

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of May 18, 2009

City of Independence, Ky.

Opening

The City Council of the City of Independence, Kentucky held a Special Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Independence Municipal Center, 5409 Madison Pike, Independence, Kentucky with Mayor Christian J. Moriconi presiding. Mayor Moriconi called the meeting to order. Roll was called and the following Council Members registered present: Mary Pat Behler, Jim Bushong, Margaret Cook, Carol Franzen, Mike Little and Donna Yeager. Also present was City Attorney, Jed K. Deters.

Purpose of the Special Meeting

Mayor Moriconi announced this special meeting of the City Council was called to discuss the following agenda items:

- Independence Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) Report - Chairman Rodney Crise & Chris Reinersman
- Proposed Ordinance – Adopt Amended 2008-2009 Budget – 1st Reading
- Proposed Ordinance – Adopt 2009-2010 Budget – 1st Reading
- Proposed Ordinance – Adopt Pay & Classification Plan – 1st Reading
- Resolution No. 2009-R-08 - Approving A Homeland Security Grant Application for Building Department Equipment
- Executive Session in accordance with KRS 61.810 (if necessary)
- Adjournment

Independence Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) Report - Chairman Rodney Crise & Chris Reinersman

Mayor Moriconi stated that a primary purpose of this special meeting was to give the Independence Strategic Action Committee members an opportunity to present to Council reports on various projects on which they have been working. He thanked the members and stated he appreciates all their time and efforts.

Rodney Crise, Chairman of ISAC, provided an overview of the Small Area Study the City conducted a couple years ago which has been the foundation for their work. Two of the recommendations of the Study was to form a strategic action committee and hire a City Administrator, both of which have been accomplished. He stated they have focused their efforts on a few areas of implementation and thus formed four sub-committees which are Historic Preservation, Beautification, Design Guidelines and Zoning Updates. He stated that last year the Committee conducted a citizen survey and received 365 responses and they had a booth at the July 4th Celebration to get the word out about their committee and solicit new members. Additional areas of discussion this past year include the need for the City to provide funds in the annual budget so they could conduct surveys, purchase wayfinding signage, etc. and the establishment of a tree board. He stated they have also discussed pursuing a form-based zoning code which would ensure that new development would be appropriate to community vision or existing character, which would approach guidelines per the Study. He stated that NKAPC stand ready to assist their efforts in adopting a form-based zoning code. Mr. Crise also reported that they have submitted a Wayfinding and Signage Plan which would establish a City brand and sense of identity. He stated they have proposed a strategy for the signage program and made recommendations for project phasing on page ten of the Wayfinding and Signage report.

In closing Mr. Crise stated the committee is proposing three recommendations to the Council: 1) establish a budget of \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year to fund consultant fees, capital improvements, signage, etc.; 2) adopt a Resolution to re-name the area around the courthouse as "Courthouse Square", and 3) engage the NKAPC staff to draft a form-based zoning code for the City.

Mayor Moriconi commented that his proposed 2009/2010 budget contains a \$10,000 line item account for a monument sign at McCullum and SR17. He questioned the Committee's recommendation to install another sign close to that one. A lengthy discussion ensued with the Mayor and Council regarding the Committee's recommendations and reports they submitted. Council members liked the signage and wayfinding plan but some expressed concern with the cost and suggested it would have to be distributed over a period of several years. Re-naming the area around the courthouse was also discussed in depth with Council Member Yeager expressing concern about separate identities for the County and City governments. Another topic of discussion was the establishment of a TIF (tax increment financing) District that could be used as a recruiting tool to get businesses to locate in the downtown business area. A commercial asset analysis report was presented by Dr. Gary A. Mattson which is very detailed, but Council Member Behler commented there was no mention in the report of the present economic downturn. ISAC members stated they discussed this and are trying to take a "glass one-half full" perspective as there are no great solutions.

Mayor Moriconi commented that these reports are great work done by volunteers. He suggested that if Council had questions of Dr. Mattson's report that he would get those questions to him.

Chris Reinersman, member of ISAC, reported on the Historic Preservation sub-committee's work. He stated they met with long-time residents to get their memories recorded. He advised they got great information which was taped and TBNK will compile the tapes, edit them and put a video together for the City. It will be made available on the City website and public library. He said they are working hard on getting more events in the old downtown area. They were able to convince the Simon Kenton High School's Farmers Market to move to the Courthouse location. The committee would also like to see some building façade and streetscape improvements in the area. They will look into possible grants that might be available to fund the projects.

Mr. Paul Metzger of ISAC reported they are proposing that a Steering Committee be established to oversee the completion of the various projects they would like to see implemented.

Mr. Crice introduced two new members of ISAC – Scott Wells and Brian Davis. Mr. Crice stated they will replace members that had to resign.

The Council Members thanked the ISAC members for all their hard work and impressive reports. Mayor Moriconi commented that the reports were very detailed and organized. He also asked Council to begin thinking about adopting an official resolution in the coming months to adopt a name for the downtown area.

Proposed Ordinance – Adopt Amended 2008-2009 Budget – 1st Reading

Mayor Moriconi presented to Council for a first reading a proposed ordinance that would amend the 2008/09 budget. He asked Council if they had any questions. There being no discussion, Mr. Deters read the proposed ordinance.

Proposed Ordinance – Adopt 2009-2010 Budget – 1st Reading

Mayor Moriconi presented to Council for a first reading a proposed ordinance that would adopt a budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. In his prepared budget message he stated that this budget would provide important infrastructure improvements for streets such as Carrie Way and the replacement of the Crowe Road bridge. He stated that core samples taken from the bridge came back positive and bids will soon be requested for the tear down of the current bridge and the construction of a new single lane steel bridge. His prepared budget message also stated that the proposed budget would provide for matching funds should the City be awarded the grants for sidewalks in the vicinity of Simon Kenton High School and new basketball courts in Memorial Park. Mayor Moriconi asked Council if they had any questions before the first reading.

Council Member Little commented that he would like to budget funds to have an overhead projector/screen installed in the Council Chambers. He said it could run as much as \$10,000.00, but believes it could be a benefit to everyone and would be available when developers make presentations to the Council. Mr. Groth advised he could get a cost estimate together before the second reading of the budget.

Council Member Little stated that he is impressed with the work that ISAC has done and would like to see an initial investment in the budget so the Committee could move forward with their projects. Mr. Groth stated that the proposed budget has a \$10,000 line item to begin purchasing signage as recommended by ISAC. He stated that if a TIF (tax increment financing) district is established next year then it could be in the 2010/11 budget. Council Member Little said he did not want to see the Committee's plan die for lack of funding. Mayor Moriconi suggested the \$10,000 allotment in the proposed budget could be used for a City monument sign and the historic survey.

Discussion among the Council Members then centered on options to generate revenue to help fund the recommendations presented in the reports submitted by ISAC. Revenue sources discussed included a restaurant tax, unit fee for rental property and alcohol license fees.

There being no further discussion about the proposed budget, Mr. Deters gave the ordinance a first reading.

Proposed Ordinance – Adopt Pay & Classification Plan – 1st Reading

Mayor Moriconi presented for a first reading a proposed ordinance that will adopt a Pay and Classification Plan for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. There being no questions or comments from the Council Members, Mr. Deters read the proposed ordinance.

Resolution No. 2009-R-08 - Approving A Homeland Security Grant Application for Building Department Equipment

Mayor Moriconi presented to Council Resolution No. 2009-R-08 that would authorize the application for a grant from the Office of Homeland Security and entering into an agreement for said grant if awarded to the City. Mayor Moriconi advised the City would be applying for 100% funding, so there would be no matching portion from the City. Mr. Deters read Resolution No. 2009-R-08.

Council Member Bushong moved to adopt Resolution No. 2009-R-08, seconded by Council Member Franzen. Roll was called and answered unanimously. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Council Member Behler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Franzen. Motion carried with all ayes and the meeting ended at 8:31 p.m.

Christian J. Moriconi, Mayor

Attest:

Patricia H. Taney, City Clerk