to, determining the existence of:

- Effective oversight of the awarding and administering of legal and professional service contracts and whether any city employee, officer or elected official received a separate, personal benefit from any such contract; and,
- Proper internal controls to ensure best practices of the authority to spend \$50,000 or less without City Council approval; and,
- Proper fiscal, budgetary and procurement policies, and procedures for internal operations; and,
- Conformity and compliance with existing fiscal, budgetary and procurement policies, and procedures and to ensure that they do not contradict or conflict with and city ordinance or state statute; and,

- Compliance with governmental best practices in the financial management of fiscal, budgetary and procurement policies, and procedures and identification of the areas of improvement as needed; and,

WHEREAS; the City Council desires the selection of an auditor be conducted in as expeditious a manner as possible and to prepare and written report noting findings, recommendations, and conclusions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council directs the City Manager to post competitive bids and engage a Forensic Investigation/Audit firm, with proven experience in comprehensive investigations and can perform an audit and investigation of City finances.

SECTION 2. That the forensic audit shall be conducted by a third-party auditor.

SECTION 3. That once the third-party auditor is selected all reports and updates on the audits will be provided to the Audit and Finance Committee for review. Upon completion of the audit the Audit and Finance Committee shall supply the findings to the City Council.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor
REVIEWED BY:

City Manager