



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: June 10, 2024

ITEM TITLE: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Independence, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Mowing of Properties – First Reading

BACKGROUND:

This item was discussed at the June 3rd City Council Work Session.

DISCUSSION:

As discussed at the Work Session, Building Official Chesmore and I have been looking at options to gain additional compliance with mowing regulations, enable the City to contract out the mowing services, and then recoup those costs.

This proposed Ordinance modifies the existing Code, changing the fee structure for mowing from the flat \$200 currently in the code to a \$75 administrative fee plus a base cost of \$175 to mow the property. Should we go that route in the future, we have also added language to allow for the recovery of costs related to contract mowing.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Engaging and Catalyzing Community. This item helps achieve that vision by keeping Independence aesthetically pleasing and preventing vermin and rodent habitats that can impact neighborhoods.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

Publication costs related to the ordinance summary will be incurred, and then costs to Simmering-Cory Iowa Codification when the next code supplement is completed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending provisions pertaining to Mowing of Properties.

Staff recommends a motion to suspend 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.

Staff recommends a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Mowing of Properties be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Ordinance. The changes will be effective upon the ordinance summary being published in the newspapers.