



**City of Independence  
City Council  
MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager  
**DATE OF MEETING:** September 11, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance Amendment – Chapters 50 and 51

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**BACKGROUND:**

In discussions with Council Members over the previous months, several properties around town have been identified as Nuisance Properties which need to be addressed. During the City Council Work Session on September 5<sup>th</sup>, City Attorney Doug Herman presented modifications to Chapters 50 and 51 of the Independence Municipal Code.

**DISCUSSION:**

Updates to this section of the code, as discussed at the work session, will help to provide the mechanism necessary to enforce ongoing issues throughout the City, and will cleanup and clarify some issues we have run into with the current version of the code.

**RESULTS:**

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Support and Empower Workforce and Developing and Reviving Independence. This item helps achieve that vision by giving the Code Enforcement officer the tools necessary to enforce the regulations and policies set out by the Council to help keep Independence beautiful and ensure that property values are not negatively affected by the storage of junk and trash in residential areas.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

There will be publication costs related to the ordinance summary being published and then costs to Simmering-Cory Iowa Codification when the next code supplement is done.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends a motion to approve the first reading, waive the second and third readings, adopt the ordinance change during this meeting, and authorize the Mayor to sign the Ordinance. The changes will be effective upon the ordinance summary being published in the newspapers.