

Minutes of 03/25/2024 Regular Meeting

Irvine City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting on March 25, 2024. Mayor James E. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Lee led the prayer and City Clerk, Felicia Campbell, led the pledge.

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

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

Visitors Present: Darrell Billings, Jennifer Billings, Susan Hawkins, Glenna Shean, William Neal and Cathy Dawes.

Guest(s) Addressing Council:

None.

Old Business:

Minutes from the March 11, 2024 regular meeting were presented for review. Councilman Arthur made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Councilmember Hensley seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

New Business:

Mayor Gross read a Memorial Resolution for Charles Spicer, Jr. Mr. Spicer worked for the City for seven (7) years and passed away February 18, 2024. The resolution expressed the condolences of the Mayor and Council to the family. The Mayor and Council signed the resolution which will be mailed to Mr. Spicer's family. (see attachment)

City bills dated March 7 – March 21, 2024, were presented for review. Councilman Burkhart moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to approve the bills as presented. All present members voted yes.

A Privilege/Business License was presented for Mack Theater Lobby, located at 114 Main Street. Susan Hawkins, Chair of the River City Players, addressed the Council. Ms. Hawkins said the Lobby was projected to be open in time for the Mushroom Festival, with an official grand opening to be scheduled later. She shared the vision of the Lobby, which she described as an information center for Irvine, Ravenna and Estill County. The Lobby will also be used for small events, group meetings and as a gallery for local artists. Ms. Hawkins also reported on the work done to date. The Theater has had a new roof, gutters, fire wall and walls stabilized. Councilman Raider made a motion to approve the Privilege License and Councilman Lee seconded the motion. All present members voted yes. The Theater will not have a privilege license fee because they are non-profit.

A Privilege/Business License was presented for Willie's Thrift & Finds. The owner is Josh Wilson and the business will be located at 129 Main Street. Councilman Arthur made a motion to approve the Privilege License and Councilman Lee seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

Reports:

1. Mayor Gross

- a. Informed the Council that he will be meeting with someone to address the designs for Shumate Park. The meeting will be Wednesday, March 27th at 10:30 A.M. Mayor Gross invited council members to attend. He also informed the Council that he was trying to secure grant funding for the park. Councilman Raider inquired about access to the property. The Mayor said at present time there is two (2) easements. One from Orchard Street the other through Carhartt property.

2. City Attorney Rodney Davis

- a. Requested executive session to discuss pending litigation.

3. City Clerk/Treasurer Felicia Campbell

- a. Reported that second notices had been sent out for 2023 delinquent taxes and unpaid 2024 business licenses.
- b. Revised ordinances will be published in this week's Estill County Tribune and the revised ordinance manual had been sent to American Legal Publishing.

4. Police Chief John Sturniolo

- a. Presented a slideshow of homes in the City limits that are abandoned, overgrown, dilapidated, and have excessive rubbish. Possible solutions and the expense of those solutions were discussed. Discussion included: litigation, tax foreclosures, demolition, lack of pride, squatters, and the legal process of addressing the issue and the necessary funds.

5. Fire Chief Justin Patrick

- a. Absent.

6. Councilman Arthur

- a. Nothing.

7. Councilman Bryant

- a. Absent.

8. Councilman Burkhart

- a. Nothing.

9. Councilmember Hensley

- a. Nothing.

10. Councilman Lee

- a. Nothing.

11. Councilman Raider

- a. Nothing.

At 7:40 P.M., Councilman Lee 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 Councilmember Hensley seconded the motion to return to open session at 8:13 P.M.

No action was taken.

Councilman Raider moved and Councilman Lee seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M. All present members voted yes

Mayor, James E. Gross

City Clerk/Treasurer, Felicia F. Campbell

(this page intentionally left blank)