

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, June 23, 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 Jensen, second by Council Member Mayner to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held June 23, 2025. Ayes: All.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Prusator, second by Council Member Jensen to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the June 9, 2025, Regular Meeting. b) Renewal of the Home Occupation, Solid Waste, and Tobacco Permits for Fiscal Year 2026. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$ 1,634.00
ACCO	CHEMICALS-PR	\$ 3,388.50
ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-PR,L	\$ 268.98
ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 131,427.28
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-A,PD	\$ 255.13
AIR SERVICES INC	EQUIP MAINT-CH	\$ 12,973.41
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-A,B,F,L,PD,W	\$ 8,138.11
ASPRO INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 719.10
AVFUEL CORPORATION	FUEL-A	\$ 13,274.97
AWE ACQUISITION, INC.	EQUIP-L	\$ 1,800.00
BAKER & TAYLOR ENTERTAINM	BOOKS-L	\$ 520.74
BEATTY, DREW	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 620.00
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BLACK HAWK COUNTY SHERIFF	TRAINING-PD	\$ 500.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 337.77
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
BOOK FARM LLC	BOOKS-L	\$ 1,311.55
BRODART CO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 989.39
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	MATERIALS-PR	\$ 59.04
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CE	AMB SVC-CH	\$ 11,496.42
BURCO SALES	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$ 84.30
BUTLER, JOHN R	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$ 239.42
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-PD,A,PR,CH	\$ 3,345.97
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 113.98
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 89.40
CLENDENEN, CALEB	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 310.00
CMBA ARCHITECTS	SERVICES-PR	\$ 2,550.00
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-PR,ST	\$ 3,371.20
COUGHLAN COMPANIES, DBA	BOOKS-L	\$ 20.99
CUSTOM CONCRETE LLC	SERVICES-ST	\$ 5,500.00
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD,ST	\$ 154.84

D & K PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 440.50
DECKER SPORTING GOODS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 482.50
DELL MARKETING, LP	SUPPLIES-A	\$ 897.48
DIAMOND VOGEL PAINTS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 134.40
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITY-A,PR,ST,W,CH	\$ 1,349.37
EBSCO	DUES-L	\$ 525.21
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT	SERVICES-W	\$ 3,590.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 8,419.25
EPIC CLEAN, LLC	BLDG MAINT-L	\$ 1,400.00
ERA	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 1,134.30
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
ESCHEN'S CLOTHING	UNIFORM-ST	\$ 398.52
FAHR BEVERAGE INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 586.90
FAREWAY STORES INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 11,437.74
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUR	TRAINING-FD	\$ 50.00
FLACK, LOGAN D.	REFUND-PD	\$ 38.29
FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
FRONTLINE PUBLIC SAFETY	SOFTWARE-PD	\$ 1,102.55
GIERKE-ROBINSON CO	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 123.03
GREEN PRO SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 2,499.66
HAMILTON, SAM	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 300.00
HAUSERS WATER SYSTEMS INC	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 34.60
HAWKEYE ALARM SIGNAL COMP	SERVICES-L	\$ 687.50
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 70.00
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
HILLTOP MOTORS INC	VEH REPAIR-PD	\$ 493.11
HOMAN, CARTER	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 90.00
HOSCH TIRE HAULING	SERVICES-G	\$ 830.00
HOTSY CLEANING SYSTEMS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 177.70
HOWARD, DUANE	REFUND-PR	\$ 25.00
HUPKE, BEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 250.00
HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 321.85
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$ 9,812.83
IA LEAGUE OF CITIES	DUES-CH	\$ 3,565.00
IA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SUPPLIES-CH,ST	\$ 1,996.48
IMWCA	WC PREMIUM-ALL	\$ 72,824.00
INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS	FIREWORKS-CH	\$ 5,840.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE	UTILITIES-ALL	\$ 32,711.32
INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC LIBRA	REIMB-L	\$ 68.17
IPERS	IPERS BENEFIT	\$ 52,646.21
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 524.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 217.63
JOHNSON PLBG HEATING & AI	EQUIPMENT-F	\$ 1,540.00
KANOPY, INC	PROGRAM-L	\$ 2,000.00
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
KREMER, KADEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 285.00
KROMMINGA MOTORS INC.	VEH REPAIR-A	\$ 663.60
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
LENOVO	EQUIP-L	\$ 6,779.85
LIBRARY FURNITURE INTERN	EQUIP-L	\$ 3,500.00
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$ 1,871.38
LYON, DANE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 50.00
M & K DUST CONTROL INC	DUST CONTROL-ST	\$ 1,745.70
MANATT'S INC	CEMENT-PD,W	\$ 7,126.87
MAVERICK POWERSPORTS	SERVICES-PR	\$ 1,405.15
MAXIMOVICH, NATALIE	REFUND-PR	\$ 25.00

MEIKE, CAIDEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 265.00
MERGEN, BLAYNE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 220.00
METERING & TECHNOLOGY SOL	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 5,777.24
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 70.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-CH,L,ST,W	\$ 197.77
MILLER QUARRY	MATERIALS-PR	\$ 109.02
MILLS, SARA	REFUND-PR	\$ 210.00
MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	SERVICES-W	\$ 3,375.00
MYERS-COX CO	CONCESSIONS-PR	\$ 4,809.25
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH	\$ 1,017.99
OFFICE EXPRESS OFFICE PRD	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 270.53
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 1,334.70
PALMER, CARTER	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 220.00
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	CONCESSION-PR	\$ 2,608.75
PERMA-BOUND	BOOKS-L	\$ 72.97
PRAIRIE ROAD BUILDERS INC	SERVICES-ST	\$ 35,790.74
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	SERVICES-L	\$ 160.00
PUFFETT, JACOB	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 135.00
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-ALL	\$ 526.73
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
REED, ISLA	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 50.00
REED, RANGER	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 145.00
ROBERT'S REPAIR	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 1,202.36
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-CH	\$ 78.23
SCHISSEL, CALE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 220.00
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY	BOOKS-L	\$ 177.50
SIGNS & MORE	SHIRTS-PR	\$ 5,006.00
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
STATE FARM	BENEFIT-CH,ST,W	\$ 32.72
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	LAB ANALYSIS-PR	\$ 14.50
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 5,605.33
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT P	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 143.74
STRUTZ, CALEB	PROGRAM-L	\$ 450.00
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,617.50
T & W GRINDING & COMPOST	SERVICES-ST	\$ 7,020.00
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,384.73
TROTT TROPHIES	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 600.00
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-F,L,PD,PR,W	\$ 677.69
UMB BANK NA	BOND FEES-CH	\$ 800.00
US CELLULAR	PHONE-W	\$ 46.40
USA BLUE BOOK	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 5,391.34
UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 452.88
VESSCO INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 3,693.11
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 78.55
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-A,PR	\$ 1,760.96
WATERLOO TENT & TARP	EQUIP-L	\$ 2,860.00
WBC MECHANICAL INC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 501.49
WELLMARK BCBS	INSURE-CH	\$ 253.80
YOUNGBLUT, DAX	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 170.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$549,936.66; General Fund \$224,456.37; Library \$34,201.59; Hotel/Motel Tax \$5,840.00; Streets Dept-Road Use \$66,584.55; Employee Benefits \$103,140.44; Debt Service \$800.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$16,891.32; Water Fund \$42,874.79; Sewer Utility Fund \$46,501.94; Storm Water \$226.41; Self Insurance \$8,385.22; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$34.03.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$435,132.12; General Fund \$110,331.81; Library \$30,784.69; Streets Dept-Road Use \$94,835.75; Employee Benefits \$11,924.16; Tax Increment Finance \$13,856.56; Debt Service \$20,518.29; Debt-Special Assessment \$3,156.00; Parks & Rec Projects \$1,600.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$8,500.00; Water Fund \$19,496.94; Water Revenue Bond \$7,755.84; Sewer Utility \$34,168.53; Sewer SRF Sinking \$7,946.67; Sewer Sinking Revenue Bond \$42,795.42; Storm Water \$3,127.58; Self Insurance \$24,231.55; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$102.33.

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

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Leanne Harrison, 514 5th Avenue SW, President of the Buchanan County Historical Society invited the City Council and public to the 15th Annual Oakwood Cemetery Tour. Council Member Mayner with a motion to approve the 15th Annual Oakwood Cemetery Tour to be held on July 19, 2025, second by Council Member Weber. Ayes: All.

Stephen Streeter, 504 Cedar Street, Brandon, introduced himself to the City Council. He has submitted proposals for the Independence Municipal Airport that are being accepted until June 25th and July 25th respectively.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Code Section 41.14 - Fireworks, second by Council Member Mayner. Mayor Bleichner stated that the State has passed the law that makes the current code null and void. Council Member O'Loughlin stated that other communities have been able to bypass the new legislation. City Manager Schmitz replied that cities can control fireworks outside of July 3rd and 4th. July 3rd and 4th are now State controlled, and cities can't enforce their specific regulations on those days. Council Member Hanna asked if the end time was 10:00 pm or 11:00 pm on the 4th? City Manager Schmitz read from the ordinance amendment that on July 3rd the hours are 9:00 am to 10:00 pm and on July 4th the hours are 9:00 am to 11:00 pm. Council Member Moore mentioned that December 31st is also included in the amendment. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. 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 Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Weber, and Hanna. Nays: Jensen. Council Member Weber with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Code Section 41.14 – Fireworks be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-608 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Code Chapter 105 – Solid Waste Control, second by Council Member Weber. City Manager Schmitz stated that this amendment is a requirement from the Black Hawk Solid Waste Commission in order for solid waste from the City of Independence being taken over to the Black Hawk County Landfill with the start of the new solid waste contract with Kluesner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Mayner. Council Member O'Loughlin 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 Prusator. Council Member Moore asked if there should be discussion on why the second and third readings be waived as this important. Mayor Bleichner stated this is important because the new contract with Kluesner starts on July 1st. City Manager Schmitz added that while this is important, the Black Hawk Solid Waste Commission did give the City until November 1st to make this designation. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Code Chapter 105 – Solid Waste Control be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-609 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that authorizes and approves the Loan Agreement providing for the issuance of \$2,480,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2025, and providing for the levy of taxes to pay the same, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator,

O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-55 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Schmitz provided an update regarding the transition of solid waste for the City of Independence effective July 1, 2025. The City of Independence had received a letter from the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission that had four requirements the City needed to address before being able to bring solid waste to the Black Hawk County Landfill. The collection agreement has already been provided. The City Council has designated the Black Hawk County Landfill via the ordinance amendment earlier in the meeting. He has communicated to Kluesner that any solid waste collected from Independence needs to be identified as such when it is being dropped off at the Black Hawk County Landfill. Council Member Hanna asked if there was a smaller container size for those residents that requested it? City Manager Schmitz stated the smallest size Kluesner has to offer is the 45-gallon container.

Council Member Weber with a motion to authorize the City Manager to move forward with the purchase of an excavator for the Utilities Department, second by Council Member Mayner. City Manager Schmitz stated this is a Fiscal Year 2026 budgeted expense. It is being brought to Council as it is a purchase over \$50,000 limit per the purchasing policy. It is being sole-sourced as it is the same excavator that the Street Department has and parts can be used between the two departments. Council Member Hanna asked what will be done with the old one? City Manager Schmitz replied this one is for the Utilities Department and Streets will be keeping theirs. The two departments can share it at times, but there are times when each department needs to use the excavator at the same time. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if it could handle water main breaks? City Manager Schmitz said it could handle small projects, but not the big ones like the project on 8th Avenue NE. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Council Member Weber with a motion to deny the renewal of applications for Device Permits for King Tobacco and The Spot #2 based on non-compliance with the requirements of the law, second by Council Member Moore. City Manager Schmitz stated these permits would have been on the consent agenda, but the businesses are not in compliance. It made sense to have them as a separate item to allow for discussion. He has conferred with the City Attorney that Council does have the authority to deny these permits. Police Chief Niedert said the devices are made of glass or metal and commonly used to smoke controlled substances. The devices could be marketed to be used with tobacco but that is not always the case. A check was done on both places and devices were visible to the public making them in violation of the Iowa Code Section. It is also the recommendation of the Police Department that the renewals be denied. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if those devices are being marketed, then those businesses can't allow anyone under 21 in? Police Chief Niedert said nobody under 21 can be allowed unless those devices are in a section that doesn't allow those under 21 are able to enter. Council Member Hanna asked if there are any charges being put on those stores? City Manager Schmitz replied it is his understanding that the Iowa Department of Revenue is the entity that would enforce that. Police Chief Niedert said that it could be an administrative charge and not necessarily a criminal charge. The written Police report was included in the agenda packet. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if those businesses could get into compliance and then reapply? City Manager Schmitz stated they could and would have to reapply. It would then be on the Council to decide if they would want to approve them and decide if they want those devices within the City. It should be aware that all businesses should be treated the same so if Council should choose to not allow the devices, then it should be denied for all businesses. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Weber – The Independence Public Library's Summer Reading Program is going on and encouraged people to sign up. Hanna – She has received requests that the City should clean and repair the lights at the Greif Memorial at Liberty Park before the 4th of July. She also received phone calls about the downtown bathroom needing to be cleaned. Moore – Hopes that all citizens come to the events on July 3rd and 4th. O'Loughlin – He had to park behind Del Rio and was almost hit by a vehicle from Minnesota with dark window tinting. He would like to emphasis that enforcement needs to be done on this. Police – Gave a shout out to Officer Boos for his time dealing with the vandalism done at the bathroom park. It takes a lot of time and energy to see an investigation through, and people may not see and realize that. City Manager – Greg Fangman, Innovative Ag owner, reached out to him to see if there is any interest in the City abandoning 7th Avenue NE and 11th Street NE to allow for expansion. This can be brought to a future Council Work Session for further discussion. The downtown signage moratorium expires tomorrow. A resolution will be brought to the first Council Meeting in July to extend it. The City will not actively enforce potential violations during that short time frame. Planning and Zoning will be discussing this at their July meeting to keep the process moving of amending that code section.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:33 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

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