

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 19, 2024**

**Time Started – 6:03 PM**

**INVOCATION**

Councilmember John Perkins gave the invocation

**THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Fears, Perkins, Stewart, Hobart, Mayor Rowland

Absent - McCandless

\*\* Interim City Manager Lisa Reynolds, Director of Municipal Services, is filling in for City Manager Zach Walker

**CITIZEN REQUESTS**

**None**

**Proclamation Engineer's Week – Proclamation presented to Mitch Kreiza**

Hobart made a motion and requested to take a moment of silence in remembrance of Lisa Lopez Galvan, who was shot and killed during the Super Bowl Celebration at Union Station on February 14, 2024.

Seconded by Mayor Rowland

All in favor

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager**

Hobart Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Second: Perkins

Passed 5-0

### **PULLED ITEMS:**

Stewart: 5, 6 and 9

Perkins: 7

5) Motion to approve by Stewart; Hobart 2<sup>nd</sup>

Stewart to Acting City Manager Lisa Reynolds for a synopsis, specifically the lifespan.  
Deferred to Chief Dustman

Mobile Command units deployed during a recent police shooting in MN.

We have been without this asset for well over ten years.

Allocated funding for this mobile command center to be used in any critical incident, any major crime scene investigation, and any large-scale events such as Santa Caligon Days, Independence Day Celebration

KCPD had their mobile command center deployed at the shooting that occurred at Union Station. They are the central nervous system for any sort of successful outcome in a critical or major incident. We have the World Cup coming up, which would allow this center to be used for any sort of events the city has. This center would also be used during any sort of natural disaster or any sort of critical incident in a school where we would have massive evacuations that would need to be done.

Last year, IPD SWAT was called out 106 times. Part of this system is essential and vital in the successful outcome of these incidents.

We have previously had to borrow from KCPD. We can only borrow when they are not using their unit for other reasons.

Not a special request or unforeseen expense. This was part of the budget and went through an extensive vetting process. The Public Safety Tax Oversight Committee and Planning Commission which both unanimously approved. It came in on budget approved by the City Council; no additional funding is necessary.

Stewart: What is the life of this vehicle, and how long will it be before we receive it?

18-24 months to receive, and the vehicle will last 20 years, minimally.

Passed 5-0

Item #6 Motion to approve by Stewart; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hobart

Stewart to Interim CM asking for a brief synopsis of this item.

The purpose of this is to add bike lanes and sidewalks to the section of Noland Road from 24 Highway to Fair, ADA compliant, and to provide facilities for non-vehicular travel.

The component of this study would be the traffic study updating numbers, updating the traffic numbers along this corridor, and making sure this will work with the plan. They would present the findings to the Council and proceed with the project.

This will actually reduce the lanes on Noland Road.

Federal money will pay for this.

Stewart will vote no because he feels we should not reduce lanes there.

If traffic data doesn't support the reduction, they would circle back and re-evaluate options and other alternatives.

Perkins: Initial traffic counts may have been done during COVID when traffic was not as heavy. The re-evaluation will take place now that traffic is back to normal. We have the alternative of not moving forward with this.

Passed 4-1 (Stewart voting no)

Item #9 Motion to approve by Stewart; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hobart

Stewart to Interim CM asking for a brief synopsis of this item.

The future of IPL is under study right now with the firm DKMT. Council had asked for public engagement on this item regarding selling IPL or keeping it a municipal owned utility. This will help us engage and discuss options with residents before this being put on a ballot.

Fears: We must provide this information to the community so people can make an educated decision.

Stewart: Opposed to selling IPL but agrees we need input from community. He will vote yes for that reason only.

Passes 5-0

#### Perkins: Item 7

Interim City Manager – this item needs to be tabled indefinitely. There was an error with the original purchase order amount, so the money ran out. However, the amount was well below the original amount that the Council approved. There is an adequate budget for this system.

Perkins motioned to postpone indefinitely. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fears

Postpone indefinitely passed 5-0

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### Ordinances

24-006 **2R** An ordinance approving a Final Plat for Redwood Independence, in Independence, Missouri. **2R**

*Passed 5-0*

24-007 **2R** An ordinance adopting amendments to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget, which was approved by Ordinance No. 19453. **2R**

Stewart pointed out there is an error in the ordinance that needs to be corrected.

Stewart motioned for the item to postponed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hobart

*Item is postponed to the March 3, 2024 regular meeting.*

#### **First Readings were read**

## COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

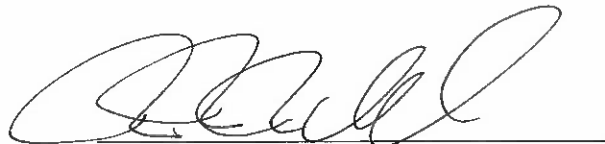
**Fears:** Commissioned 4 new police officers last week. Just went to an open house for Transportation for All Independence. They are trying to improve transportation for citizens and are looking for feedback from the community.

**Hobart:** Give a very sincere thanks to IPL. We have a brand-new sidewalk on N side of 40 highway from Blue Ridge Cutoff. Thank you to Ms. Reynolds and staff for obtaining the grant however, there was no money to pay for lighting. This has been a big problem along this stretch of highway as there have been a number of people over the years, hit by cars in that area, at night. IPL has taken it upon themselves to install lighting. Residents of 4<sup>th</sup> district are very happy.

He also enjoyed watching Chiefs win. There's a lesson to be learned from Patrick and Andy. To approach your job and day-to-day business and never have any doubt that you're going to get it done without anyone else believing in you. Independence gets beat up a lot. We need to remember that that we stick together and believe.


**ADJOURNMENT**

**6:36 PM**



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

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

