

# Independence sets preliminary tax rate

**BY TODD ABELN**  
reporter.patriot@apgecm.com

The Independence City Council set the 2022 preliminary tax rate at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 21 with a 3.2 percent increase.

That 3.2 percent increase amounts to \$96,705 increase over the 2021 budget.

The city council unanimously approved the 2022 preliminary general fund budget at \$3.43 million with an accompanying maximum levy increase of 3.2 percent.

The city will finalize the budget at its truth-in-taxation meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The levy can be lowered but cannot be raised after the preliminary tax levy is set.

“We have time to refine our budget between now and the end of the year when we have to certify the actual tax levy and we always do go back and try to look at anything, but what we are establishing tonight is the max tax levy that we will be able to levy against the properties in the city,” Independence city administra-

tor Mark Kaltsas said. “We are able to do that while having a slight decrease in our overall tax rate in the city.”

Despite the proposed increase in the levy, the city’s overall tax rate is projected to decrease from 39.42 percent in 2021 to 38.47 percent in 2022.

Kaltsas told the council that the biggest increase in the budget is in police, fire and emergency services; with the police budget increasing by \$134,699 or just over 11 percent. Fire services has reduced by 4.47 percent.

“It makes a large portion of our budget,” Kaltsas said. “The police budget went up this year in an attempt to fund their capital needs. That’s something that has been underfunded over the past couple of years and the city said that needs to be funded so you see an increase in order to do that.”

The budget also reflects the capital road improvement plan the city put in place a few years back, at a cost \$100,000.

“We are funding again \$100,000 of road improvement, which goes into seal coating and/or drain tiling and working

with our roads,” Kaltsas said. “We identified that there was a drastic need to continue to improve our road system in Independence and maintain our roads. We’ve done two major projects over the last seven years and we now got a budget that’s in line with being able to maintain and try sustain those and to try to get the longest life out of those roads.”

The council also approved the preliminary Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed

Management Commission tax levy for the 2022 budget at \$64,675.

The Sept. 21 meeting was the first city council meeting in the new meeting room at Independence City Hall and Kaltsas announced that the room will be named the Marvin Johnson Community Room after long time mayor Marvin Johnson.

Follow The Laker Pioneer on Facebook.



## VILLAGES OF ISLAND PARK

City of Mound officials and Inland Development Partners broke ground Oct. 7 at the Villages of Island Park. The Villages of Island Park will be a new townhome building in Mound with 18 rental units at 4451 Wilshire Blvd., the site of the former Desperados Restaurant. (Jonathan Potts Photography/Submitted photo)

### Honoring & Saluting our Military Personnel

Help us honor all our soldiers this Veteran's Day with a special recognition in the paper November 11 & 13, 2021

Mail the form below, along with a photo, to Sun Patriot Newspapers Attn. Norma PO Box 5, Waconia, MN 55387 You may also submit it via email to: norma@apgecm.com

### NEED ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE LAKER PIONEER?

You can pick one up at any of these locations

<p><b>Mound</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbone's Pizzeria Bar &amp; Grill</li> <li>Caribou Coffee</li> <li>CoTrust Bank</li> <li>Gillespie Center</li> <li>Harbor Wine &amp; Spirits</li> <li>Jubilee Foods</li> <li>Mound City Hall</li> <li>Mound True Value</li> <li>Our Lady of the Lake</li> <li>Porta del Sol</li> <li>Scotty B's</li> <li>Shell Gas Station</li> <li>Speedway</li> <li>Walgreens</li> <li>Wells Fargo</li> <li>West Lakes Dentistry</li> <li>Westonka Library</li> <li>Westonka Schools</li> <li>Willette's Home Laundry</li> </ul>	<p><b>Spring Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asian Bistro</li> <li>BP Gas Station</li> <li>Hope Chest for Breast Cancer</li> <li>Lord Fletcher's</li> <li>Spring Park Mall</li> </ul> <p><b>Maple Plain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank of Maple Plain</li> <li>Holiday - Maple Plain</li> <li>Blackwater Coffee &amp; Café</li> <li>Discovery Center</li> </ul> <p><b>St. Bonifacius</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holiday</li> <li>Kwik Trip</li> <li>Minnetrista City Hall Post Office</li> </ul>	<p><b>Long Lake/Orono</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AmericInn</li> <li>City Hall</li> <li>Harvest Moon</li> <li>Holiday, Culvers - Navarre</li> <li>Lake Community Bank</li> <li>Lakeside Wine &amp; Spirits</li> <li>Lund's/Byerly's - Navarre</li> <li>Orono School District Office</li> <li>Orono Station</li> <li>Otten Bros.</li> <li>Post Office</li> <li>Speedway</li> </ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minnetonka Beach City Hall</li> </ul>
--	---	--

**Soldier will appear in all these papers**

**Order Form:** All orders must be in by November 5, 2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment information:** Photo Ads are \$20 each; prepayment is required.

check enclosed (made payable to Sun Patriot Newspapers)

charge on credit card:  Visa  MC  Discover  American Express

account# \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Call 952-442-6820

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ if you have any questions

**Salute to Military Personnel ad information:**

Name and rank \_\_\_\_\_

Branch/unit name \_\_\_\_\_

Years served (range of years or total years) \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown \_\_\_\_\_

Message \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitting by mail:** Fill out this form and include your photo (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you need the photo back) and send to Sun Patriot Veteran's Day, PO Box 5, Waconia MN 55387.

**Submitting by e-mail:** Include all of the order information in the text of your e-mail and attach a 200 dpi photo. Send the text and photo to: norma@apgecm.com with Veteran's Day in the subject line.