

City of Independence

Administrative Report

June 7, 2019



City Manager's Office

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Success is a collection of problems solved.

– I.M. Pei, architect

Mayor Ysusi and Commission Members:

Upcoming Meetings:

June 13, 2019	5:30 p.m.	City Commission Meeting
June 19, 2019	9:00 a.m.	Special Commission Work Session
June 27, 2019	5:30 p.m.	City Commission Meeting
July 11, 2019	5:30 p.m.	City Commission Meeting
July 17, 2019	9:00 a.m.	Special Commission Work Session
July 25, 2019	5:30 p.m.	City Commission Meeting

Administration

Human Resources

Applications are being received at KansasWorks, 317 N. Penn and on the City's website <http://www.independenceks.gov/jobs.aspx> for the positions of Police Officer I, Dispatcher I, Firefighter I/EMT, Firefighter I/MICT (Paramedic). Applications for cemetery (seasonal) and a CDL for sanitation are being accepted at Express Personnel, 2009 North Penn Avenue (620-331-6200).



Memorial Hall Activities (June 4-7, 2019)

Tuesday Planning
Commission/Board of Zoning
Appeals; Bridge Club;

Friday First Friday; and
60's Club

Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals

The Planning Commission met on June 4, 2019 at 5:30 PM in the Veterans Room of Memorial Hall. They recommended rezoning an 8.5 acre tract located in the Airport Industrial Park and a 39 acre tract in the West Laurel Industrial Park to M-2, Heavy Industrial. These tracts were perviously annexed into the City and are either owned or are being purchased by the City. Members from Montgomery County Action Council appeared in support of the rezoning for future economic development opportunities.



The Planning Commission also recommended a text amendment adding the following definition; “Short term rentals -- means a property or space offered for rent to transient guest(s) for overnight stays consisting of 30 consecutive days or less that is not located in a hotel, tourist court, or motel.” This new definition would cover ventures such as AirBnB’s that do not already fit in the current use table.

In addition, they also recommended modifying the permitted and conditional use table relating to “Bed and breakfast”, “Boarding and rooming houses” and a new use entitled “Short term rentals not elsewhere listed” as follows (recommended changes shown in yellow):

Proposed Land Use Category	Permitted Zoning District													
	A-1	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	O/P	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	M-2	
Bed and breakfast	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	P	P	P			
Boarding and rooming houses	C	C	C	C	PC	PC	C	C	P	P	P			
Short term rentals not elsewhere listed	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	P	P	P			

The Board of Zoning Appeals approved a request from Sidney Pouncil at 507 Sinclair Drive to reduce the west sideyard setback 6’, from 8’ to 2’ to construct a building.

Police

Stats from May 31, 2019 through June 7, 2019

911 Calls	252	Facebook Followers	6,860
Total Reports	34	Total Calls to Dispatch	1,484
Car Crashes	4	Citations/Warnings	12

Weekly Update IPD spent 10 hours in stand-offs with armed/barricaded suspects at two separate incidents on Thursday. Interviews were conducted for the administrative aide with the goal of making a selection by late next week. Chief Harrison presented at First Friday; the topic was what IPD is doing about what ought not be happening in Independence. Then Officer Hilary Cook was awarded a Kansas House of Representatives Resolution for her actions, earning her a Silver Valor/Life Saving Award from the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police. Also, the Mason’s Lodge and Dairy Queen presented large donations to the canine fund; in addition, Chief Harrison received unofficial notification of a large donation/grant from an area organization this week. IPD hopes to make the announcement next week. Melissa Adey and Bridget Hammer attended the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System (KCJIS) Conference this week.

Employee Spotlight Special thanks to the following officers for their efforts involving stand-offs with two violent individuals being taken into custody safely on Thursday. The performance of these personnel demonstrate teamwork and commitment. Some of the officers were at one or both incidents and others came in to protect the rest of the city:Sgt.

Christina Johnson
Sgt. Dustin Taylor
Sgt. Jason Reddy
Detective Mark Vining
Detective Derek Bryant
School Resource Officer Dustin Stafford
Canine Handler Ty Lupardus
Officer Hilary Cook

Officer Ike Dye
Officer Daniel Bowers
Officer John Anderson
Officer Shane Collins
Dispatcher Bridget Hammer
Dispatcher CJ Allen
Dispatcher Donna Delacruz

Fire/EMS

This week we have been training on a condemned house located at 517 W. Chestnut that had been involved in a fire. We trained on forcible entry, rescue, breaching walls and Tower operations. We also did some search and rescue training in the department using a blacked-out mask (As seen Below).



June 3rd & 4th- Captains Keith Copithke and Marcus Hamilton attended the Company Officer Academy at Parsons Fire School and returned with some valuable information.

Our call Volume at this time is at 44 Medicals, one Smoke Investigation, one Helicopter Stand-By, one Structure Fire, one Gas Leak, and two Stand Off Stand-Bys.

Public Works

Recycling Weekly recycling was held June 4th with 55 participants.

Parks and Zoo

Zoo Update We have hired a new zookeeper, Travis Edrington from Atlanta, Georgia. His first day was Tuesday, June 4th. We are excited to have a new member to our staff and look forward to more great ideas and improvements to our zoo.

Park Last weekend we celebrated Miss Able's 60th Anniversary of her contribution to the exploration of space. On May 28th, 1959 at Cape Canaveral Florida using a Jupiter rocket Miss Able which was born here at Ralph Mitchell Zoo and Miss Baker went into space at a speed of 10,000 miles per hour traveling 1700 miles in 16 minutes reaching an altitude of 360 miles; being the first animals sent into space returning alive. Miss Able and Miss Baker were pioneers for the space program.

To celebrate here at the park and zoo we had a Morning Monkey Run, Monkey See, Monkey Do Kids Obstacle Course and a Moon Walk at the oval.

Concession Stand is doing great especially with our new addition of a slushy machine. It has been a hit with the kids. They set up at First Thursday to promote the concessions stand selling cotton candy, popcorn and hotdogs. Hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Cemetery It certainly was a challenge this year with all the rain to prepare for the Memorial Weekend. Jim and his crew did a great job making the cemetery look good despite the weather. Memorial Service was held at the East Open 4H Building due to the wet conditions at the cemetery.

Safety and Code Enforcement

Safety Director & Code Enforcement – Week ending June 7, 2019

Healthcare Update

Ambulance Activities for 2019 **1,111 responses for 2019**

Ambulance Activities for June 2019 – **45 Requests for EMS**

- **14** patients transported to the emergency room
 - **12** patients to Independence ER
 - **2** patients to WCMC
- **8** transfers from the Independence Emergency Room
 - **2** patients to Jane Phillips
 - **4** patients to Labette Health
 - **1** patient to Tulsa
 - **1** patient to Kansas City

Code Enforcement & Building Inspection

Code Enforcement

- Code Enforcement Officer Mark McCleary has started the process of going back through the City addressing environmental issues including tall grass, trash and debris in the yards. Violations will be issued an environmental notice with a time frame to come into compliance or be summoned to municipal court.
- Contact information for code enforcement is: 620.714.1758 or markc@independenceks.gov
- Do You Have Flood Damage? If you have flood damage and Don Cushing hasn't made contact with you, please contact Don Cushing at 620.332.2541 or inspector@independenceks.gov
- FEMA – City Staff continues to work with Emergency Preparedness Manager Rick Whitson and State Officials. FEMA will be gathering information to determine the amount of damage in Montgomery County. City staff are compiling damage estimates to city property, equipment used cost, and personnel cost during the recent flood events.

Emergency Preparedness

- The City Leadership team conducted a Hot-Wash review of the recent flooding event and our emergency response. At the meeting was Rick Whitson and Lee Miller with Montgomery County Emergency Management. Items discussed were making sure call list were updated, backups for measuring water height at the river, social media, providing a phone number for the public to call and ask questions.
- Westar met with David Cowan, Shawn Wallis and April Nutt on Friday and we reviewed the response to the flood along with ongoing projects within the City of Independence.
- Citizens are reminded that storm sirens are used to warn the public when they are outdoors. Citizens should register to Independence Civic Ready at <https://www.independenceks.gov/342/Emergency-Management>
 - Citizens can also have a storm radio alert for their homes
 - Follow the City of Independence Facebook pages
 - City of Independence
 - Independence Police Dept.
 - Independence Fire-EMS
- Storm Shelters are located at:
 - Basement at City Hall – 811 W. Laurel – enter on the West side of the building
 - Montgomery County Judicial Center – 300 E. Main
 - Memorial Hall – weekdays 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Utilities

Attached to this document is an update of the Water Treatment Facility Upgrade Project prepared by Sarah Unruh.

Just for Fun!



“Will work schedules be revised? Will Finance change their policies? Will Project X be canceled? Don’t miss next week’s staff meeting.”

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

D. Craig Whitehead
City Manager