

Minutes of 05/08/2023 Regular Meeting

Irvine City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on May 8, 2023. Mayor James E. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Raider led the prayer and City Clerk, Felicia Campbell, led the pledge.

Present: Mayor James Gross, Councilman Billy Arthur, Councilman Tommy Bryant, Councilman Tim Burkhart, Councilmember Karen Hensley, and Councilman Aaron Raider. Councilman Kris Lee was absent.

Also present: Rodney Davis, City Attorney; Felicia Campbell, City Clerk; Justin Patrick, Fire Chief and John Sturniolo, Police Chief.

Visitors Present: Cathy Dawes, Sam Hensley, Dwayne Tipton, Megan Addison, Allison Warren, Abdul Aghil, Jeff Oliver, Cody Beckler, RJ Tipton, Donna Tipton, Emma Day, Frank Dixon and Danny Biddle.

Recognition:

Mayor Gross presented R.J. Tipton with a certificate of appreciation. R.J. helped the Street Department during the Mushroom Festival. The Supervisor and Mayor wanted to thank and recognize him for the assistance and numerous hours he donated.

Guest(s) Addressing Council:

None.

Old Business:

Minutes from the April 24, 2023 regular meeting were presented for review. Councilman Arthur made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilman Burkhart seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

Councilman Burkhart moved to approve the second reading of the Kentucky Utilities franchise renewal ordinance at a 3% rate, twenty years, with the five-year rider. Councilman Bryant seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

The Privilege/Business License for the Friend/Jones Mobile Home Park was presented again. City Attorney, Rodney Davis, advised the Council to table the application once again. Mr. Davis expressed concerns over Mobile Home Parks and the Zoning regulations when a transfer occurs. Councilman Bryant made a motion to table the Privilege/Business License for the Friend/Jones Mobile Home Park as recommended. Councilman Burkhart seconded the motion and all present members voted yes.

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New Business:

A Building/Privilege License application was presented for Rosebud Home. The home would be a Sober Living Home for women after attending a rehabilitation program. Attorney Davis advised that the zoning coordinator review the application before it was granted. Councilman Raider made a motion to table the application. Councilman Bryant seconded the motion and all present members voted yes.

During a discussion regarding the business application process, Councilman Raider suggested revising the application. Councilmember Hensley suggested applicants attend the meeting to answer any questions.

City bills were presented for review. Councilman Arthur moved and Councilmember Hensley seconded the motion to approve the bills as presented. All present members voted to pay bills as presented.

Mayor Gross presented three (3) Policies to include in the new Personnel Handbook, as recommended by Kentucky League of Cities.

Councilman Burkhardt made a motion to approve the first reading of the Secondary Employment Policy for firefighters. Councilman Arthur seconded the motion and all present members voted yes.

Councilmember Hensley made a motion to approve the first reading of the Secondary Employment Policy for policemen. Councilman Raider seconded the motion and all present members voted yes.

Councilmember Hensley made a motion to approve the first reading of the Social Media Policy for all employees. Councilman Bryant seconded the motion and all present members voted yes.

Renewal rates were presented for employee benefits, including health, life, dental and vision insurances. Life, dental and vision insurance rates remained the same. Rates for the current health insurance plan increased by \$24.30 per month for a single plan. Making the total increase for the year \$3,449.20. Councilman Burkhardt moved and Councilman Bryant seconded the motion to renew the current policies with Kentucky League of Cities. All present members voted yes. Councilmember Hensley voiced her concern that employees could not afford to purchase parent plus or family plans.

Reports:

1. Mayor Gross

- a. Shared a letter of support for the addition/construction of a pedestrian walkway to the Irvine bridge. The letter was sent to Representative Bill Wesley.
- b. Had spoken to Frank Kinkaid with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet regarding Columbia Gas's paving on Broadway. Mr. Kinkaid said all work was performed to contract specifications.

- c. Spoke to Jeremy Carty with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District #10, regarding replacement of one-way street signs on Broadway. A sign crew will install the signs.
 - d. The Main Street parking lot will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday (05/10 & 05/11) due to painting of the adjacent building.
 - e. Reported the sale of the Main Street building was complete. The City received \$86,225.90, which has been applied to the principal note on City Hall. That brings the loan balance on City Hall down to \$105,000.
 - f. Waiting on numbers from the Property Valuation Administration office to complete the working budget for FY24.
 - g. Asked the Council to consider increasing the payments to Bluegrass East Accounting for payroll and budget services. Mayor Gross said currently the cost is \$250 per month.
 - h. Neighborhood Watch Signs for Laurel Street had been ordered and have arrived.
 - i. Reported that more storm drains had collapsed on Broadway.
 - j. Roof repair to City Hall should begin within two (2) weeks.
- 2. City Attorney Rodney Davis**
- a. Requested an executive session at the end of business.
- 3. City Clerk/Treasurer Felicia Campbell**
- a. Nothing.
- 4. Police Chief John Sturniolo**
- a. Reported that the Mushroom Festival attendance was good and all were on good behavior.
- 5. Fire Chief Justin Patrick**
- a. Thanked the County for loaning a tanker to help in cleaning the streets prior to the Festival.
- 6. Councilman Arthur**
- a. Reiterated that more traffic had been going the wrong way on Broadway.
- 7. Councilman Bryant**
- a. Thanked Representative Bill Wesley on his work for the county, including the work on the bridge.
 - b. A resident of George Street had sent pictures of the street, displaying the need for blacktop.
 - c. Ditch on Ann Street needs attention.
 - d. Commended Francine Bonny and the Festival Committee for their hard work and the success of the festival.
- 8. Councilman Burkhart**
- a. Commented on the State paving Estill and Kirkland Avenues.

9. Councilmember Hensley

- a. Nothing.

10. Councilman Lee

- a. Absent.

11. Councilman Raider

- a. Thanked the City employees for their help with the Festival.

Councilman Burkhart made a motion to go into Executive Session per KRS 61.810, Paragraph 1(c), discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of a public agency. Councilman Raider seconded the motion and all present members voted yes.

Councilman Raider moved and Councilman Burkhart seconded the motion to return to open session at 8:06 P.M.

Councilmember Hensley said she felt the need to look at 1% payroll tax.

Councilman Raider moved and Councilmember Hensley seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. All present members voted yes.

Mayor, James E. Gross

City Clerk/Treasurer, Felicia F. Campbell