



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: February 26, 2024

ITEM TITLE: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Independence, Iowa, by Amending Provisions Pertaining to Public Health and Safety – Discharging Weapons – First Reading

BACKGROUND:

This item was discussed at the November 6, 2023, City Council Work Session at the request of a Council Member, as well as the January 2, 2024, City Council Work Session, and again at the Feb. 5, 2024, City Council Work Session. The discussion was regarding the time frame an individual or individuals should have permission to hunt within City limits and to clarify the approved individual(s) that have permission. This was on the November 27, 2023, agenda for the first reading, but was tabled to be discussed at this meeting. During the discussion at the January 2, 2024, meeting, it was requested that this be tabled until the February Work Session for further discussion. Discussion was held during the February 5, 2024, meeting and it was asked for Council to contact Staff with any proposed modifications to the Ordinance. During the February 12th City council meeting, additional discussion occurred on this item, resulting in a request to remove any firearms permission from the ordinance.

DISCUSSION:

The attached Ordinance was prepared by City Staff in an attempt to address the requests of the majority of Council Members as discussed at the Work Session and subsequent City Council meeting.

As a result of the discussions, firearms have been removed from the ordinance via the modification of section 1, removal of "except by written authorization of the Council" after the first sentence. Additionally, "No firearms of any type, including antique firearms, may be used for hunting within the City limits" has been added to the end of the previously discussed section 3.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Engaging and Catalyzing Community. This item helps achieve that vision by codifying requirements around hunting within the City limits of Independence.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There will be publication costs related to the ordinance summary being published and then costs to Simmering-Cory Iowa Codification when the next code supplement is done.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Public Health and Safety – Discharging Weapons.