

The Independence City Council met in special session in the council chambers at 4:45 p.m., on Monday, March 24, 2025.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, 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, YouTube, and Facebook.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Moore to approve the agenda as presented for the special meeting held March 24, 2025. 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 2026. Mayor Bleichner made a statement regarding the purpose of the public hearing. Mayor stated this hearing is only about the tax levy and not the entire budget. Another hearing will be held on April 14th at 4:45 pm. The City of Independence calculates property taxes from three different sources. The first is the assessed value of property which the County provides. The second is the residential rollback percentage that the State provides. The third is the levy rate itself and is created by a format that is given to the City by the State. The City’s tax levy rate last year was 19.53649 and is proposing to have a tax levy rate of 19.63340. This is actually an increase of 0.496%. Melissa Appleby, 502 9th Ave NE, asked that Council not raise taxes and try to lower them as much as possible by cutting out unnecessary expenses. It is getting unaffordable to live in today’s world. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

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