

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, June 9, 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

Motion by Council Member O’Loughlin, second by Council Member Mayner to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held June 9, 2025. Ayes: All.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leanne Harrison, 514 5th Avenue SW, President of the Buchanan County Historical Society invited the City Council and public to their upcoming events this summer. The Lee Mansion will be open on Flag Day, June 14th from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. On July 6th, the Lions Club and the Historical Society will be having a pancake breakfast at the Mill from 8:00 am to noon. On August 16th, is the annual underground tour from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and tickets are available at the Mill that morning.

Jason Keninger, 301 7th Avenue SE, addressed the Council regarding the first notice of violation he received about a repurposed toilet flower planter in the right-of-way. He had driven around the City and found other items in the right-of-way and asked if those items will also receive notices or be addressed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Mayner to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the May 27, 2025, Regular Meeting. b) Miller 4th of July block party to be held on July 4, 2025. Council Member Hanna asked to discuss the block party. Council Members Jensen and Mayner rescinded their original motion and second. Item B will be moved to Other Business for council discussion. Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Mayner to accept the revised consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the May 27, 2025, Regular Meeting. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCO	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 2,934.39
ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-PR,SW,W,ST,F,A	\$ 675.07
ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 126,194.08
ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	SERVICES-W	\$ 229.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-CH	\$ 83.00
ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE	ASSUR CRIT ILL	\$ 491.10
AUDREY HILL TRUST	REFUND-PR	\$ 799.40
BAGBY'S AUTOMOTIVE	AUTO RPEAIR-PR	\$ 144.00
BANK IOWA	LOAN-PD	\$ 90,366.15
BEATTY, DREW	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 330.00
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	MATERIALS-ST,W	\$ 3,334.28
BSN SPORTS, INC.	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 2,458.46
BUCHANAN COUNTY SOIL & WA	TREES-PR	\$ 243.00
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-A,CH,F,W	\$ 2,287.75
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	SUPPLIES-ST,W	\$ 120.33
CIVICPLUS	SOFTWARE-CH	\$ 6,300.00
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU	SERVICES-SW	\$ 1,972.00
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD,PR	\$ 2,157.11
D & K PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 92.00
D & S PORTABLES INC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 3,650.00

DECKER SPORTING GOODS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 3,130.50
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 3,989.20
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASUR	PCORI FEE-CH	\$ 138.80
DINGES FIRE COMPANY	SUPPLIES-F	\$ 3,465.04
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP	SERVICES-PR,SW,ST	\$ 4,670.00
DUNLAP MOTORS INC	VEH MAINT-PR	\$ 535.45
EASTERN IOWA EXCAVATING	SERVICES-SW	\$ 53,164.38
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT	SERVICES-W	\$ 10,230.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 16,256.25
FEHR-GRAHAM & ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-B,W	\$ 6,445.65
FELD FIRE	EQUIP-F	\$ 591.00
FOLEY, TRAVIS	REIMBURSE-W	\$ 150.00
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 2,054.00
HESS, LINDSAY	REFUND-PR	\$ 35.00
HOMAN, CARTER	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 90.00
HOME INDEED, INC	REFUND-B	\$ 100.00
HUPKE, BEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 300.00
HYDRITE CHEMICAL CO	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 2,698.48
IA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEM	TRAINING-PD	\$ 5,225.00
IA LEAGUE OF CITIES	DUES-CH	\$ 100.00
IOWA FINANCE	SRF PAYMENT-W	\$ 83,280.00
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 34,514.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 79.71
JOHNSON PLBG HEATING & AI	SERVICES-PR	\$ 235.00
KILER, CHASE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 380.00
KOBLINSKA, BOBBY	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 370.00
KREMER, KADEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 220.00
KUENNEN, GABE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 220.00
KURT, DYLAN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 300.00
LEGALSHIELD	LEGAL & ID BENEFIT	\$ 161.61
LIFE TIME FENCE COMPANY	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 772.69
LL PELLING COMPANY	MATERIALS-W	\$ 791.80
LYON, DANE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 100.00
MANATT'S INC	CEMENT-W	\$ 2,052.13
MCDONALD, CONNIE	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 55.00
MCGRAW'S CARPETS	FLOORING-F	\$ 7,015.36
MEIKE, CAIDEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 455.00
MESTAD, GAVIN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 70.00
METLIFE	LIFE-LTD-AD&D	\$ 1,418.97
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 70.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-PR	\$ 227.83
MIDWEST BREATHING AIR L.L	SERVICES-F	\$ 204.41
MILLER QUARRY	SERVICES-PR	\$ 167.40
MPH INDUSTRIES, INC.	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 2,480.18
MYERS-COX CO	CONCESSIONS-PR	\$ 3,106.48
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-ST,W,PR,F	\$ 547.52
NIEDERT, DAVID J	REIMBURSE-PD	\$ 32.00
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 48.65
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PR,W	\$ 1,003.62
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 407.69
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	CONCESSION-PR	\$ 2,397.23
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINAN	EQUIP LEASE-CH	\$ 490.53
PIZZA RANCH	CONCESSIONS-PR	\$ 2,155.54
POWERDMS INC.	SERVICES-PD	\$ 3,005.70
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	SERVICES-PR	\$ 645.06
PRINT EXPRESS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 150.00

PUFFETT, JACOB	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 135.00
RASMUSSEN, AUSTIN	REFUND-PR	\$ 65.00
REED, RANGER	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 45.00
RICK RATCHFORD, INC.	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 986.34
RINIKER, ADAM (AJ)	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 100.00
RIVER PALACE HOLDINGS INC	COMM REHAB-CH	\$ 9,165.75
RUMMEL, CARSON	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 410.00
SCHARES, ERIC	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 500.00
SCHIZEL, CALE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 280.00
SIGNS & MORE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 1,187.90
SIMMERING-CORY IA CODIFI	CODE UPDATES-CH	\$ 243.00
SLETTEN, RODNEY	REFUND-PR	\$ 25.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR,ST	\$ 405.50
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 5,645.33
T MOBILE	PHONE-PD,F,CH,B,PR,W	\$ 891.44
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,369.73
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 2,216.79
THREE OAKS GREENHOUSE	FLOWERS-PR	\$ 2,770.00
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 7.78
UMB BANK NA	BOND PAYMENTS	\$ 1,423,876.25
USA BLUE BOOK	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 942.59
UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY	EQUIP-W	\$ 8,300.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-F,PD	\$ 48.49
VIETOR, ASHLEY	REFUND-PR	\$ 90.00
VOLTMER, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$ 21,364.54
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-ALL	\$ 47,485.12
WBC MECHANICAL INC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 1,332.08
WEBER, TREY	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 205.00
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT PRE TAX	\$ 45,196.76
WEX BANK	FUEL-A,B,F,PD,PR,W	\$ 2,883.50
WILSON, DAVID	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 375.00
WINDOW WORLD	SERVICES-CH	\$ 8,012.00
YOUNGBLUT, DAX	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 720.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$2,095,141.87; General \$198,560.12; Library \$11,009.40; Hotel-Motel \$2,770.00; Streets Dept-Road Use \$12,683.51; Employee Benefits \$47,125.23; Urban Renewal-LMI \$8,012.00; Economic Development \$9,165.75; Debt Service \$1,427,904.90; Cap Project-Bridges \$1,167.50; Parks & Rec Project \$1,167.50; Cap Project-Airport \$21,364.54; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$11,071.40; Water \$72,937.54; Water Revenue Bond \$86,337.50; Sewer Utility \$26,795.14; Sewer SRF Sinking \$83,280.00; Storm Water \$62.21; Storm Water Projects \$57,471.38; Self Insurance \$16,151.99; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$104.26.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$62,678.19; General \$33,629.28; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$8,500.00; Water \$1,381.26; Sewer Utility \$2,989.15; Storm Water \$263.87; Self Insurance \$15,846.33; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$68.30.

The May 2025 bank reconciliation 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 Code Section 41.14 – Fireworks, second by Council Member Jensen. Mayor Bleichner stated this amendment reflects the legislative change made earlier this year. Council Member Hanna asked if this means no permits will be issued this year? City Manager Schmitz replied that for consumer fireworks there will not be permits issued but there will be permits for professional grade fireworks. Council Member Hanna asked if this allows residents to shoot fireworks off in their yard during these hours and days? City Manager Schmitz stated that is correct. Council Member O’Loughlin stated he had four veterans contact him asking if there was any way the City could forestall this? City Manager Schmitz replied there is nothing the City can do as the State passed this and made this effective in May once the Governor signed it into law. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: O’Loughlin. 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 Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: O'Loughlin and Hanna. The motion failed.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution to replace and repeal resolution 2023-91 setting solid waste collection fees and environmental impact fee rates at the amount of \$18.17 as discussed, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. Mayor Bleichner explained this monthly fee includes an administrative fee of \$0.25 to recoup costs when staff are handling calls from residents related to solid waste and recycling. There are other administration fees the Council could choose if they do not want the \$0.25. Council Member Hanna asked if the \$0.25 is approved, will it be raised next year? City Manager Schmitz stated the City has never charged an administrative fee before now. He is not inclined to recoup all the expenses related to administrative time addressing calls, but when property taxes are already being collected for salaries and staff are taking these calls it makes sense to use the user fee towards a portion of staff salaries. He feels the \$0.25 is sufficient and shouldn't need to be raised. Council Member Hanna asked how many calls are received at City Hall or does the Light Plant take a lot of those calls? City Manager Schmitz said the Light Plant does take some calls, but the City does pay for the administration of billing for this. City Clerk Lampe stated the types of calls received but calls do fluctuate during the year. Council Member Moore feels \$0.25 is not out of line at all. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-52 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that awards the General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2025 to Robert W. Baird as recommended by the bid tabulation prepared by Speer Financial, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. Maggie Burger, Speer Financial, reviewed the bond sale held earlier in the day and the Moody's report regarding the City's bond rating. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-53 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that sets a public hearing on July 14, 2025, at 5:30 pm on the designation of the July 2025 Urban Renewal Area and on the Urban Renewal Plan and Project, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-54 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Mayner with a motion to approve the Miller 4th of July block party to be held on July 4, 2025, second by Council Member Moore. Council Member Hanna asked if insurance was required from the applicant and expressed concerns about emergency services being able to access a house within that block. City Clerk Lampe responded that this is the second time a resident has asked to have a block party and insurance wasn't required for the first one that was held several years ago. City Manager Schmitz said he will be working with the Police Department to add a new chapter to the Code of Ordinances that addresses block parties and formalizes the process for closing streets. Further discussion about concerns can be held when the new code is brought to a future work session. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Police Monthly Reports – Council Member Moore asked what does disturbing the peace include? Police Chief Niedert stated the calls on the report are classified in the software and depend upon how much information the dispatcher receives from the initial call. Council Member O'Loughlin asked what makes up a fraud and counterfeit call? Police Chief Niedert gave an example of a fraud call. Building Department Monthly Reports – Council Member O'Loughlin asked if anyone had been found to mow nuisance properties? City Manager Schmitz answered that no one had been found. Hanna – Shared that more cemetery volunteers are needed on Saturday for cleaning stones. Asked if there was a Substance Abuse meeting this coming Thursday? Mayner – Had a few people ask why work sessions weren't streamed? O'Loughlin – Asked how to get water shut off notices and the trash service transition to residents that don't have the internet or social media? City Manager – There is a Substance Abuse meeting this Thursday at 10:00 am. Cities are not legally required to televise any meetings, however; Independence does in an effort to promote transparency. The public is welcome to come to work sessions to hear what is being discussed. He mentioned the potential new text message service that could stream line the entire process for staff and enable certain areas of the City to receive notices if it were to be

related to a water main break as an example. A letter will be mailed out as soon as possible to all residents related to the trash and recycling transition. The trail project Mr. Smock spoke about at the June 2nd Work Session wasn't awarded the grant he applied for. The Independence Public Library also did not receive the grant they applied for to do more work around Oaklee. Mayor – Framing has started for the gazebo at Mayor's Park. Thanked City Staff for working at City Wide Clean Up. Thanked Mitch with Iowa Wall Sawing for their time to work on the restroom that was vandalized in a City park. Police – Police Chief Neidert said he didn't attend the Work Session last week as he was participating in the Guns vs. Hoses event to cover outstanding lunch balances at Independence Community School and East Buchanan Schools. Cops and Bobbers will be coming soon. City Clerk – There was a trial period of streaming work sessions, but department heads didn't feel they could speak freely with Council. There were and still are concerns that residents may misunderstand something and think the City is moving forward with something when in reality it is an idea only. Residents are able to go to the Library to get help on signing up for text alerts from the City's website. 160 tires and 244 electronic waste items were accepted on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

ATTEST:

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