

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of October 3, 2016

City of Independence, Ky.

Opening

The City Council of the City of Independence, Kentucky met on Monday, October 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Independence Municipal Center, 5409 Madison Pike, Independence, Kentucky with Mayor Christopher Reinersman presiding. Mayor Reinersman called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Council Member Bushong led the invocation. Roll was called and the following Council Members registered present: Bill Aseere, Tom Brinker, Jim Bushong, Lucas Deaton, Carol Franzen and Donna Yeager. Also present was City Administrator Chris Moriconi, City Clerk Gina Gabbard, City Attorney Jack Gatlin and Assistant Police Chief John Lonaker.

Approval of the September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mayor Reinersman asked Council if there were any changes or corrections they would like made to the Council Minutes for the regular meeting on September 12, 2016.

Mayor Reinersman called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting held on September 12, 2016. Council Member Franzen so moved, with a second by Council Member Bushong. Roll was called and answered unanimously. Motion carried 6-0.

Friend of Kentucky City Award – Senator Thayer

Mayor Reinersman stated Deputy Director of the Kentucky League of Cities, J.D. Chaney and Kentucky State Senator, Damon Thayer were attending the Council Meeting to share the Friend of Kentucky City Award. Mr. Chaney presented Senator Thayer with the KLC 2016 Friend of City Award. He stated KLC hands out awards each year to legislators that sponsor or support legislation that help Kentucky cities. He stated Senator Thayer has been a friend to city government over the years by chairing the Senate Local Government Committee and acting as the current Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Thayer stated he requested to receive the award in Independence because the city has been so supportive and maintain a great working relationship. He stated his grandfather was a small town mayor in Michigan and influenced him to become a public servant. Senator Thayer stated elected officials are expected to produce results and solutions to citizen's concerns. He stated his appreciation to KLC for presenting him with the award and to the city for allowing him to receive the award during the Council Meeting.

Police Recognitions – Swearing in Officer Daniel Potts

Mayor Reinersman swore in Officer Daniel Potts. He stated Officer Potts has been with the Taylor Mill Police Department for the past three years.

OpenGov Demo – Website displaying transparency to city financials

Mayor Reinersman stated OpenGov is a transparency website that is up and ready for Council and the public to access the city's financial information. Mr. Moriconi stated Mayor Reinersman has been supportive on transparency to the public by adding Council Meeting Agendas on Facebook, communication to the public via newsletters and social media. Mr. Moriconi stated OpenGov is a very user friendly site that can be accessed from the city's website by clicking on the OpenGov link on the home page. He added his appreciation to the Finance Director Terri Hudson and City Clerk Gina Gabbard for their help with implementing this new site.

Finance Director Terri Hudson demonstrated how to get to the OpenGov site from the home page on the city's website. She stated the current reports available for public viewing are 1) Revenues and Expenses, 2) Assets and Liabilities and 3) Budget versus Actual and each report contains three years' worth of data. Mrs. Hudson stated on the left column, are example questions the public can click on to see financial information displayed with graphs as well as the dollar breakdown. She stated the graphs and data can be downloaded and displayed in various graph types and will be updated each month.

Council Member Brinker asked if other cities were using this site or something similar. Mayor Reinersman stated Edgewood, Covington, and Ft Wright are currently utilizing OpenGov. He stated OpenGov is a great tool for transparency for both Council Members as well as citizens to view where the tax dollars are being spent.

Council Member Deaton questioned the cost of the program. Mrs. Hudson responded the cost was approximately \$6,000 which included training and initial set up fees and years two and three will be around \$3,000.

Mr. Moriconi stated a lot of research was done prior to signing up for OpenGov including conference calls, visiting other cities and talking with other Mayors.

Donald Barnett, 788 Jimae Ave, Independence, KY. Mr. Barnett stated his appreciation to Council for this program and believes it will be a useful tool. He stated he likes the quick access this gives to residents that are interested in the city's financials and eliminates the waiting period for copies.

Ordinance No. 2016-O-11 – Code Enforcement Amendment – 2nd Reading

Mayor Reinersman presented Ordinance No. 2016-O-11 which amends procedures of the code enforcement board and supplements Ordinance 2015-O-20 and section 93 of the Independence Code of Ordinances.

Mr. Gatlin gave Ordinance No. 2016-O-11 a second reading. He stated House Bill 422 passed earlier this year and the proposed ordinance deals with housekeeping items regarding nuisance issues and foreclosed properties. Mr. Gatlin states with the passing of House Bill 422, this proposed ordinance includes several items: extending lien statute limitations to 10 years, a creation of a new lienholder electronic notification system, an interlocal agreement between PDS and the city which states that PDS will handle the updates to the new lienholder notification system, citations become final if not appealed or paid within 7 days, and the approval of the Mayor to appoint members to the Joint Code Enforcement Board. He stated since the city is part of the Kenton County Joint Code Enforcement Board, most of these changes will be the responsibility of PDS and the Joint Code Enforcement Board.

Mayor Reinersman called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-O-11 which amends procedures of the code enforcement board and supplements Ordinance 2015-O-20 and section 93 of the Independence Code of Ordinances. Council Member Bushong so moved, with a second by Council Member Brinker. Roll was called and answered unanimously. Motion carried 6-0.

Proposed Ordinance – Enacting New Nuisance Ordinance

Mayor Reinersman presented a proposed Ordinance which repeals section 93 of the Independence Code of Ordinances and Ordinance No. 2015-O-20, each of which are the current nuisance ordinances, and enacts a new nuisance ordinance.

Mr. Gatlin gave the proposed ordinance a first reading. He stated this ordinance would repeal and replace Ordinance No. 2015-O-20. Mr. Gatlin stated the new ordinance is a collaboration from several cities in Northern Kentucky. He stated the fowl ordinance and ATV ordinance will be included in the new updated nuisance ordinance. Mr. Gatlin stated in line with HB 422, all violations will be civil fines.

Attorney’s Report – Jack Gatlin

Mr. Gatlin stated a joint mini cell tower ordinance is in conversations with several cities.

City Administrator Report – Chris Moriconi

Mr. Moriconi stated Rumpke will be providing fall leaf pick up during the service weeks of October 24, November 7 and November 28. He stated Pelly Rd will be repaved in the near future.

Council Member Franzen suggested when Pelly Road is repaved, if the speed humps could also be painted yellow to help stand out to help drivers see them.

Mayor’s Report – Christopher J. Reinersman

Mayor Reinersman stated the annual Christmas Walk is coming up the first weekend of December. He stated anyone interested in participating in the parade with a float, more information on the Independence Business Association’s website.

Mayor Reinersman stated Pelly Road Bridge is open 80% and hopeful it will be fully open within a week. He stated his appreciation for Public Works, city engineer, Kenton County Public Works, Senator Thayer who helped increase the Municipal Road Aid to \$100,000 toward the rebuild. Mayor Reinersman reminded citizens to be considerate of the 25 mile an hour speed limit on Pelly Road.

Mayor Reinersman stated he spoke to the third graders at Beechgrove Elementary a couple of weeks ago and they sent him a special thank you card.

He stated he is working with Rusty Mardis with Tri-state Veterans Alliance and in partner with Kentucky Veterans Department of Affairs, they want to pilot a program and send one of their staff to Northern Kentucky a couple days a month to work with veterans. He stated program will be using an open office two days a week at the city building and the project is expected to begin in November.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Council Member Franzen and seconded by Council Member Deaton to adjourn. Motion carried with all ayes and the meeting ended at 7:48 p.m.

Christopher J. Reinersman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gina Gabbard, City Clerk