The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, February 23, 2026.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, and Appleby in attendance. Council Member Hanna attended via phone.

This meeting was available for public attendance. The meeting was also broadcast on the local access channel, YouTube, and Facebook.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Council Member O'Loughlin, second by Council Member Weber to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held February 23, 2026. Ayes: All.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pedro Calderon, District Representative for Congresswoman Ashley Hinson, introduced himself. He is based out of the Dubuque office and met with other Buchanan County officials earlier in the day. He plans on coming to Buchanan County on a quarterly basis.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Mayner, second by Council Member Moore to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting. b) The minutes of the February 10, 2026, Special Meeting. c) Allerton Brewing Company LLC Class C retail alcohol ownership update amendment. d) River's Edge Sport & Fitness Special Class C retail alcohol license application with a tentative effective date of February 10, 2026. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

Mayor Bleichner stated the claim for Alex Sattizahn needed to be removed from claims list. Motion by Council Member O'Loughlin, second by Council Member Appleby to approve the following bills for payment. Ayes: All.

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	$1,921.68
ADP	PAYROLL SVCS	$108,387.53
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-W,B,A	$100.55
AIR SERVICES INC	SERVICES-W	$540.88
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-L	$906.22
AMERICAN COLOR IMAGING	PRINTING-L	$421.31
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VSP-BEAM BENEFIT	$545.25
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	$193.45
BLACK HAWK CO HEALTH DEPT	LICENSE-PR	$300.00
BRODART CO	BOOKS-L	$891.86
BUCHANAN COUNTY AUDITOR	MAPS-ST	$15.84
BUCHANAN COUNTY LANDFILL COMMI	DUES-G	$6,064.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER	MISC EXP-AMB,ST,W	$11,847.41
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	$229.37
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-PR,PD,F,CH	$23,713.63
CENGAGE LEARNING	BOOKS-L	$242.18
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	BOOKS-L	$88.81
CITY LAUNDERING CO. INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	$185.62
COLE'S ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-L	$24.80
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	SNOW REMOVAL-ST	$5,020.08
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-A,ST,W	$4,349.68
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE INC	VEH REPAIR-PD	$65.92
DEMCO	SUPPLIES-L	$205.45
DINGES FIRE COMPANY	EQUIP-F	$667.92
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH REPAIR-ST	$5,778.61
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITIES-A,PR,ST,CH,W	$2,952.64
EDMUNDS GOVTECH	FEES-CH	$5,187.50

DRAFT

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND	$4,094.85
GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES	SUPPLIES-PR	$142.00
HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC.	VEH REPAIR-ST	$1,661.66
HILLTOP MOTORS INC	VEH REPAIR-PD	$80.00
HUPP ELECTRIC MOTORS INC	EQUIP-W	$1,995.00
HYMAN SERVICES	SNOW REMOVAL-L	$150.00
IA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SIGNS-ST	$284.90
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWER	UTILITIES-ALL	$32,426.01
INDEPENDENCE NAPA	SUPPLIES-PR,F	$328.97
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	BOOKS-L	$959.27
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	$11,708.14
IOWA PSYCHIC BUREAU	PROGRAM-L	$350.00
J. ROBERT HOPSON INC.	SERVICES-CH	$550.00
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	$910.00
JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD	BOOKS-L	$16.06
KRIVACHECK JANITORIAL SUPPLY	SUPPLIES-ST	$243.97
LIBRARY IDEAS LLC	BOOKS-L	$404.42
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL SVC-CH	$4,075.10
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE	SERVICES-F	$1,500.00
MCGRATH CONSULTING GROUP, INC	COMP STUDY-ALL	$4,000.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	UTILITIES-ST,W,L,PR	$6,559.82
MIDWEST JANITORIAL SERVICE	BLDG MAINT-L	$1,635.00
MIKE COX	PROGRAM-L	$250.00
NORTH AMERICAN RESCUE	EQUIP-F	$11,785.78
OFFICE TOWNE INC.	SUPPLIES-PR, ST	$209.44
OVERDRIVE INC.	SOFTWARE-L	$4,000.00
PINE GROVE SHOES & MORE	UNIFORM-ST	$17.75
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATING,	SERVICES-PR, ST	$10,674.05
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-ALL	$264.99
PUSH-PEDAL-PULL INC	EQUIP-PR	$10,776.00
RACOM CORPORATION	SUPPLIES-F	$195.00
RANGER REED	SNOW REMOVAL-L	$150.00
ROTO-ROOTER	SERVICES-W	$1,162.50
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC.	BLDG MAINT-PR	$74.88
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH REPAIR-PD	$1,756.48
S&K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	$24.60
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPANY	SUPPLIES-PR	$1,903.73
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST CO	RETIRE BENEFIT	$8,052.03
STATE FARM	BENEFITS-CH,W,ST	$32.72
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT PARROT	SUPPLIES-L	$131.71
TASC	MISC EXP	$2,163.10
TBT SPORTS	TOURNEY FEES-PR	$24,625.00
TERRY-DURIN CO	EQUIP MAINT-ST	$2,349.00
THREE OAKS GREENHOUSE	FLOWERS-PR	$770.00
ULINE	EQUIP-ST	$337.92
US CELLULAR	UTILITY-L, W	$779.93
VERN'S TRUE VALUE	SUPPLIES-PR, F, A, L	$262.21
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT	$48,282.03

CLAIMS TOTAL $385,954.21; General Fund $173,193.14; Library $24,888.37; Hotel-Motel $770.00; Streets Dept-Road Use $42,419.66; Employee Benefits $43,023.38; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST $29,572.82; Water Fund $26,484.43; Sewer Utility Fund $41,507.56; Self Insurance $4,027.51; Self Insurance-Enterprise $67.34.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL $572,268.23; General Fund $123,918.73; Library $82,081.48; Streets Dept-Road Use $55,076.70; Employee Benefits $4,987.02; Tax Increment Financing $2,870.94; Debt Service $30,095.75; Debt-Special Assessment $762.80; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST $35,964.23; Water Fund $52,043.31; Water Revenue Bond $7,737.92; Sewer Utility $146,912.29; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund $7,928.42; Storm Water $7,822.53; Self Insurance $13,917.87; Self Insurance-Enterprise $148.24.

DRAFT

The February 2026 budgeted monthly transfers and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution outlining changes to the Employee Handbook, second by Council Member Mayner. City Manager Schmitz stated the changes were related to a HIPAA policy that is now required, renumbering sections with the creation of the HIPAA policy, and clarification on the leave types used in conjunction with FMLA. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, Appleby, and Weber.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-15 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign the 2026 – 2031 agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, and Hanna.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve the 2025 Strategic Plan, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2027 – 2037 as presented, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Moore – Shout out to the Independence Community Schools Speech Department at their recent competitions. Prusator – Thanked Pedro for coming and wished his thanks would be passed along to Congresswoman Hinson for her support for projects with all cities. O'Loughlin – Shout out to Independence Wrestling team for finishing sixth. Expressed his concerns with the plat for Jackson Green 7th Addition that shows 4 driveways entering on Enterprise Drive. Appleby – Shared she had received complaints on her views toward the Independence Public Library. City Manager – Will be out of the office this Friday to attend the two-day RAGBRAI meetings in Des Moines.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member O'Loughlin, second by Council Member Mayner to adjourn. Ayes: All.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

_____
Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

ATTEST:

_____
Susi Lampe, CMC, IaCMC, IaCFO,
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Independence, Iowa

DRAFT