

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, October 14, 2024.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, and Jensen in attendance. Council Member Huston via phone. Council Member Moore 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 Jensen, second by Council Member Hanna to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held October 14, 204. Ayes: All. Absent: Moore.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kriss McGraw, 308 5th St SE, spoke about the sign that her business S & K places on the sidewalk to draw in customers. She was told last week that those signs can not be used per City Ordinance and asked that Council look at changing this.

Heather Federspiel, 119 1st St E, also spoke about the sign that Ninny Frank’s places on the sidewalk. She passed out ordinances from neighboring cities that address these signs.

Allison Bahlmann, 323 1st St E, has a flat sign and not a sandwich sign that is used to draw customers in.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Weber to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the September 30, 2024, Regular Meeting. 2) Hartig Drug #14 Class E retail alcohol license renewal effective November 12, 2024, through November 11, 2025. 3) Bow hunting request from Tom Weigand for the 2024-2025 bow hunting season. Ayes: All. Absent: Moore.

FINANCIALS

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

ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 114,292.92
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-A	\$ 68.89
ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL TE	SERVICES-B	\$ 3,100.00
AIR SERVICES INC	SERVICES-F	\$ 2,700.00
AIRGAS	SERVICES-ST	\$ 124.38
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-W,F,PD	\$ 1,515.94
ASPRO INC	SERVICES-W,ST	\$ 21,554.79
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
BLACKBURN MFG	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 270.34
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
BUTLER, JOHN R	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-B,PR,PD,F,W,CH	\$ 719.94
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-ALL	\$ 6,388.58
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU	SERVICES-ST	\$ 1,058.00
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD	\$ 74.92
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	EQUIP-F	\$ 476.98
DIAMOND VOGEL PAINTS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 1,530.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 12,099.17
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
GALLS INC	UNIFORM-F	\$ 140.99

GIERKE-ROBINSON CO	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 697.26
HAUSERS WATER SYSTEMS INC	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 44.80
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
HUPKE, BEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 300.00
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$ 8,453.44
IA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SIGNS-W	\$ 77.40
IOWA WALL SAWING SERVICES	SERVICES-W	\$ 500.00
IPERS	IPERS PRETAX EE SHARE	\$ 35,502.40
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 1,850.00
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
KOBLINSKA, BOBBY	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 240.00
KREMER, KADEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 280.00
KUENNEN, GABE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 270.00
LAMPE, SUSI	REIMBURSE-CH	\$ 20.10
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
LUMBER RIDGE HOME SOURCE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 535.07
LYON, DANE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 100.00
MCCLOUD SERVICES	PEST CONTROL-PD	\$ 100.00
MCDONALD, CONNIE	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 5.00
MILLER QUARRY	SERVICES-PR	\$ 951.87
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-W,ST,A	\$ 517.01
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH,ST	\$ 428.94
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-F,PR	\$ 14,451.93
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 593.19
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 640.56
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	EQUIP MAINT-PR,W	\$ 871.59
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	TRAINING-CH	\$ 500.00
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-PR	\$ 214.99
RACOM CORPORATION	EQUIP MAINT-PD	\$ 262.26
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
RINNIKER, AJ	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 340.00
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-CH,PR	\$ 139.70
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-PD	\$ 517.39
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 31.40
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
SIGNS & MORE	SERVICES-PR,B	\$ 5,540.51
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 50.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR,ST	\$ 2,146.79
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 5,848.11
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,670.00
SYNTECH	SERVICES-A	\$ 119.00
T & W GRINDING & COMPOST	SERVICES-ST	\$ 12,500.00
T MOBILE	PHONE-PD,F,CH,B,PR	\$ 906.41
TASC	FLEX MED/DEP	\$ 1,276.71
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 1,722.45
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-PR,W,PD,ST	\$ 823.79
VANSCOYOC, BRADY	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 170.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-F	\$ 7.02
VESSCO INC	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$ 9,111.11
VOLTMER, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$ 166,353.79
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-ALL	\$ 49,562.50
WEBER, TREY	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 425.00
WSRBBSB	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 700.00
WYMORE, GAGE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 275.00
YOUNGBLUT, DAX	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 350.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$496,810.33; General Fund \$175,086.85; Library \$11,742.04; Streets Dept-Road Use \$19,488.69; Employee Benefits \$26,075.22; Cap Project-Street Improvements \$18,448.19; Parks & Rec Projects \$1,212.12; Cap Project-Airport \$166,353.79; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$16,276.75; Water Fund \$27,189.23; Sewer Utility Fund \$22,838.28; Self Insurance \$11,981.91; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$117.26.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$2,892,115.23; General Fund \$1,025,882.60; Library \$34,665.95; Employee Benefits \$593,867.32; Tax Increment Financing \$480,061.60; Debt Service \$558,383.99; Debt-Special Assessment \$74,268.27; Water Fund \$21,185.79; Water Revenue Bond \$7,832.08; Sewer Utility \$30,695.49; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund \$7,996.66; Sewer Sinking Revenue Bond \$42,422.66; Storm Water \$3,095.27; Self Insurance \$11,685.24; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$72.31.

The September 2024 bank reconciliation and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Maggie Burger, Speer Financial, presented the annual debt/TIF report.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution to file the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Financial Report, second by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Absent: Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-71 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Hanna with a motion to approve the Commercial Restoration Rehab Grant Application with River Palace Holdings in the amount of \$9,165.75, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Huston. Absent: Moore.

Mayor Bleichner provided a background of this proposed project for 1st Street West from the Wapsi Bridge on 1st St to 10th Ave NW and the proposed expansion of the project to 20th Ave. The City had already acquired a STBG grant for the first phase of the project but found out that those funds can be used a match for potential RAISE grant. Council Member Jensen with a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign Ritland + Kuiper’s proposal for the 1st Street West Corridor Improvements, second by Council Member Prusator. City Manager Schmitz did a rough cost estimate for doing the additional work and came up with a potential project cost of \$12 million to go from the bridge to 20th Avenue. There will be more meetings as this project moves along during the process. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, and Hanna. Absent: Moore.

Mayor Bleichner and City Manager Schmitz provided Council with an update to the Engine 1 that was involved in an accident responding to a call on September 15, 2024. Staff have been working with ICAP, the manufacturer of Engine 1, and a vendor to acquire a loaner engine.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Hanna – Thanked the Street Department and Independence Light & Power for all their work at Oakwood Cemetery. Made a request that at a future work session downtown parking be discussed as she has received complaints. O’Loughlin – Asked if there was any update to the traffic cameras and the appeal process? City Manager – The City is working on filing an appeal with the IA DOT for the traffic cameras but that is it for an update currently. The City was unsuccessful in obtaining the SRT grant for the Enterprise Drive Trail Phase 2 project. He will continue looking for other funding sources for this project. SW Park Improvements was identified to use ARPA funds but an internal decision was made to allocate the funds elsewhere. Discussions were held to use ARPA funds for the work done for the ADA sidewalk and pier. Remaining unallocated funds will be allocated towards the Bob Hill Memorial Park and brought forward to Council for approval at the next meeting. Staff have received the 2025 renewal rates for health, dental, and vision insurances. While working on the FY2025 budget, wages for an additional lab tech was for a full year. Staff have decided to start the hiring process soon and hope to have someone hired by January 1, 2025. Police Chief Niedert has given a tentative retirement date of August/September 2025 and described a potential timeline for a hiring process. Police- Has been working on revising the parking ordinance for downtown parking. Will bring it to the November work session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:57 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