

## Minutes of the Independence City Commission's March 20, 2019 Special Meeting

The Independence City Commission met for a special meeting on March 20, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. in the Veterans Room at the Memorial Hall. Mayor Louis Ysusi, Commissioner Gary Hogsett and Commissioner Leonhard Caflisch were present. Others present included:

### **City Staff**

Craig Whitehead, City Manager  
Kelly Passauer, Assistant City Manager  
Lacey Lies, Director of Finance  
David Schwenker, City Clerk/City Treasurer  
David Cowan, Director of Public Safety  
Shawn Wallis, Fire Chief  
April Nutt, Director of Housing Authority  
Jerry Harrison, Police Chief  
Terry Lybarger, Director of Utilities  
Mike Passauer, Public Works Director  
Barb Beurskens, Park and Zoo Director  
Barry Beurskens, Maintenance

### **Visitors**

Ellie Davis  
Dean Hayse  
Larry McHugh  
Larry McManus, Montgomery County Commissioner

#### I. SPECIAL SESSION

##### A. Call to Order

Mayor Ysusi called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

#### II. WORKSESSION

##### A. Discussion with Montgomery County Commissioner Larry McManus.

Mayor Ysusi welcomed Commissioner McManus and asked if he had any opening statements he would like to make.

Commissioner McManus said he was not prepared to make any statements.

Commissioner Caflisch discussed about the possibility of cooperating and sharing services with other municipalities and the county but wanted to go Commission to Commission and get ideas and see where we can consolidate or share services.

Commissioner McManus said the County could share heavy equipment. Public Works Director Passauer noted that when the County does work for the

City there is a cost associated with that.

Commissioner Cafilisch noted that all costs need to be looked at to see which idea is more feasible.

Director Passauer noted that when the City and County are performing the same job using the same equipment the work must be coordinated and it would be easier to own their own equipment.

Commissioner Cafilisch noted that it was a definite advantage to own your own equipment and that ideas need to be thrown out there for discussion. The Commissioner then inquired about the possibility of sharing an engineer with the County and other Cities in the County.

City Manager Whitehead noted that you must look at the pros and cons of consolidation and to be careful that your level of service is not degraded by whatever consolidation you are talking about. He noted that consolidating dispatch was looked at several years ago and it was quite expensive.

Commissioner Cafilisch said the one thing you do with brain storming you don't consider the negatives, you look at options and evaluate each option independently.

City Manager Whitehead said at one time there was a committee that consisted of other City Managers and staff that met once a month to come up with ideas like those talked about today and suggested maybe starting that up again.

Commissioner Cafilisch suggested the possibility of having that same committee at the Commissioner level.

Mayor Ysusi asked if there is a county in Kansas that has one dispatch.

Chief Harrison noted that Riley County is the only County Police Department. He went on to say that he is gathering information on a feasibility look at consolidated dispatch and his goal is to have that done in 2019.

City Manager Whitehead talked about his experience with a countywide dispatch.

Chief Harrison noted that a decision shouldn't be made without research.

Commissioner Cafilisch talked about the need develop a program that does not diminish the level of service and to come together for a solution and no matter what we are looking at, our goal is to improve services to everybody.

Assistant City Manager Passauer advised that they had collaborated on training, such as Cybersecurity training towards the end of the year in lieu of a meeting. Also, with the change of the administration in two of the cities, they haven't met yet this year. She indicated that they had previously discussed several of the items brought up. She stated it would be good to get direction from the Commissions on specific topics to discuss, so that there is a set agenda with topics to discuss as we do want to value everyone's time and ensure the meetings are productive.

Commissioner Hogsett suggested the possibility of sharing an engineer with the County and the other cities in the county.

Commissioner McManus said the City and County work well together and do a lot of things together behind the scenes.

Commissioner Caflisch if Assistant City Manager Passauer could develop a list of the items that were discussed and provide it to the County Commissioners and have copies available for meetings with other City Commissioners.

Mayor Ysusi thanked Commissioner McManus for attending.

B. Street concerns.

Mayor Ysusi inquired about the timeline of repairs and have the most critical streets been identified.

Director Passauer stated that Main Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> is most critical.

There was discussion about what to do with the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Maple and where the water problems are.

Mayor Ysusi asked about the long-range plan for addressing potholes.

Director Passauer noted that there is a short time frame to make hot patch repairs and he is at someone else's mercy on getting hot asphalt.

Commissioner Caflisch said he had citizens complain that when a street is opened sometimes it takes a year or two to repair it and wondered if it would be better to fix it with concrete.

Director Passauer noted that concrete works on utility patches because they are deeper.

Director Lybarger noted the utility department causes a lot of the holes and they get busy repairing leaks and do not always coordinate with the street

department and he has talked with his staff about this.

Mayor Ysusi inquired about water line replacement.

Director Lybarger said that he has twelve years of water line projects laid out.

City Manager Whitehead talked about the long-term capital plan for streets and water/sewer line replacement.

Mayor Ysusi thanked Director Lybarger for his information.

Commissioner Cafilisch talked about street projects scheduled for this year.

Director Passauer talked about the proposed street projects for this year and their estimated costs.

Assistant City Manager Passauer showed a map of the streets that were resurfaced in 2018 as well as the projects scheduled for 2019.

Mayor Ysusi asked that this information be forwarded to the Commissioners.

C. ADA concerns.

Director Cowan handed out a draft ADA plan to the Commissioners and reported that this was an assessment of ADA concerns with possible costs.

Commissioner Cafilisch discussed the guidelines for providing curb ramps and inquired of Director Cowan if he has identified all the altered streets where no ramps were provided.

Director Cowan said those would be identified.

Commissioner Hogsett inquired about the downtown sidewalk project in 1997 and why it stopped before 9<sup>th</sup> and Main.

Commissioner Cafilisch noted that there were some issues with streetscape that didn't comply with ADA and that issue should have been fixed in 1997.

D. Other concerns and issues.

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Caflich moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hogsett seconded.**

**Aye: Ysusi, Caflich, Hogsett**

**Nay: None**

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Louis Ysusi, Mayor

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Leonhard Caflich, Commissioner

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Gary Hogsett, Commissioner

Attest:

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City Clerk/Treasurer