

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of September 12, 2016

City of Independence, Ky.

Opening

The City Council of the City of Independence, Kentucky met on Monday, September 12, 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. Mayor Reinersman stated one of the city's Park Board Members Darren Daly passed away suddenly and asked for a moment of silence in his honor. 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 Police Chief Tony Lucas.

Approval of the August 15, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

Mayor Reinersman stated he previously asked Mrs. Gabbard to make a couple of corrections on the minutes prior to the meeting which have been made and Council has the updated version in their packets. He asked Council if there were any changes or corrections they would like made to the Council Minutes for the special meeting on August 15, 2016.

Mayor Reinersman called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the Special Meeting held on August 15, 2016. Council Member Yeager so moved, with a second by Council Member Brinker. Roll was called and answered unanimously. Motion carried 6-0.

Introduction of New Independence Fire Chief

Mayor Reinersman introduced the new Independence Fire Chief Scott Breeze. He stated Fire Chief Messingschlager retired on August 1, 2016 and Mr. Breeze was the assistant under Chief Messingschlager.

Fire Chief Breeze addressed council. He stated he has been an Independence resident his entire life and has been a member of the Fire Department since 1995. Chief Breeze stated he is excited about the direction the department is headed in and is thankful for everything Chief Messingschlager did while he was with the department.

Police Recognitions – Promotion of John Lonaker and Swearing in New Recruit Adam Strine

Mayor Reinersman swore in New Police Recruit Adam Strine. The Mayor stated Mr. Strine will start the Police Academy in October.

Mayor Reinersman presented a plaque to newly appointed Assistant Police Chief John Lonaker.

Mayor Reinersman stated his appreciation to the Explorers for helping out with the St. Cecelia festival over Labor Day weekend with directing traffic and earned a donation for the Explorer program.

Ordinance No. 2016-O-10 – Adopting 2016 Property Tax Rates – 2nd Reading

Mayor Reinersman presented Ordinance No. 2016-O-10 which adopts the property tax rates for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2017. He stated the real property tax rate will be 0.271 and the personal property rate will stay at 0.642.

Mr. Gatlin gave Ordinance No. 2016-O-10 a second reading. He stated Ordinance No. 2016-O-10 adopts the tax rate for real property at \$0.271 for each one hundred dollars of the assessed value and the personal property tax rate at \$0.642 for each one hundred dollars of the assessed value. Mr. Gatlin stated the taxes are due by December 31, 2016 and are subject to 15% penalty and 6% interest if paid after December 31, 2016. He stated if taxes are paid prior to November 1, 2016, there will be a 2% discount.

Al Daly, 10330 Limerick Circle, Independence, KY stated the new real property rate of 0.271 is an increase of 6.69%. Mr. Daly asked what the new total expected revenue would be with the increased rate and what happens to the excess revenue.

Mayor Reinersman stated it was approximately \$400,000 in additional revenue. He stated the 2016/2017 budget increase includes \$100,000 towards the new digital radios, Pelly Road Bridge and a \$250,000 increase in the roads budget. Mayor Reinersman stated when he took office as Mayor, he asked the City Engineer to evaluate city streets and the report estimated the city would need to spend \$1.2 million per year to stay on top of street repairs. He stated the city has a reserves fund for unexpected situations and recently have used some of those on the Holton Drive resurfacing project.

Mayor Reinersman called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-O-10 which adopts the 2016 fiscal year real property tax rate at 0.271 and the personal property rate at 0.642. Council Member Bushong so moved, with a second by Council Member Deaton. Roll was called and answered unanimously. Motion carried 6-0.

Proposed Ordinance – Code Enforcement Amendment – 1st Reading

Mayor Reinersman presented to Council proposed ordinance 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 the proposed ordinance a first 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.

Council Member Deaton asked where the reimbursement monies come from to Joint Code Enforcement Board Members for participating on the board. Mayor Reinersman stated Board Members receive a stipend and it comes from PDS's budget, not from the city.

Council Member Franzen stated the city's previous Code Enforcement Board had issues with attendance and were unable to form a quorum for meetings. Mr. Gatlin stated the training is critical for Code Enforcement Board Members because there are statutory requirements for training.

Chris Moriconi stated a model nuisance ordinance will be presented in the coming months which relates to this issue.

Attorney's Report – Jack Gatlin

Mr. Gatlin stated on his website for his own law firm, a picture of the Independence courthouse is featured on the main banner page.

City Administrator Report – Chris Moriconi

Mr. Moriconi stated the Public Works Department currently has two separate crews working on two different projects in the city with a new employee recently added to the department.

Mayor's Report – Christopher J. Reinersman

Mayor Reinersman stated the Kenton County Farm Tour is going on Saturday, September 17th and the Independence Farmers Market is the first stop. He stated there will be a biscuits and gravy eating contest at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Reinersman stated the Parks and Recreation Department has several events going on such as belly dancing on Wednesday nights, Arts Unkorked which is a painting activity that you can bring your own wine held on Friday September 23rd and True Crimes in Independence sponsored by the William Durr Library are held on October 3, 10 and 17 and need to register on library's website.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Council Member Franzen and seconded by Council Member Bushong to adjourn. Motion carried with all ayes and the meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Christopher J. Reinersman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gina Gabbard, City Clerk