

The Independence City Council met in special session in the council chambers at 4:45 p.m., on Monday, March 25, 2024.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

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

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Hanna, second by Council Member Moore to approve the agenda as presented for the special meeting held March 25, 2024. Ayes: All.

BUDGET HEARING

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing on the proposed property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2025. Two residents showed up and wanted clarification about the mailing that the County Auditor had mailed out to property tax owners, the City’s reasons for the tax increase, and if property tax exemptions would be impacted by these legislative changes. City Manager Schmitz said the Legislature has required counties to mail out a notice of all the tax districts that would impact a person’s property taxes. Cities have been notified that property and liability insurance is anticipated to increase thirty percent and so the City has made the effort to budget accordingly. Council Member Jensen asked if the news article had been provided to residents that City Manager Schmitz wrote to explain the new legislative changes and what it means to residents? City Manager Schmitz indicated that the news article had been shared on social media, etc. Mayor Bleichner stated the article explains how the legislature made changes that impacted the City’s budget starting with Fiscal Year 2025. Council Members Prusator and Jensen and City Manager Schmitz spoke on salary increases and trying to maintain a good work environment to retain employees. City Manager Schmitz said the property tax exemptions are separate from the City’s levy and he would imagine they would stay in place. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member O’Loughlin, second by Council Member Hanna to adjourn. Ayes: All.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

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