



REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
February 25, 2021

Department Administration

Director Approval *Kelly Passauer*

AGENDA ITEM Consider adopting a resolution declaring a financial emergency relating to anticipated high utility bills due to prolonged sub-zero wind chills.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND Administrative staff met with the Montgomery County Emergency Manager and watched a live video from the League of Kansas Municipalities last Friday regarding the potential for higher rates than normal for natural gas and/or electricity. The League recommended adopting a resolution declaring a financial emergency. Montgomery County passed such a declaration on February 22, 2021 and City staff is recommending the City do this as well. Passage of Emergency Declarations could become important if aid becomes available.

SUGGESTED MOTION I move to adopt a resolution declaring a financial emergency relating to anticipated high utility bills due to prolonged sub-zero wind chills.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS Resolution

Resolution No. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY;

WHEREAS, over a two-week period in February, low temperatures with sub-zero wind chills over several days accompanied by snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the state have caused stress to the energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, communities across the state including the City saw an increase in the demand for natural gas and electricity; and

WHEREAS, the cost to purchase natural gas exceeded 10 – 200 times the normal prices; and

WHEREAS, without emergency action, the increased prices required to purchase natural gas and/or electricity will result in significantly higher than normal utility bills for the citizens of the City threatening the financial health, and the physical welfare of the City's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Kansas declared a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation within the state on February 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Montgomery County, Kansas declared a State of Local Disaster Emergency within the county on February 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Independence, in response to the situation desires to place the public on notice that it is exploring every avenue of relief and is declaring an extraordinary local state of financial emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE:

As of February 25, 2021 the City of Independence is in an extraordinary financial emergency.

This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

This resolution shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

ADOPTED this 25th day of February 2021 and **SIGNED** by the Mayor.

Louis Ysus, Mayor

Attested:

David Schwenker, City Clerk