

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

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

City Staff

Tim Emert, City Attorney
Kelly Passauer, Assistant City Manager/Zoning Administrator
David Schwenker, City Clerk/City Treasurer
Mike Passauer, Public Works Director
Shawn Wallis, Fire/EMS Chief
Terry Lybarger, Director of Utilities
April Nutt, Director of Housing Authority
Jerry Harrison, Police Chief
Barb Beurskens, Park and Zoo Director
Lacey Lies, Finance Director
Barry Beurskens, Memorial Hall Maintenance
Brian McHugh, Memorial Hall Supervisor

Visitors

Taina Copeland
Larry McHugh
Glenna Lawrence
Ron Lawrence
Chuck Goad
Lavonda Cotton
Jason Curtis
Wayne Stephany
Anthony Royse
Norman Chambers
Jon Risner
Lori Kelley
Jim Correll
Dean Hayse
Tabatha Snodgrass
Trisha Purdon
Susan Scovel

I. SPECIAL SESSION

A. Call to Order

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

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II. ITEMS FOR COMMISSION ACTION

A. Appropriations

1. A-1851
2. P-1823

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Hogsett the Commission approved the appropriations as stated.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

B. Consider approving the minutes of the September 12, 2019 City Commission Meeting.

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Caflisch the Commission approved the minutes of the September 12, 2019 City Commission Meeting.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

C. Consider a request from Susan Scovel to rename the Memorial Hall Auditorium after Independence native and Neewollah revivalist Jim Halsey to be called the Halsey Performing Arts Center.

Susan Scovel requested that the Memorial Hall auditorium be renamed in honor of Jim Halsey. She also read a letter of support from an unidentified veteran and provided a letter of support from the local VFW Commander which is attached to these minutes.

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Mayor Ysusi invited Glenna Lawrence to speak about her concerns.

Glenna Lawrence read a letter from Kathy Shephard saying that it would be disrespectful to rename any room in the building which was built to honor the veterans who died for our freedom. Mrs. Lawrence asked that this item be tabled until a committee could be formed to look at the matter.

Mayor Ysusi noted that he understood both sides of this issue and noted that the VFW and American Legion did not have any opposition to renaming the auditorium.

Susan Scovel noted the reason for the urgency is due to Mr. Halsey's age and the upcoming concert with the Oak Ridge Boys.

Commissioner Caflisch believes that the original integrity of the building should be preserved and that renaming a specific area is a little more appropriate than renaming it a Performing Arts Center.

Mayor Ysusi does not think that renaming the auditorium will disrespect the veterans.

Commissioner Caflisch stated that he would be supportive in naming the auditorium after Jim Halsey.

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Caflisch the Commission approved the request to rename the Memorial Hall Auditorium to the Jim Halsey Auditorium.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

Mayor Ysusi called for a 10-minute recess to set up for the joint discussion with the Economic Development Advisory Board with the meeting reconvening at 9:35 A.M.

The meeting reconvened at 9:37 A.M.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Joint discussion with the Economic Development Advisory Board.

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Mayor Ysusi welcomed the members and everyone introduced themselves.

Mayor Ysusi stated that he would like to see the Committee come up with ideas that would attract other businesses to relocate to Independence.

Commissioner Cafilisch noted that the first task for the Committee would be to get organized and elect a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary and then establish a meeting date and time that meets everyone's schedule and then develop a strategic plan.

Commissioner Hogsett thanked the members for volunteering and asked them to aim high.

Assistant City Manager Passauer informed the Board members that the City Attorney would be available at their first meeting to go over the Kansas Open Meetings Act and the City's ethics policy that relates to Boards and other things the Board would need to know.

The Board decided to schedule their first meeting for December 3rd, 2019 at 3:30 P.M. in the Veterans Room at Memorial Hall.

Trisha Purdon informed the Board that Montgomery County Action Council's website has a lot of useful information to get started with.

Commissioner Cafilisch asked that they review any existing City policies or plans that they feel should be updated.

B. Open items/brainstorming.

Mayor Ysusi noted that there will be a Special Meeting on December 18th, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. so the Commissioners and Commissioner elect for the purpose of touring the City's facilities.

Assistant City Manager Passauer noted that there will be a City Hall Tour on December 9th, 2019 at 11:15 A.M. that is open to the public.

IV. REPORTS

A. City Board Minutes

1. October 7, 2019 Electrical Board.

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V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel matters of non-elected personnel

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Hogsett the Commission moved to recess for an executive session for discussion of an employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception (K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). In attendance will be the Commission and Commissioner Elect Dean Hayse. The open meeting will resume at 11:00 A.M.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

The meeting resumed at 11:00 A.M.

Motion:

On the motion of Mayor Ysusi, seconded by Commissioner Caflisch the Commission moved to recess for an executive session for discussion of an employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception (K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). In attendance will be the Commission and Commissioner Elect Dean Hayse. The open meeting will resume at 11:30 A.M.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

The meeting resumed at 11:30 A.M. No action was taken.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

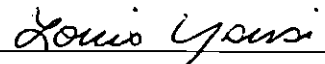
Motion:

Mayor Ysusi moved to adjourn. Commissioner Caflisch seconded.

Aye: Ysusi, Caflisch, Hogsett

Nay: None

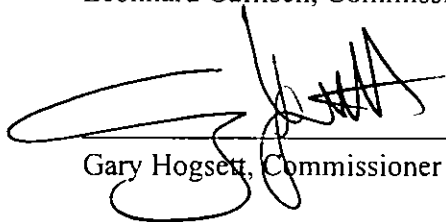
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Louis Ysusi, Mayor

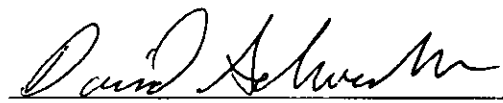


Leonhard Caflisch, Commissioner



Gary Hogsett, Commissioner

Attest:



City Clerk/Treasurer



DEWLEN-DIX POST NO. 1186
P.O. Box 535
Independence, Kansas 67301

November 15, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The VFW supports and requests that the auditorium at Memorial Hall be named in honor of Jim Halsey.

Sincerely,

Ryan York
Commander
VFW Post 1186
PO Box 535
Independence, KS 67301
(620) 331-6010

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.