

INDEPENDENCE CITY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

August 1, 2023

1:30 PM

Civic Center Memorial Hall

To participate by conference call:
1 785-289-4727 Conference ID: 103 104 240#

The Agenda shall be as follows:

- I. SPECIAL SESSION
 - A. Call to Order
- II. ITEMS FOR COMMISSION ACTION
 - A. Consider adopting a resolution implementing Stage 1 (Water Watch) of the City's Water Conservation Plan.
- III. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - A. Personnel matters of non-elected personnel.
- IV. ADJOURNMENT



REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
August 1, 2023

Department Public Works & Utilities

Director Approval John Garris

AGENDA ITEM Consider adopting a resolution implementing Stage 1 (Water Watch) of the City's Water Conservation Plan.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION Adopt a resolution implementing Stage 1 (Water Watch) per the City's Water Conservation Plan.

BACKGROUND City staff visited with the State, which implemented a Water Watch yesterday. Due to the current drought conditions as per our Water Conservation Plan, the City needs to implement Stage 1 (Water Watch). The goals of this stage are to heighten awareness of the public on water conditions and to maintain the integrity of the water supply system. This stage will initiate regulatory actions that ask the public to curtail some outdoor water use and efficiently use indoor water, i.e., wash full loads, take short showers, don't let faucets run, etc.

The City will implement the following management actions:

1. Leaks will be repaired within 48 hours of detection.
2. System pressure will be maintained below 80 pounds per square inch.
3. The City will monitor its use of water and will curtail activities such as hydrant flushing and street cleaning.
4. Leaking valves and hydrants will be repaired immediately.

The City will also take the following educational actions:

1. The City will make occasional news releases to the local media describing present conditions and indicating the water supply outlook for the upcoming season.
2. Previous month summaries of precipitation, temperature, water levels and storage will be made public at the beginning of each month.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION The financial impact will be reduced water utility revenue due to voluntarily reduced water usage. The goal is to reduce water consumption by 10%.

SUGGESTED MOTION I move to adopt a resolution implementing Stage 1 (Water Watch) of the City's Water Conservation Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. RESOLUTION 2023-039 - WATER WATCH
2. Draft Press Release

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-039

Declaration of Water Watch

Whereas, the Governing Body of the City of Independence, Kansas, find that conditions indicate that the probability of a drought or some other condition causing a major water supply shortage is rising declares that a water watch exists and that it will take steps to inform the public and ask for voluntary reductions in water use.

And Whereas, such watch shall be deemed to continue until it is declared by resolution of the governing body to have ended. The resolutions declaring the existence and end of a water watch shall be effective upon their publication in the official city newspaper.

Now Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Independence, Kansas that a water watch exists in the City of Independence, Kansas, until further notice.

Adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Independence, Kansas, on the 1st day of August, 2023.

LOUIS YSUSI, Mayor

ATTEST:

DAVID W. SCHWENKER, City Clerk



August 1, 2023

For Immediate Release

City, State entering “Water Watch”

Persistent dry weather conditions have prompted the State of Kansas to issue a “Water Watch” declaration for Elk City Reservoir, and the City of Independence is following suit by implementing water conservation practices and suggesting voluntary conservation by citizens.

The objective of a “Water Watch” is to heighten public awareness related to current water supply conditions.

City Engineer John Garris explained this stage of the watch is simply an effort to remind all users to give extra consideration to the amount of water used in daily activities.

“At the City, we will be making some adjustments to our routine water usage to help conserve our resources while we await cooler fall temperatures and much-needed rain,” Garris said.

He explained the City will take extra steps toward conservation, including:

- Monitoring internal water use and delaying hydrant flushing, street cleaning and non-essential usage;
- Maintaining water system pressure below 80psi; and
- Ensuring all water leaks are repaired within a 48-hour standard.

Garris noted there are several ways citizens may choose to voluntarily support water conservation, such as taking shorter showers, washing only full loads of laundry and dishes, limiting vehicle washing and not letting faucets run unnecessarily. Citizens are encouraged to promptly report any water leaks by calling 620-332-2507, but reporting water usage by neighbors or businesses is not necessary as all conservation measures are entirely voluntary. Garris noted that the goal at this stage was to reduce water consumption by 10 percent.

The City will keep the public updated as drought and water supply conditions change and will provide a monthly summary of water-related information. Citizens also are encouraged to follow the City’s Facebook page for more tips on water conservation.

“The Water Watch is not a cause for alarm, but simply a reminder for us all to be responsible water users,” Garris said. “As we previously have explained, Elk City Reservoir, which is a primary source for our water supply from the Verdigris River, is projected to have sufficient capacity for downstream water users most drought scenarios, even those lasting multiple years. Water supply for our citizens and future customers today and for years to come is not currently in question, especially if we all pitch in and conserve during times of drought.”

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