

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, January 13, 2025.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, 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 O’Loughlin, second by Council Member Weber to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held January 13, 2025. Ayes: All. Absent: Huston.

Mayor Bleichner read the Human Trafficking Prevention & Awareness Month Proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member O’Loughlin, second by Council Member Jensen to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the December 9, 2024, Regular Meeting. 2) Gedney Bakery & Coffeehouse Class C retail alcohol license renewal with outdoor service with a tentative effective date of February 15, 2025, to February 14, 2026. 3) Gedney Bakery & Coffeehouse Class C retail alcohol license ownership updates with a tentative effective date of February 15, 2025, to February 14, 2026. 4) Dollar General #2329 Class B retail alcohol license ownership updates with a tentative effective date of March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026. 5) Mini Mart Iowa retail permit application for cigarette/tobacco/nicotine/vapor ownership update with a tentative effective date of January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Ayes: All. Absent: Huston.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$ 1,634.00
ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-F,PR,ST	\$ 1,320.32
ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 333,286.24
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	VEH MAINT-A,PD,ST	\$ 387.50
AHERN	BDLG MAINT-PR	\$ 1,302.33
ALEX AIR APPARATUS 2 LLC	SUPPLIES-F	\$ 1,284.40
ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	SERVICES-PD	\$ 229.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 3,089.37
ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE	EE SHARE 63	\$ 461.34
ATLANTIC SIGNAL LLC	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 5,884.00
AUDITOR OF STATE	FILING FEE-CH	\$ 625.00
AVFUEL CORPORATION	MISC EXP-A	\$ 28,593.40
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	EQUIP-PD	\$ 20,459.52
BAKER & TAYLOR ENTERTAINM	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 304.26
BALDWIN, CLIFF	CLINIC-PR	\$ 595.00
BANK IOWA	RENT-CH	\$ 15.00
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 787.00
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VSP-BEAM PRETAX	\$ 478.72
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
BERGANKDV	FEE-CH	\$ 7.50
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 228.35
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 200.00
BMC AGGREGATES L.C.	MATERIALS-W	\$ 39.11
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT	VEH MAINT-PR	\$ 20.62
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$ 10,004.92
BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN FIRE	EQUIP-F	\$ 9,750.00

BRODART CO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 298.89
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	MATERIALS-W	\$ 741.91
BSN SPORTS, INC.	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 259.80
BUCHANAN COUNTY AUDITOR	DISPATCH SVC-PD	\$ 82,910.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY FIREMAN'S	DUES-F	\$ 60.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CE	AMB SVC-CH	\$ 11,271.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY TOURISM B	DUES-CH	\$ 150.00
BULS, JANET L	INSTURCTOR-PR	\$ 262.50
BUTLER, JOHN R	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$ 1,259.79
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-CH,PD,PR,W	\$ 7,925.04
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	SUPPLIES-PD,ST,W	\$ 173.73
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	SNOW MAINT-ST	\$ 4,721.75
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-ALL	\$ 11,613.87
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-ST,W	\$ 355.00
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 185.38
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	SUPPLIES-F	\$ 477.63
DECORAH MOBILE GLASS, INC	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 8,282.28
DELL MARKETING, LP	SERVICES-CH	\$ 12,486.64
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 4,373.32
DINGES FIRE COMPANY	SUPPLIES-FD	\$ 1,520.53
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH MAINT-ST	\$ 24.58
DRILLING'S ALL SEASON	VEH MAINT-W	\$ 929.99
DUNLAP MOTORS INC	VEH MAINT-ST,W	\$ 146.83
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITY-A,PR,ST,W,CH	\$ 2,330.53
EASTERN IOWA EXCAVATING	SERVICES-A	\$ 49,726.90
EBSCO	DUES-L	\$ 67.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 19,707.66
ENRIGHT, BENTON	REF SVC-PR	\$ 10.00
EPIC CLEAN, LLC	BLDG MAINT-L	\$ 1,525.00
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
ESCHEN'S CLOTHING	UNIFORM-W	\$ 421.50
FAIRCHILD FEED & SUPPLY	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 382.80
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUR	TRAINING-FD	\$ 100.00
FLETCHER-REINHARDT CO	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 736.00
FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
FOUR FARMERS LLC	SERVICES-W	\$ 8,421.84
GALLS INC	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 176.17
GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 430.00
GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLI	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 135.37
GRAINGER INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 1,366.38
GREEN PRO SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 3,189.45
HAWKEYE ALARM SIGNAL COMP	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 597.50
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 80.00
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$ 8,762.40
IA DIVISION OF LABOR	BOILER INSPECT-CH,W	\$ 80.00
IA DNR	TANK FEES-A	\$ 130.00
IA HEARTLAND HABITAT	SERVICES-CH	\$ 1,792.00
IA SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVIE	TRAINING-F	\$ 140.00
IDALS	DUES-AC	\$ 105.00
INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS	FIREWORKS-CH	\$ 5,000.00
INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF C	DUES-CH	\$ 1,500.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE	UTILITIES-ALL	\$ 28,122.23
INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING HEA	SERVICES-PR,W	\$ 7,177.05

INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-L	\$ 296.00
IVERSON, CRAYTON	REF SVC-PR	\$ 30.00
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 6,941.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-F,PR,ST,W	\$ 1,318.39
JOHNSON, SETH	REF SVC-PR	\$ 100.00
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
LEGALSHIELD	FAM FAMILY LEGAL ID 303741	\$ 125.70
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$ 1,452.26
MAGNUSON, JOHN	CLINIC-PR	\$ 600.00
MAIN, TIMOTHY E	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$ 577.50
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECT	SERVICES-F	\$ 923.58
MAVERICK POWERSPORTS	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$ 454.90
MCCLOUD SERVICES	PEST CONTROL-PD	\$ 610.00
MCDONALD, CONNIE	SERVICES-PD	\$ 25.00
MERGEN, BLAYNE	REF SVC-PR	\$ 45.00
METLIFE	EE SHARE 52	\$ 1,585.87
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 142.25
MICROSOFT CORPORATION	OFFICE 365-ALL	\$ 8,400.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-CH,PD,PR,ST,W	\$ 4,679.65
MIDWEST BREATHING AIR L.L	SERVICES-F	\$ 193.45
MILLER QUARRY	MATERIALS-PR	\$ 464.96
MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	TRAINING-W	\$ 266.35
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-F,PR,ST,W	\$ 911.34
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 36.50
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS	FEES-PR	\$ 3.59
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH	\$ 1,022.34
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PD,PR,ST	\$ 955.41
ON SCENE ARMS	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 264.00
OVERDRIVE INC.	BOOKS-L	\$ 2,000.00
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 39.03
POLCO/NRC	SERVICES-CH	\$ 4,000.00
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	SERVICES-AC,W	\$ 3,028.88
PRINT EXPRESS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 150.00
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-ALL	\$ 264.99
PUSH-PEDAL-PULL INC	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$ 10,500.00
RACOM CORPORATION	MISC EXP-PD	\$ 7,198.66
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS CO I	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 18.44
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
REED, JOHNATHON	REF SVC-PR	\$ 120.00
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-CH	\$ 78.23
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-A,PD	\$ 2,052.44
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 14.89
SCHIMBERG CO.	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 981.20
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 200.00
SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 244.16
SIGNS & MORE	MISC EXP-CH,PD,PR	\$ 138.04
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
SOUTHERN NEVADA ICC	TRAINING-B	\$ 450.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 221.03
SPEER FINANCIAL INC	SERVICES-CH	\$ 375.00
STATE FARM	BENEFIT-CH,ST,W	\$ 32.72
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 18,526.39
STIEFEL, ENDER	REF SVC-PR	\$ 90.00
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT P	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 65.46

STRAND ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-W	\$ 19,260.00
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,512.50
T & W GRINDING & COMPOST	SERVICES-G	\$ 7,020.00
T MOBILE	PHONE-PD,F,CH,B,PR	\$ 860.29
TAPCO	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 381.38
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 3,923.05
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 2,079.91
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-F,L,PD,PR,ST	\$ 1,781.53
TSCHIGGFRIE EXCAVATING IN	SERVICES-W	\$ 7,434.90
UMB BANK NA	BOND FEES-CH	\$ 800.00
US CELLULAR	UTILITY-W	\$ 46.10
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-F,PD	\$ 96.98
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-AC,PD,PR,W	\$ 400.22
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-G	\$ 49,351.13
WBC MECHANICAL INC	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$ 12,524.74
WELLMARK BCBS	BCBS ER SHARE	\$ 48,108.33

CLAIMS TOTAL \$954,525.80; General Fund \$505,441.83; Library \$38,536.01; Hotel-Motel \$6,650.00; Streets Dept-Road Use \$51,196.76; Employee Benefits \$63,011.62; Urban Renewal-LMI Housing \$1,792.00; Debt Service \$800.00; Cap Project-Airport \$59,731.82; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$54,304.60; Water Fund \$51,224.57; Sewer Utility Fund \$102,492.78; Self Insurance \$18,846.02; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$497.79.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$307,958.08; General Fund \$19,045.40; Library \$3,022.01; Cap Project-Airport \$267,726.35; Water Fund \$3,215.60; Sewer Utility \$8,360.45; Storm Water \$467.64; Self Insurance \$5,672.84; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$447.79.

The December 2024 bank reconciliation, the December 2024 budgeted monthly transfers, and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that amends the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. 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. 2025-01 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that increases the Fire Services Fees as shown in Exhibit A of the resolution, second by Council Member Weber. Council Member Jensen asked if the rates were in line with other cities that charge for these services? City Manager Schmitz said his understanding is the rates are in line with what the State sets. Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe stated Fire Chief Hayward received the rates from the State. 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. 2025-02 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution designating the 2025 City depositories, second by Council Member Jensen. 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. 2025-03 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution designating The Bulletin Journal as the newspaper for official publications for the City of Independence, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-04 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution setting the mileage rate designation, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. City Manager Schmitz stated that with how the resolution is worded, the City will automatically match the IRS for mileage whether it increases or decreases. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and

O'Loughlin. Absent: Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-05 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves additional monies being transferred between funds for Fiscal Year 2025, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen. Absent: Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-06 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Prusator with a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the attached quote with Edmunds GovTech and any additional contracts needed, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if Edmunds was a new company. City Manager Schmitz said they have been around for fifty plus years, but are based on the East Coast. Council Member Moore wanted to clarify the first year was higher because of set up fees, correct? City Manager Schmitz replied the first year is higher due to implementation services and converting data services. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if this software would do building permits and inspections as well? City Manager Schmitz said at this time it will not, but it will do services for Parks and Recreation. The City uses a different vendor for building permits and inspections that started in January 2024. That may be something that gets moved at a later date if it is more cost effective for the City. Council Member Moore asked how long it would take before the new system is fully functional? City Manager Schmitz stated the company has given a tentative timeline of one year. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Absent: Huston.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign the ILPT annual billing agreement, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna. Absent: Huston.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: O'Loughlin – He asked the Police Department if there was an update to the traffic camera appeal process? He asked the Fire Department how the loaner truck was working for the department. He stated the building monthly report is very well done and informative. Moore – Reminded everyone about the Oakwood Chili Cook-off at RiversEdge this Saturday, January 18th from 4:00 – 7:30 pm. Police – There is no update at this time. Everything has been given to the City Attorney's office to work on the appeal paperwork. Fire – It is in service, but it has not been needed for any calls lately. Mayor – Mentioned that this Saturday from 1:00 – 3:00 pm is the open house for Buchanan County Health Center's inpatient wing. City Manager – He would like to set up a Saturday strategic planning session for Council Members and Department Heads to attend. There is a business in Jesup that WILL be leading this and he will send out a date as he gets details finalized. He had sent out an email regarding a citizen's request for a road name change. He has heard back from a few council members but would like to hear back from those that have not responded. He reminded Council Members that he needs to get their feedback regarding RV parking ordinance changes as soon as possible as there are other parking changes that need to be made. It is easier to amend the chapter at one time instead of doing small sections. The Mayor and City Manager have discussed moving the March 3rd Work Session due to scheduling conflicts to Monday, March 17th instead. He will be reaching out to Council Members within the next week to set up quarterly one-on-one meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:25 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