

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 27, 2026.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Appleby in attendance. Council Member Mayner was 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 O'Loughlin, second by Council Member Hanna to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held April 27, 2026. Ayes: All. Absent: Mayner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Keninger, 301 7th Avenue SE, stated he has been directly impacted by the actions of the Independence Police Department. He held up a parking ticket and a traffic warning that were recently issued to members of his household. He also spoke of an incident earlier today when a member of his household went to the Police Department for a records request, and he felt the family member was unfairly treated.

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation declaring April 2026 as Fair Housing Month.

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation declaring May 3 – 9, 2026, as the 57th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation declaring May 8, 2026, as Provider Appreciation Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Weber, second by Council Member Hanna to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the April 13, 2026, Special Meeting. b) The minutes of the April 13, 2026, Regular Meeting. Ayes: All. Absent: Mayner.

FINANCIALS

Motion by Council Member O'Loughlin, second by Council Member Moore to approve the following bills for payment. Ayes: All. Absent: Mayner.

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$1,746.98
ADP	PAYROLL SVCS	\$114,764.15
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-L	\$600.20
ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE CO	ASSUR CRIT ILL	\$586.64
AVFUEL CORPORATION	JET FUEL-A	\$46,676.77
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VISION BENEFIT	\$555.29
BEATTY, DREW	UMPIRE-PR	\$330.00
BENJAMIN F. HUPKE	UMPIRE-PR	\$220.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	AUDIO-L	\$380.57
BLAKE HAYWARD	REIMB-F	\$119.63
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$3,315.70
BRODART CO	BOOKS-L	\$762.25
BROWN-LANE INSURANCE	INSUR-A	\$7,406.00
BRUENING ROCK	SERVICES-W	\$274.06
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER	AMB SVC-AMB	\$11,726.35
BUCHANAN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFI	PROGRAM-L	\$35.00
CAIDEN MEIKE	UMPIRE-PR	\$360.00
CALE SCHISSEL	UMPIRE-PR	\$360.00
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$235.63
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-CH,F	\$6,243.26
CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY	SERVICES-AC	\$192.00
CENGAGE LEARNING	BOOKS-L	\$232.84
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	BOOKS-L	\$58.74

CITY LAUNDERING CO. INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$92.81
COLE'S ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-L	\$13.99
CONTROL INSTALLATIONS OF IOWA	BLDG MAINT-CH	\$600.00
DAX YOUNGBLUT	UMPIRE-PR	\$260.00
DECKER SPORTING GOODS	EQUIP-PR	\$819.60
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL BENEFIT	\$4,377.50
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH REPAIR-F	\$2,524.35
DOYLE, KELLEY	REFUND-PR	\$100.00
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITIES-A,PR,ST,CH,W	\$2,737.44
EAST DUBUQUE BASEBALL BOOSTERS	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$225.00
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT, LLC	SERVICES-W	\$7,861.94
FAREWAY STORES INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$2,937.04
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU	TRAINING-F	\$700.00
FREEDOM AND GLORY	FLAGS-CH	\$335.97
GALLS, LLC	UNIFORM-PD	\$11.14
GAVIN MESTAD	UMPIRE-PR	\$360.00
GENTRY ROGER	RV HOST-PR	\$300.00
GUARDIAN	LIFE-LTD-AD&D	\$1,535.02
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COMPANY	SERVICES-L	\$204.00
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$120.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWER	SERVICES-ALL	\$4,278.82
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-CH, L	\$314.00
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	BOOKS-L	\$468.59
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-W	\$8,445.89
IOWA VINYL WINDOWS	HOME REHAB-CH	\$10,000.00
JANET BULS	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$315.75
JD SADLER	UMPIRE-PR	\$360.00
J.F. AHERN	SERVICES-PR	\$377.19
JOE OLSEN	REIMB-PR	\$102.72
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-W,PR,SW,A,ST	\$1,270.35
JOHN H. YODER	BLDG REPAIR-L	\$1,950.00
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-SW	\$84.00
LEGALSHIELD	LEGAL/ID BENEFIT	\$174.55
LEONHART, JASON	REIMB-PR	\$425.00
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL SVC-CH	\$5,757.53
MARCUS BEATTY	UMPIRE-PR	\$570.00
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE	SERVICES-F	\$6,584.26
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	UTILITIES-CH,L,PD,PR,ST,W	\$5,174.66
MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS INC	SERVICES-W	\$230.00
MIDWEST JANITORIAL SERVICE	BLDG MAINT-L	\$1,635.00
MILLER, RYAN	REIMB-PR	\$425.00
MYERS-COX CO	SUPPLIES-PR	\$1,513.23
NEJDL, MICHELLE	REIMB-CH	\$169.39
OFFICE TOWNE INC.	SUPPLIES-PR	\$731.40
OVERDRIVE INC.	EBOOKS-L	\$6,744.00
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	SUPPLIES=PR	\$1,095.88
PETERSON, JESSICA	REFUND-PR	\$55.00
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-CH	\$6.22
RIVER PALACE HOLDINGS INC	GRANT MATCH-CH	\$37,978.20
ROTO-ROOTER	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$268.75
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-PD	\$202.85
SAUSER, ANDREA	REFUND-PR	\$65.00
SCHUERING, SCOTT	REIMB-PR	\$425.00
SEVERSON, TONY	REIMB-PR	\$425.00
SNAPSPORTS ATHLETIC SURFACES	SERVICES-PR	\$22,275.42
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST CO	RETIRE BENEFIT	\$7,341.83
STATE FARM	BENEFITS-CH,ST,W	\$32.72
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT PARROT	SUPPLIES-L	\$259.42

STORY, ROLAND	REIMB-PR	\$425.00
STRAND ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-W	\$14,440.00
STRESSCRETE INC	EQUIP REPAIR-ST	\$3,912.00
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$2,460.00
SYNTECH SYSTEMS	SERVICES-A	\$48.00
TASC	FLEX MED/DEP BENEFIT	\$1,497.28
TIMOTHY MAIN	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$1,401.66
TROTT TROPHIES	AWARDS-PR	\$960.00
WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY	BOOK-L	\$30.00
WELLMARK BCBS	INSURE-CH	\$48,282.03

CLAIMS TOTAL \$425,286.45; General Fund \$184,785.91; Library \$31,514.71; Hotel-Motel \$335.97; Streets Dept-Road Use \$22,006.14; Employee Benefits \$48,041.00; Urban Renewal – LMI \$10,000.00; Economic Development \$37,978.20; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$22,275.42; Water Fund \$26,990.19; Sewer Utility Fund \$27,010.91; WWTP Rehab Project \$14,240.00; Storm Water \$108.00.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$3,041,694.47; General Fund \$1,148,867.12; Library \$38,392.08; Streets Dept-Road Use \$69,720.42; Employee Benefits \$502,515.81; Tax Increment Finance \$388,705.18; Debt Service \$568,315.03; Debt-Special Assessment \$335.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$386.00; Water Fund \$70,763.43; Water Construction \$30,333.84; Water Revenue Bond \$7,737.91; Sewer Utility \$175,535.80; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund \$7,928.41; Storm Water \$11,018.51; Self Insurance \$20,992.56; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$147.37.

The April 2026 budgeted monthly transfers and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Weber made a motion to approve the third and final reading of an ordinance amending provision pertaining to Chapter 170-Zoning Regulations, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance, seconded by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Appleby, and Weber. Absent: Mayner.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-633 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Prusator made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 65-Stop Required, seconded by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, and Hanna. Absent: Mayner.

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing for the proposed rezoning request of M-2 Heavy Manufacturing to C-2 Residential. City Clerk Lampe stated no comments were received prior to the meeting. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record. Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 170-Zoning Regulations, seconded by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Mayner.

Council Member O’Loughlin made a motion to set a public hearing date of May 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #2, seconded by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Appleby, and Weber. Absent: Mayner.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member O’Loughlin made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with the Independence Celebrations Committee and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, seconded by Council Member Weber. The funds will be used to assist in funding the fireworks display on July 4th. The City has agreed to pledge \$12,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Weber, and Hanna. Nays: Appleby. Absent: Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-28 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with Heartland Acres Agribition Center, and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, seconded by Council Member O’Loughlin. The funds will be used to expand educational

programs, enhance the event center facilities, and the preservation of historical artifacts and documents. The City has agreed to pledge \$10,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Weber, Hanna, and Moore. Nays: Appleby. Absent: Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-29 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution appointing Bill Lake to the Airport Zoning Commission, seconded by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-30 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution appointing Brian Keierleber to the Airport Zoning Commission, seconded by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Absent: Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-31 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution appointing Cheryl Hand to the Airport Board of Adjustment, seconded by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Appleby. Absent: Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-32 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution appointing Julie Wulfekuhle to the Airport Board of Adjustment, seconded by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Appleby, and Weber. Absent: Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-33 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member O'Loughlin made a motion to approve the special event application for RAGBRAI as submitted, seconded by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, and Hanna. Absent: Mayner.

Council Member Weber made a motion to approve and authorize the City Manager to proceed with purchasing the required materials from J & R Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$144,720.60, seconded by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Mayner.

Mayor Bleichner stated the Iowa Department of Transportation let a project on April 21st to do a paving project on Highway 20 from the Iowa Avenue exit to the 187 exit.

Mayor Bleichner stated that two records requests from a Council Member were received on April 17th. The issue is that an individual Council Member doesn't have the authority to request that staff do items or have the City incur a certain expense. It must be done for the City Council as a whole and it is brought to the group to make a decision. Council Member O'Loughlin made a motion to deny moving forward with fulfilling the Council Member requests, seconded by Council Member Weber. The language about an individual Council Member doing something comes from Iowa Code 364 and in the City Code Chapter 17. Council Member Moore asked for clarification if the majority of the Council needs to approve or deny the expense since it was not budgeted? Mayor Bleichner stated that the majority of Council needs to approve the expenditure of any Council Member as an individual. However, years ago the Council decided that individual members could reach out to the City Attorney's office on items up to a certain dollar amount. Council Member O'Loughlin said he remembers that and thought it was \$500 to \$750 per person. Council Member Hanna stated she believed the amount was \$1,000.00. City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe stated it is \$1,000.00 or 1 hour. City Manager Schmitz stated a motion was found that set it at \$1,000.00. Mayor Bleichner stated that the Council Rules of Procedures needs to be revised and will be put in a future work session for more discussion. Council Member Moore asked if the estimate for the records request can be shared for the public's knowledge? Council Member Appleby would argue that she believes the estimate to be extremely high. Mayor Bleichner stated he can share the amount, but it is in the packet. Any request by an individual Council Member can't act on his or her own. He or she only has power as a part of the group of Council Members. City Attorney Herman agreed with Mayor Bleichner's statement that an individual Council Member has no power. It takes the group to make decisions and do things on the City's behalf. If an individual Council Member comes into City Hall for

something, staff will almost always comply with the request if it is simple enough. If the request could take more time from an individual Council Member, then it should come back to the whole Council to decide if the request should be fulfilled. If the majority of the Council feels the request should not be done, then it would be considered a private citizen request and would then be subject to review and redaction. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Nays: Appleby. Absent: Mayner.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: O'Loughlin – He wanted to know if the City could look into vehicles with darker tinted windows closer. Police Chief – Each state has different requirements on window tinting. Iowa is changing its requirements, but it won't be in effect until July 1. It is something that can be enforced if the department is notified. City Manager – He authorized the Fire Department to move forward with purchasing a replacement truck. ICAP has been notified of this. The roof at the Police Department is anticipated to be finished this week if the weather cooperates. The roof at the shooting range was damaged from storms earlier this week. It is believed the roof was done in the late 1970's to early 1980's and staff don't believe it is worth filing an insurance claim. The cost will be paid out of the general operating budget after July 1st. The City was in the 657A process for a house near 6th Ave SW and 3rd St SW. The City Attorney's office has recommended the process be stopped as the property owner has made some progress and it may not meet the requirements of abandonment anymore. It was advised to still pursue municipal infractions to keep on the property owner to keep moving repairs. Mayor – This Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Public Library will be having a fundraiser and book sale with the proceeds going towards green space improvements in the front of the Library.

The City Attorney approved going into a closed session to discuss the purchase/sale of particular real estate. Council Member Weber made a motion to enter into a closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(j) to discuss the purchase/sale of particular real estate at 6:14 p.m., seconded by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Absent: Mayner. Those invited into the closed session were the following: Council Member Weber, Council Member Hanna, Council Member Moore, Council Member Prusator, City Manager Schmitz, Mayor Bleichner, City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe, City Attorney Doug Herman, Council Member O'Loughlin, and Council Member Appleby.

At 6:28 p.m., Council Member O'Loughlin made a motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Appleby. Absent: Mayner.

Council Member Weber made a motion to authorize the City Manager to move forward with the course of action the Council discussed in the closed session, seconded by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Weber. Nays: Appleby. Absent: Mayner.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

ATTEST:

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