

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, January 27, 2025.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Huston, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, and Jensen in attendance. Council Member Hanna via phone. Council Member Huston 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 Prusator, second by Council Member Moore to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held January 27, 2025. Ayes: All. Absent: Huston.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member O’Loughlin to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting. 2) The Spot Smoke Shop Class E retail alcohol license renewal application with a tentative effective date of February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026. 3) Mini Mart Class E retail alcohol license new application with a tentative effective date of January 10, 2025, through January 9, 2026. Ayes: All. Absent: Huston.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$ 1,634.00
ACCO	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 121.51
ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-PR,W	\$ 54.75
ADP	PAYROLL	\$ 106,320.97
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	VEH REPAIRS-PD	\$ 191.30
AIR SERVICES INC	BLDG REPAIR-F	\$ 3,879.00
ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	SERVICES-ALL	\$ 515.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-CH,F,L,PD	\$ 1,089.97
ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE	ASSUR CRIT ILL	\$ 491.10
AVFUEL CORPORATION	EQUIP RENTAL-A	\$ 20.00
BAGBY'S AUTOMOTIVE	VEH REPAIR-W	\$ 1,071.00
BAKER & TAYLOR ENTERTAINM	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 265.29
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 194.87
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT 01	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$ 133.46
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$ 1,286.50
BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN FIRE	EQUIP-F	\$ 9,750.00
BRODART CO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 272.25
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	MATERIALS-ST,W	\$ 3,330.50
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CE	AMB SVC-CH	\$ 11,271.00
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$ 409.67
CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY	SERVICES-AC	\$ 408.00
CENGAGE LEARNING	BOOKS-L	\$ 34.84
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 169.22
CHRISTIE DOOR CO, INC.	SERVICES-F	\$ 1,196.90
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 178.80
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	SNOW MAINT-ST	\$ 5,756.23
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	SUPPLIES-F	\$ 135.00
DELL MARKETING, LP	EQUIP-L	\$ 5,100.50
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 4,280.42
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITY-A,PR,ST,W,CH	\$ 2,521.09

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 107.88
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SERVICES-W	\$ 16,848.89
EPIC CLEAN, LLC	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 8,756.31
ESCHEN'S CLOTHING	BLDG MAINT-L	\$ 1,400.00
FERTILIZER DEALER SUPPLY	UNIFORM-A,ST,W	\$ 521.88
FUTURE LINE LLC	SNOW MAINT-ST	\$ 5,140.08
HAWKINS, INC.	VEH REPAIR-A	\$ 31.11
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 120.00
IA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$ 8,653.87
IA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEM	DUES-CH	\$ 101.59
IA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	TRAINING-PD	\$ 150.00
IA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOC.	DUES-L	\$ 370.00
IA STATE UNIVERSITY	DUES-PD	\$ 200.00
IIMC	TRAINING-CH	\$ 32.00
IMFOA	DUES-CH	\$ 195.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE	TRAINING-CH	\$ 75.00
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	UTILITIES-ALL	\$ 33,016.24
IPERS	DUES-L	\$ 148.00
JACOBS, MORGAN	IPERS PRE TAX	\$ 33,675.34
KIECK'S CAREER APPAREL	REFUND-CH	\$ 100.00
KILER, ANGELA	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 1,375.00
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEG	REFUND-CH	\$ 100.00
KREMPGES, ERIN	TRAINING-PD	\$ 108.00
LEGALSHIELD	REIMBURSE-L	\$ 40.71
LL PELLING COMPANY	FAMILY LEGAL AND IDENTITY	\$ 161.61
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	SERVICES-W	\$ 911.40
METLIFE	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$ 2,555.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	LIFE-LTD-AD&D	\$ 1,441.20
MOCIC	UTILITY-CH,L,PD,PR,ST,W	\$ 7,435.35
OFFICE TOWNE INC	DUES-PD	\$ 150.00
PALMER, CARTER	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 117.74
PATHWAYS	SERVICES-L	\$ 120.00
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	SERVICES-CH	\$ 1,000.00
PERMA-BOUND	CONCESSION-PR	\$ 483.79
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINAN	BOOKS-L	\$ 5.94
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	POSTAGE-PR	\$ 74.69
RAY O'HERRON CO.	BLDG MAINT-L	\$ 317.04
RITLAND+KUIPER LANDSCAPE	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 198.43
ROBERT'S REPAIR	SERVICES-CH	\$ 24,926.93
ROTO-ROOTER	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 637.64
ROY KENAGY CONSULTING	SERVICES-PD	\$ 390.00
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	SERVICES-L	\$ 95.00
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	PEST CONTROL-PR	\$ 72.00
SIGNS & MORE	VEH MAINT-PD	\$ 544.37
SOMJAL 2 LLC	SERVICES-PR,PD,ST	\$ 275.61
STATE FARM	REFUND-CH	\$ 12.50
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	BENEFIT-CH,ST,W	\$ 32.72
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT P	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 7,933.37
STRAND ASSOCIATES	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 268.75
TASC	SERVICES-W	\$ 10,330.00
TOYNE	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,369.73
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	EQUIP-FD	\$ 795.50
TSCHIGGFRIE EXCAVATING IN	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 19.47
US CELLULAR	SERVICES-W	\$ 144,733.49
USA BLUE BOOK	PHONE-W	\$ 46.10
	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 270.27

WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 149.12
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-PR,A	\$ 2,190.91
WELLMARK BCBS	BCBS ER SHARE	\$ 47,237.69
ZORO TOOLS, INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 26.52

CLAIMS TOTAL \$530,679.92; General Fund \$144,332.49; Library \$18,861.88; Streets Dept-Road Use \$31,582.77; Employee Benefits \$64,938.70; Cap Project-Airport \$1,286.50; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$5,100.50; Cap Project -1st St W Recon \$24,926.93; Water Fund \$169,599.62; Sewer Utility Fund \$61,294.22; Self Insurance \$8,554.46; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$201.85.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$820,450.68; General Fund \$87,300.15; Library \$33,424.97; Street Dept-Road Use - \$72,052.44; Employee Benefits \$7,838.20; Tax Increment Finance \$6,837.82; Debt Service \$16,207.58; Debt-Special Assessment \$3,874.00; Cap Project-Street Improvement \$180,000.00; Cap Project-Airport \$267,726.35; Water Fund \$24,178.34; Water Revenue Bond \$7,755.83; Sewer Utility \$42,987.95; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund \$7,946.67; Sewer Sinking Revenue Bond \$42,795.42; Storm Water \$4,297.41; Self Insurance \$14,532.96; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$694.59.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution accepting and approving the Heidemann preliminary plat under terms set forth in the attached Development Agreement and to authorize the City Manager to sign and execute the attached Development Agreement, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Absent: Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-07 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution to endorse the revitalization of 1st Street West: A Safe Path to Progress Project for grant funding, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna. Absent: Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-08 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution to endorse the Enterprise Drive Trail Phase 2 Project for grant funding, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-09 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: O’Loughlin – Asked if there was anything in the 2024 Annual Police Report that could be used to get grants? He also asked if the Fire Department felt they were being called out into the County more than previous years? Police – Grants are multi-faceted and depending on the grant, may require the department to work with another agency. Another issue with some grants is the department would be required to participate in a program for a certain time frame and funding then becomes an issue to meet that time frame. Mayor – Asked when the Fire Department Chili Supper was? Fire – It doesn’t appear that they were called out more for mutual aid calls in 2024, but he would have to review reports. The Chili Supper will be on February 18th at the Buchanan County Fairgrounds in order to have more room for the individuals that come and to make the drive-thru process easier for others. City Manager – The RAGBRAI route was announced, and Oelwein was named as an overnight stop. He received the flyer for the annual Independence Chamber banquet to be held on March 1st. If there are council members interested in attending, please let him know.

POTENTIAL CLOSED SESSION PER IOWA CODE 21.5(1)(i)

In previous years, the City Attorney has approved going into a closed session for the above-stated reason and there have not been any modifications to Iowa’s law regarding closed sessions. Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to enter closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i); to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session at 5:18 p.m., second

by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Huston. Those invited into the closed session were the following: Council Member Weber, Council Member Hanna, City Manager Schmitz, Mayor Bleichner, City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe, Council Member Moore, Council Member Prusator, Council Member O’Loughlin, and Council Member Jensen.

At 5:36 p.m., Council Member Jensen made a motion to enter back into open session, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O’Loughlin. Absent: Huston.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:36 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