

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, February 24, 2025.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem O’Loughlin asked for a moment of silence for Council Member Huston’s passing on February 14, 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem O’Loughlin opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Moore, and Prusator in attendance. Council Member Hanna via phone. Mayor Bleichner and Council Member Jensen were excused.

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 Prusator, second by Council Member Moore to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held February 24, 2025. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Moore, second by Council Member Prusator to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting. 2) Tobacco Device Retailer Application for The Spot Smoke Shop with a tentative effective date of February 6, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$ 1,634.00
ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 118,239.51
ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	SERVICES-ST	\$ 44.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-A,L,W	\$ 1,177.63
BAKER & TAYLOR ENTERTAINM	BOOKS-L	\$ 514.71
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VSP-BEAM	\$ 497.65
BLACK HAWK CO HEALTH DEPT	LICENSE-PR	\$ 300.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 71.98
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$ 1,304.24
BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN FIRE	EQUIP-F	\$ 9,750.00
BRODART CO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 494.53
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CE	SERVICES-CH,ST,W	\$ 12,068.32
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$ 45.39
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-F,W	\$ 7,245.39
CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY	SERVICES-AC	\$ 375.00
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 89.40
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT	FEES-PD	\$ 28.46
CLINTON, CHAR	HOST-PR	\$ 600.00
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-ALL	\$ 6,610.60
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-A,PD	\$ 45.00
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	VEH REPAIRS-ST	\$ 854.92
DAVE'S ENTERPRISES	VEH REPAIRS-ST	\$ 240.00
DELL MARKETING, LP	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 1,742.03
DEMCO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 233.36
DUNLAP MOTORS INC	VEH MAINT-PD	\$ 47.35
DYERSVILLE BLAZERS	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$ 350.00
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITY-A,PR,ST,W,CH	\$ 2,909.90
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 16,881.29
EPIC CLEAN, LLC	BLDG MAINT-L	\$ 1,400.00

FAREWAY STORES INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 8.48
GREEN, JOCELYN	PROGRAM-L	\$ 350.00
HAUSERS WATER SYSTEMS INC	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 44.80
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 80.00
HOPKINS, KATIE	PROGRAMMING-L	\$ 200.00
HOTSY CLEANING SYSTEMS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 138.64
IA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 529.50
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$ 14,484.11
IA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOC	TRAINING-PD	\$ 250.00
IA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOC.	TRAINING-PD	\$ 175.00
IA PUBLIC AIRPORTS ASSOC	DUES-A	\$ 200.00
IMFOA	TRAINING-CH	\$ 75.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE	UTILITIES-ALL	\$ 33,507.75
KIECK'S CAREER APPAREL	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 8.95
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEG	TRAINING-PR,W	\$ 72.00
LADY EXPOS TOURNAMENT	TOURNEY FFE-PR	\$ 485.00
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$ 3,307.50
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECT	SERVICES-F	\$ 1,828.49
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-CH,L,PR,ST,W	\$ 7,176.58
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 28.99
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PR,PD	\$ 83.23
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 115.76
PALMER, CARTER	SNOW REMOVAL-L	\$ 40.00
PENWORTHY COMPANY, THE	BOOKS-L	\$ 799.22
PERMA-BOUND	BOOKS-L	\$ 14.42
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	SERVICES-L	\$ 153.72
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-CH,PR,W	\$ 479.98
RITLAND+KUIPER LANDSCAPE	SERVICES-PR	\$ 60,493.04
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-CH,PR	\$ 156.46
SIGNS & MORE	SERVICES-F	\$ 486.00
SMOKIN DIESEL REPAIR	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 150.00
STATE FARM	BENEFITS-CH,W,ST	\$ 32.72
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 7,210.45
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT P	SUPPLIES-CH,L	\$ 800.49
STRAND ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-W	\$ 3,120.00
TASC	FLEX MED/DEP	\$ 2,056.70
UNLEASHED PET SERVICES	BOARDING-PD	\$ 447.00
US CELLULAR	PHONE-W	\$ 46.40
VANERWERF, TAYLOR	REFUND-PR	\$ 93.50
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 177.53
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-A,G,PR	\$ 49,221.28
WELLMARK BCBS	INSURE-CH	\$ 253.80
WILSON, KATHY J	PROGRAMMING-L	\$ 150.00
ZOOBEAN, INC.	SERVICES-L	\$ 845.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$376,172.15; General Fund \$193,142.52; Library \$19,241.90; Streets Dept-Road Use \$20,465.67; Employee Benefits \$8,369.77; Cap Project-Airport \$1,304.24; Cap Project-1st St W Reconstruction \$60,493.04; Water Fund \$18,307.94; Sewer Utility Fund \$37,965.78; Self Insurance \$16,800.65; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$80.64.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$620,929.78; General Fund \$109,597.12; Library \$30,732.45; Streets Dept-Road Use \$61,183.93; Employee Benefits \$5,051.33; Tax Increment Finance \$5,415.40; Debt Service \$13,736.96; Parks & Rec Projects \$1,200.00; Water Fund \$97,863.72; Water Revenue Bond \$7,775.83 Sewer Utility \$193,359.29; Sewer SRF Project \$7,946.67; Sewer Sinking Revenue Bond \$42,795.42; WWTP Replacement \$8,256.93; Storm Water \$7,838.13; Self Insurance \$28,100.96; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$95.64.

The February 2025 budgeted monthly transfers and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 69 - Parking Regulations, second by Council Member Weber. City Manager Schmitz reviewed changes to the amendment that has occurred since the February 3rd work session. The three-hour downtown parking piece was revised and added to the two hour parking section. Parking lots will be designated with signage to be installed later. Residents that live in downtown housing units will receive parking permits and language was added to allow those vehicles to be able to park overnight in the proper parking lots. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Weber. Absent: Jensen.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 70 – Traffic Code Enforcement Procedures, second by Council Member Prusator. City Manager Schmitz reviewed the amendments to this new code section. There were no revisions made from what was presented at the February 3rd work session. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Weber, and Hanna. Absent: Jensen.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign the resolution approving an extension of the moratorium on the enforcement of certain signed regulations, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Weber, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor Pro Tem assigned No. 2025-11 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign the resolution to approve a Homeowner/Agency Repair Program Project according to the Independence TIF LMI Set-Aside Administrative Plan, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor Pro Tem assigned No. 2025-12 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign the resolution to approve a Homeowner/Agency Repair Program Project according to the Independence TIF LMI Set-Aside Administrative Plan, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor Pro Tem assigned No. 2025-13 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign the resolution that sets a public hearing date of March 24, 2025, at 5:00 pm on a proposal to enter into general obligation loan agreements and to borrow money thereunder, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Weber. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor Pro Tem assigned No. 2025-14 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Moore with a motion to fill the council vacancy for the Ward 5 Council seat by appointment, second by Council Member Prusator. The notice of vacancy to be filled by appointment will be published in the Independence Bulletin Journal and posted on the website. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Weber, and Hanna. Absent: Jensen.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Moore – Shout out to the High School Jazz Band for winning third place at the competition that took place on Friday. The Readers Theater speech group got all 1's at the district event Decorah and also performed at State and took number 1. Hanna – She has received calls from residents wanting to have chickens within City Limits and directed them to contact the City Manager on how to bring the topic to Council for discussion. O'Loughlin – Congratulations to Tyler Wieland for wrestling in the finals and rest of the wrestling team finishing 7th in the Class 2A district at State. City Manager – The Independence Area

Chamber of Commerce banquet is this Saturday, and the City has four seats available. April 26th is the strategic planning session for council members and department heads to attend. It is tentatively scheduled to be at the Independence Pubic Library. He will be out of the office on Friday, February 28th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Moore, second by Council Member Prusator to adjourn. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

Whereupon Mayor Pro Tem O’Loughlin declared the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Michael O’Loughlin, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Independence, Iowa

ATTEST:

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

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