

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, September 8, 2025.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, and Jensen in attendance.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Mayor Bleichner requested to amend the agenda to move the oath of office until Police Chief Lau and Officer Bagby were present and to remove item 14 Ordinance to amend Code Section 1.15 as the water and sewer fees were outdated. Motion by Council Member Mayner, second by Council Member Moore to approve the agenda as amended for the regular meeting held September 8, 2025. Ayes: All.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation declaring September 15 – 21, 2025, as National See Tracks? Think Train ® Week. He also read a proclamation declaring the month of September 2025 as National Preparedness Month.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Hanna, second by Council Member Mayner to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the August 25, 2025, Regular Meeting. b) Del Rio Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal with a tentative effective date of June 15, 2025, through June 14, 2026. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Mayner to approve the following bills for payment. Ayes: All.

ACCO	CHEMICALS-PR	\$ 876.00
ADAM RINIKER	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 230.00
ADP	PAYROLL SVC	\$ 125,055.15
AIR SERVICES INC	SERVICES-F	\$ 390.50
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-A,CH,F,PD	\$ 2,214.68
ANDREW ROTTINGHAUS	MISC EXP-PR	\$ 240.00
ANGELA KILER	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
AVFUEL CORPORATION	EQUIP RENTAL-A	\$ 20.00
BACHMAN TOOL & DIE CO	ROAD ROCK-W	\$ 2,898.00
BAGBY'S AUTOMOTIVE	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$ 1,067.16
BEATTY ADDISON	RE CLINIC-PR	\$ 280.00
BENJAMIN F. HUPKE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 150.00
BLAKE HAYWARD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BLAYNE MERGEN	MISC EXP-PR	\$ 295.00
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
BOBBY KOBLINSKA	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 220.00
BRAD ESCH	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BRADY VANSCHOYOC	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 160.00
BRENT RECK	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BRIAN LAU	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BRUENING ROCK	ROAD ROCK-W	\$ 2,003.36
BRYCE CHRISTIAN	RE CLINIC-PR	\$ 35.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY TREASURER	PROPERTY TAX-W	\$ 678.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER	AMB SVC-AM	\$ 11,496.42
BUCHANAN COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU	H/M CONTRIB-CH	\$ 2,000.00
CHRISTOPHER MEYER	RE CLINIC-PR	\$ 35.00
CITY LAUNDERING CO. INC	MISC EXP-PD,ST,W	\$ 223.81
CIVICPLUS	SERVICES-ALL	\$ 4,397.40

COLE'S ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-ST,F,PR,W	\$ 871.35
COOPER HINZ	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 250.00
CUSTOM CONCRETE LLC	SERVICES-ST	\$ 3,096.50
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE INC	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$ 235.00
DAX YOUNGBLUT	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 480.00
DECKER SPORTING GOODS	EQUIP-PR	\$ 61.20
DELL MARKETING, LP	LICENSES-ALL	\$ 359.44
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 4,054.88
DICK'S PETROLEUM COMPANY INC	SERVICES-A	\$ 3,609.85
D & K PRODUCTS	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 172.50
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 3,141.29
D & S PORTABLES INC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 1,968.75
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND REQUEST	\$ 6,139.68
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 1,559.81
FAHR BEVERAGE, INC.	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 324.85
FLETCHER-REINHARDT CO	EQUIP MAINT-ST	\$ 526.50
FREED CONSTRUCTION	BLDG REPAIR-PD	\$ 512.85
GABE KUENNEN	RE CLINIC-PR	\$ 105.00
GALLS, LLC	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 76.76
GENTRY ROGER	REFUND-PR	\$ 20.99
GIERKE ROBINSON COMPANY,INC.	EQUIP REPAIR-ST	\$ 413.94
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 2,413.00
HAYWARD JESSICA	REFUND-PR	\$ 99.00
HUDSON AMBER	REFUND-PR	\$ 99.00
IA DEPT OF INSPECTIONS	DUES-CH	\$ 151.50
IA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOC	DUES-PD	\$ 300.00
IMFOA	TRAINING-CH	\$ 225.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWER	SERVICES-PR	\$ 869.23
INDEPENDENCE NAPA	SUPPLIES-F,W,A,PR,ST	\$ 389.35
INTOXIMETERS INC	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 425.00
JENKINS BILLY	REFUND-PR	\$ 300.00
JOHN BUTLER	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-ST,PR,W,A	\$ 752.08
JOSH HINDE	RE CLINIC-PR	\$ 105.00
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 1,387.00
KARL KILER	MISC EXP-PR	\$ 255.00
KEENAN PALS	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 360.00
KLUESNER SANITATION, LLC	GARBAGE-ALL	\$ 47,389.20
KYLE PECK	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 180.00
LANDEN SCHANTZ	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 280.00
MANATTS, INC.	SERVICES-W	\$ 8,656.50
MATTHEW SCHMITZ	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
MAVERICK POWERSPORTS	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$ 2,051.03
MCCOY WINN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 270.00
MICROBAC LABORATORIES, INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 184.50
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 148.67
MILLER MICHELLE	REFUND-PR	\$ 409.00
MOLLY J. MACKEY	TRAINING-CH	\$ 750.00
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
OFFICE TOWNE INC.	SUPPLIES-PD,PR	\$ 98.56
PETROLEUM MARKETERS MANAGEMENT	INSURE-A	\$ 1,753.00
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL	EQUIP LEASE-CH	\$ 490.53
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATING	SERVICES-ST	\$ 2,800.00
PREMIER ANIMAL WELLNESS&SURGER	SERVICES-AC	\$ 129.00
ROBERT BEATTY	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
ROBINSON, TRENT	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 50.00
SCHMITT ETHAN	RE CLINIC-PR	\$ 35.00
SIMMERING-CORY IA CODIFICATION	CODE UPDATES-CH	\$ 778.00

S&K COLLECTIBLES	POSTAGE-W	\$	15.41
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOW	\$	50.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPANY	SUPPLIES-ST,W,F	\$	5,186.81
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST CO	ICMA-RC BENEFIT	\$	5,081.17
STEFFENS HEATHER	REFUND-PR	\$	409.00
SUNSET LAW ENFORCEMENT	SUPPLIES-PD	\$	1,807.00
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$	2,530.00
SYNTECH SYSTEMS	SERVICES-A	\$	48.00
TASC	FLEX MED BENEFIT	\$	1,384.73
T-MOBILE	PHONE-B,F,CH,PD,PD,W	\$	901.54
TRAVIS FOLEY	PHONE ALLOW	\$	50.00
TRENTON CABELL	PHONE ALLOW	\$	50.00
TREYTON WEBER	MISC EXP-PR	\$	230.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-F	\$	7.02
VERN'S TRUE VALUE	SUPPLIES-F	\$	354.86
WATERLOO TENT & TARP	EQUIP REPAIR-PR	\$	800.00
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT	\$	42,612.50
WEX BANK	FUEL-A,F,PD,PR,W	\$	3,456.91
ZUCK BETH	REFUND-PR	\$	99.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$323,203.72; General Fund \$179,179.74; Library \$11,165.28; Hotel-Motel \$2,000.00; Streets Dept-Road Use \$21,796.08; Employee Benefits \$41,366.67; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$5,945.38; Water Fund \$32,478.76; Sewer Utility Fund \$23,132.13; Self Insurance \$6,139.68.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$169,727.79; General Fund \$65,961.37; Water Fund \$37,673.54; Sewer Utility \$54,605.10; Storm Water \$5,348.10; Self Insurance \$6,139.68.

The August 225 bank reconciliation the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance to add Chapter 142, Right-of-Way Obstructions, Encroachments, and Beautification to the City of Independence Code of Ordinances, second by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna. Council Member Moore with a motion to have this ordinance which adds Chapter 142, Right-of-Way Obstructions, Encroachments, and Beautification to the City Code be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-614 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Mayner with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends Chapter 152 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Independence, Iowa, regarding fences, walls, and hedges, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. Mayor Bleichner stated the City’s code was not in line with the State code on where fences could be placed. This was also the time to make the fence height requirement match what is in the Zoning Ordinances. Council Member Moore asked if anything was going to be done with fences that were already installed? City Manager Schmitz replied nothing would be done to them at this time. Council Member Jensen asked if the 6 feet 6 inches that was required for fences was related to swimming pools? Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe stated pools are in another chapter and that should include any fence requirements as well.The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Mayner. Council Member Moore with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator. Council Member Jensen with a motion to have this ordinance that amends Chapter 152 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Independence, Iowa, regarding fences, walls, and hedges, be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O’Loughlin.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-615 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Mayner with a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance to add Chapter 143, Closing Public Thoroughfares, to the City Code, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: Hanna. Council Member Mayner with a motion to have this ordinance that adds Chapter 143, Closing Public Thoroughfares, to the City Code, be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-616 in the Official Book of Ordinances.**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor Bleichner issued the oath of office to Patrol Officer Brandon Bagby.

ORDINANCES

Council Member Hanna with a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 69 Parking Regulations regarding off-street parking in residential areas, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Nays: Mayner. Council Member Moore with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, O'Loughlin, and Jensen. Nays: Weber, Mayner, and Prusator.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to conflict of interest – subsection 1 of section 5.07, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna. Council Member Mayner with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore. Council Member Weber with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to conflict of interest – subsection 1 of section 5.07 be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Mayner.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-617 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to retail alcohol licenses – subsection 8 of section 120.05, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator. Council Member Mayner with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Council Member Jensen with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to retail alcohol licenses – subsection 8 of section 120.05 be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-618 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to service animals – section 55.18, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Council Member Weber with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions

pertaining to service animals – section 55.18 be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-619 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Mayner with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to public hearing requirements – subparagraph (1) of paragraph D of subsection 4 of section 7.05 and subsection 6 of section 7.05, second by Council Member Weber. Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe explained that certain items had different publication requirements. This amendment is to help make more items have the same publication requirements. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Mayner. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to public hearing requirements – subparagraph (1) of paragraph d of subsection 4 of section 7.05 and subsection 6 of section 7.05 be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-620 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Hanna with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to cigarette and tobacco permits – Chapter 121, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to cigarette and tobacco permits – Chapter 121 be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-621 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Mayner with a motion to approve the proposal from Visu-Sewer, LLC in the amount of \$132,699.00 for the 2025 Sanitary Sewer CIPP Installation Project and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary agreements, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Mayor Bleichner stated at previous meetings Council had discussed sending out Request for Proposals for bigger projects in an effort to be transparent and fiscally responsible to residents. He did not have any problems with Crawford Engineering or any work done with them for previous projects. City Manager Schmitz did state a revised proposal was received earlier in the day that brought the engineering services back to what was originally budgeted for the street rehab project. Council Member Prusator with a motion to reject the proposal and direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the engineering services required for the 2026 Street Rehabilitation Project. The motion died for a lack of a second. Council Member Moore with a motion to accept the revised proposed Engineering Services Agreement with Crawford Engineering for the 2026 Street Rehabilitation Project and to authorize the City Manager to execute it, second by Council Member Mayner. Council Member Prusator asked how the \$5,300 was discounted in lieu of finding out there was going to potentially be RFPs sent out. City Manager Schmitz stated no conversation was held on this agreement as it was structured in a similar manner for the IPF Storm Water project. He wanted to be transparent that the original potential engineering expense could be \$105,300 and the City had budgeted was \$100,000. Mark Crawford, Crawford Engineering, stated a revised agreement was sent to bring the potential engineering expense to \$100,000. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: PD Monthly Report – Council Member Moore stated it looked to him that August was busier than July. Building Department Monthly Report – Council Member Moore Is glad to see permits being issued as it means there is growth. Hanna – Thanked Tanner for helping this past

Saturday and for Matt approving Tanner being able to help. There will be a 9/11 celebration on Thursday at 9 am at the Courthouse. Moore – Thanked Deb and her family for helping to get a new statue in front of the Courthouse. Encouraged people to come help on Saturdays with cleaning and replacing stones. O’Loughlin – Has been seeing more and more feral cats within town. City Manager – Reminded everyone that Oakwood Cemetery is a City owned property and thanked all the volunteers that spend time there doing the work. He will be at the Iowa League of Cities Conference next Wednesday to Friday. Mayor – He and Susi will also be there. Police – The US Marshalls were in town earlier to issue an arrest warrant, and nobody was injured during the event. There will be a press release issued by the Marshalls at a later time. The promotion process was completed today, but he has not been able to calculate the results. He is planning on starting a Community Walks Community Talks program and will have more information later.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Mayner, second by Council Member Hanna to adjourn. Ayes: All.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

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