



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2024 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

INVOCATION

1. Sergio Quintero will give the invocation in Spanish

Sergio Quintero gave the invocation

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Mayor Rory Rowland, Presiding Officer of the City Council, called the meeting to order. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Rory Rowland, Jared Fears, Brice Stewart, Bridget McCandless, Jennie Vaught, John Perkins and Heather Wiley appeared via Teams.

CITIZEN REQUESTS

Councilmember McCandless asked for a moment of privilege to introduce the newly elected Jackson County Prosecutor, Melesa Johnson.

John Dempsey spoke about the Independence City Theatre.

Jamee Woolery spoke about 915 S. Brookside, which is an item on the consent agenda this evening.

Bobbie Bryant spoke about the General Obligation Bond and projects.

PROCLAMATIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager

Councilmember Perkins moved to approve the Consent Agenda. This was seconded by Councilmember Fears.

Items pulled for special consideration:

Item #2 by Councilmember McCandless

Item #6 by Councilmember Perkins

Resolution 24-792 by Councilmember Perkins

All other items passed.

AYES (7): Mayor Rowland, Councilmember Fears, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember McCandless, Councilmember Vaught, Councilmember Perkins, Councilmember Wiley

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (0):

1. Council action is requested to expend \$265,000.00 in expenditures for Rock with Liberty Aggregates for the Municipal Services Department for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Approved

2. Council approval is recommended for the acceptance of a grant from MRC-STRONG sub award Budget Period 2 for the amount of \$64,559.04. **Approved**

Councilmember McCandless moved for approval of this item, seconded by Councilmember Perkins.

Councilmember McCandless asked for clarification of what MRC stood for, which is Medical Reserve Corp. This grant helps to fund training and overhead expenses for this entity.

AYES (7): Mayor Rowland, Councilmember Fears, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember McCandless, Councilmember Vaught, Councilmember Perkins, Councilmember Wiley

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (0):

Item passes 7-0

3. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to enter into a design contract with, and issue a purchase order to, Burns & McDonnell, in the amount of \$282,095, authorizing future minor change orders not to exceed \$28,210, for engineering design services as part of the Fairmount Loop Project (No. 112501).

Approved

4. Council action is requested to expend \$360,539.00 with Turn-Key Mobile for Panasonic Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) for the Police Department. **Approved**

5. Council action is requested to approve the issuance of purchase orders to Motorola Solutions totaling \$241,916.10 for the purchase of thirty (30) mobile radios and fifteen (15) handheld radios for the Police Department. **Approved**

6. Council action is requested to authorize the City Manager to approve a construction contract as part of the Square Streetscape Project (No. 111902). **Approved**

Councilmember Perkins moved for approval of this item, seconded by Councilmember McCandless

This is the first phase the Square streetscape. Next step is communication with the city and the impacted businesses. This will address the four streets immediately around the courthouse on the square. The goal is to do this with as little interruption to business in this area as possible. Construction activity should start in January.

AYES (7): Mayor Rowland, Councilmember Fears, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember McCandless, Councilmember Vaught, Councilmember Perkins, Councilmember Wiley
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (0):

Item passes 7-0

7. Council action is requested to approve the IBEW-IPL Collective Bargaining Agreement. **Approved**

RESOLUTIONS

1. 24-791 A resolution adopting the 2025 State Legislative Agenda. **Res. No. 7069**
2. 24-792 A resolution approving a Short-Term Rental for 915 S Brookside Ave, in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. **Res. No. 7070**

Councilmember Perkins moved to approve this item, seconded by Councilmember Fears.

The Planning Commission had a split vote on this item. The applicant asked that it be brought before the City Council. Councilmember Perkins stated he is in favor of this as there have not been any letters of objection nor any protest petitions. This property has met all of the recommended repairs.

AYES (7): Mayor Rowland, Councilmember Fears, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember McCandless, Councilmember Vaught, Councilmember Perkins, Councilmember Wiley
NAYS (0): None
ABSENT (0):

Item passes 7-0

3. 24-793 A resolution appointing Shelby McClain and Carlos Cabrera to the Independence FIFA World Cup Advisory Committee **Res. No. 7071**

REGULAR AGENDA

FIRST READING(S)

1. 24-107 **1R** An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 19544 by updating certain legal descriptions where design changes became necessary & finding, determining, and declaring the necessity of acquiring construction easement for the Leslie to Crane at Hereford Project (Project No. 132201); 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 payments of funds to property owners brothers holding property rights, in conjunction with the project. **1R Read**
2. 24-108 **1R** An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a certain grant agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the 23rd Street Sidewalk Phase 2 Project (Project No. 112111-2 / Federal Project No. TAP-3379(445). **1R Read**
3. 24-109 **1R** An ordinance Approving a Final Plat for Jackson Drive Industrial Park, in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. **1R Read**
4. 24-110 **1R** An ordinance amending Independence City Code Section 5.01.023 "License Denial, Suspension or Revocation". **1R Read**

INFORMATION ONLY

1. **Please Note:** *In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in an Executive Session during or after the meeting, 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 Fears stated that some of the Councilmembers attended the Kansas City area Development Council Annual banquet. Lots of good things happening in the KC area in economic development. Some of the Councilmembers attended the Independence School District Legacy breakfast this morning. A young lady named Layla sang at the event and did an excellent job.

Councilmember Vaught said that Layla sometimes does karaoke at the bowling alley on the square.

Councilmember McCandless asked the City Manager to get the opioid settlement item off the

ground so the Council can work on making recommendations for the funds.

Councilmember Perkins said also was at the Legacy Breakfast this morning and agreed that Layla did a great job. He also asked City Manager, Zach Walker to discuss the status of the Rental Ready Program as there has been inaccurate stories in the media concerning this program. Mr. Walker reminded the Council of the contract that was awarded to an outside individual to assist with this program until open staff positions could be filled. That contract ran out in June, 2024. We are now fully staff in that division and have been able to automate the process. The last business license report was sent out a few weeks for the month of October and through October 2024, the total number of landlord licenses has increased by about 20% in that time period. That includes a new increase of new applications of 30% and renewals of 16%.

People are getting fully licensed and are compliant right now. We are still looking a ways to strengthen this program.

Mayor Rowland stated that on November 9th, the ROTC program at William Chrisman, Truman and Van Horn put together a Veterans Day Parade on the square. It was bigger than last year.

They did a fantastic job. Clara Turney turned 101 years old. Samoan community meeting at 6 p.m. today. The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be on December 3rd. He also gave kudos to the Genealogy Center for doing the genealogy of his family.

City Manager, Zach Walker talked about the improvement of the Neighborhood Code Compliance Program and the positive changes they are having in that program.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk