

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, October 9, 2023.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and Jensen in attendance. Council Member O’Loughlin was excused.

This meeting was available for public attendance. The meeting was also broadcast on the local access channel.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Moore, second by Council Member Hanna to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held October 9, 2023. Ayes: All. Absent: O’Loughlin.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Garret Neidert, East Buchanan student, asked about the liquor license renewals on the agenda. City Clerk Lampe explained the liquor license renewal process for businesses.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Prusator to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the September 25, 2023, Regular Meeting. 2) The minutes of the October 2, 2023, Work Session/Special Meeting. 3) Hy-Vee Dollar Fresh Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal effective November 9, 2023, through November 8, 2024. 4) Independence Area Chamber of Commerce Special Event Application for Jingle on Main on Friday, December 1, 2023. 5) The Spot Smoke Shop new cigarette/tobacco/nicotine/vaper permit application effective November 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. 6) Wal-Mart Supercenter #750 Class E Retail Alcohol License renewal effective December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024. 7) Wal-Mart Supercenter #750 Class E Retail Alcohol License amendment for ownership updates effective December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024. 8) Wee Willy’s Checkered Flag Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal that includes outdoor service effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. 9) The Sanity Room Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal that includes outdoor service effective November 16, 2023, through November 15, 2024. Ayes: All. Absent: O’Loughlin.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCO	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 1,530.17
AIR SERVICES INC	EQUIP REPAIR-CH	\$ 3,375.58
AIRGAS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 112.72
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-CH,F	\$ 448.78
AVFUEL CORPORATION	EQUIP RENTAL-A	\$ 20.00
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
BERGANKDV	SERVICES-CH	\$ 750.00
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
CHICKASAW COUNTY SHERIFF	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 400.00
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 135.88
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-ALL	\$ 9,563.84
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU	SERVICES-PR,ST,SW	\$ 20,406.00
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD	\$ 164.62
D & K PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 648.00
DICK'S PETROLEUM COMPANY	EQUIP REPAIR-CH	\$ 607.35
DUNLAP MOTORS INC	VEH MAINT-PR	\$ 91.16
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	SERVICES-A	\$ 8,988.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 3,455.72
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
FAHR BEVERAGE INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 73.07
FIRST CHILDREN'S FINANCE	SERVICES-CH	\$ 7,500.00

FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
HARDWARE HANK	SUPPLIES-ST,W	\$ 658.34
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
HOTSY CLEANING SYSTEMS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 761.00
IA COUNTY ATTORNEYS ASSOC	TRAINING-PD	\$ 75.00
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-CH	\$ 286.00
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$ 24,713.86
KARL CHEVROLET	VEHICLE-PD	\$ 41,307.00
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
LIFE TIME FENCE COMPANY	COMPLEX-PR	\$ 3,185.03
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$ 2,838.50
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECT	SERVICES-F	\$ 1,191.06
MIDWEST BREATHING AIR L.L	EQUIP MAINT-F	\$ 823.26
MOBOTREX	EQUIP REPAIR-ST	\$ 5,453.00
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 444.50
MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	SERVICES-W	\$ 1,940.00
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-ST,A,PR	\$ 552.31
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 552.64
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 246.60
PAW LAWS TRAINING & BOARD	BARK PARK-PR	\$ 250.00
PAYROLL CHECKS	TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 78,505.08
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	CONCESSION-PR	\$ 364.95
PINE GROVE SHOES & MORE	SAFETY EQUIP-ST	\$ 109.60
PUSH-PEDAL-PULL INC	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$ 2,480.00
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-PD	\$ 422.62
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-ST	\$ 67.73
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
SHAYNE PRUESS	VEH REPAIR-ST,PR	\$ 540.87
SIGNS & MORE	SUPPLIES-PR,ST	\$ 4,216.54
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR,ST,F	\$ 6,958.59
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	ICMA-RC \$ PRE	\$ 4,778.20
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,410.00
T & W GRINDING & COMPOST	SERVICES-ST	\$ 8,145.00
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,259.81
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 4,257.85
TSCHIGGFRIE EXCAVATING IN	SERVICES-ST	\$ 18,075.00
US CELLULAR	PHONE-F	\$ 200.88
VERIZON WIRELESS	UTILITY-CH,PR,F,PD	\$ 7.02
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-ALL	\$ 47,015.62
WINTHROP NEWS, THE	PUBLICAT-CH,PR,W	\$ 778.62

CLAIMS TOTAL \$324,792.97; General Fund \$159,993.06; Library \$10,839.97; Streets Dept-Road Use \$38,567.13; Cap Project-Street Improvement Project \$4,412.00; Parks & Rec Project \$11,701.76; Cap Project-Visioning Project \$1,430.00; Cap Project-Airport \$8,988.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$57,503.98; Cap Project Highway 150 \$1,044.00; Water Fund \$7,150.38; Sewer Utility Fund \$17,864.97; Storm Water Projects \$1,842.00; Self Insurance \$3,415.72; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$40.00.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$101,718.40; General Fund \$17,977.16; Employee Benefits \$800.11; Economic Development \$60,912.00; Water Fund \$8,044.79; Sewer Utility \$9,794.77; Storm Water \$1,101.85; Self Insurance \$6,087.72.

The September 2023 bank reconciliation and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing for an ordinance amending Article 17 “Signs” of the City of Independence Zoning Ordinance. City Clerk Lampe stated no comments were received. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Huston with a motion to approve a resolution approving the contract and performance and/or payment bonds for the Baseball/Softball Complex Field Turf Project, to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the contract, second by Council Member Moore. Council Member Hanna asked for an explanation of the funding for the public. City Manager Schmitz said there is a mix of funding. \$500,000 was received from the bond issuance earlier this year, \$100,000 was designated using American Rescue Plan funds, and the rest has been funded with grants and fundraising. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Jensen, and Callahan. Absent: O’Loughlin.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-90 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve a resolution to increase the Environmental Impact Fee to \$2.50 per home per month effective January 2024 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Moore. Council Member Huston noticed the rate hasn’t increased since it was initiated. He asked what was the City doing to decrease the costs for the brush dump. City Clerk Lampe stated this is for the basic costs to operate the brush dump. Discussion was held on how the usage of the dump varies during the year and after storms. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Jensen, and Callahan. Nays: Huston. Absent: O’Loughlin.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-91 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

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

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-92 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve a resolution to assess property owner(s) for Chapter 52 Mowing of Properties – Failure to Comply and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, Jensen, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: O’Loughlin.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-93 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**OTHER BUSINESS**

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve the Mayor and City Manager to continue working on the Economic Development Incentive, second by Council Member Jensen. City Manager Schmitz stated this is to build an economic development incentive for the business that plans to buy a property on contract. The City’s match for the incentive is \$200,000 but can be done with in-kind services and not all as a cash match. Council Member Moore spoke of the potential income the City could benefit from, and the new jobs the business plans to add. Council Member Huston asked what the lag time was before the new business started. Mayor Bleichner replied it is anticipated to take 60 – 75 days as long as the proper steps are taken. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: O’Loughlin.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the transfer of drone ownership and to authorize the City Manager to sign the bill of sale and instrument of assignment, second by Council Member Callahan. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and Jensen. Absent: O’Loughlin.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Hanna – Asked what the claim to First Children’s Finance was for? City Manager – That is the firm responsible for working on the childcare market analysis with the City. There is a preconstruction meeting for the Complex project on Tuesday, October 10th at 11:00 am. There is a groundbreaking for the Complex project on Wednesday, October 11th at 11:00 am. The joint government meeting will be scheduled for November 21st at 5:00 pm at the Library. Engine 1 needs to have a new computer installed to bring it back into service. This is anticipated to cost around \$10,000, and the purchase was approved earlier today.

Funding for this will be done in the Fire Department’s CIP. Mark Crawford reached out to say the SRT grant for the Enterprise Drive Trail Phase 2 was not approved. 44 projects applied for SRT funding and only 7 were approved. He appreciates the recognition for the Environmental Impact Fee memo, but City Clerk Lampe provided the history. Mayor – City wide trick-or-treating will be October 31st from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The Library’s Boo Bash will be October 27th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the Falcon Civic Center. There will be a School Board candidate forum on Wednesday night at 7:00 pm at the High School. There will be another Community Visioning presentation at Rivers Edge with the date to be announced later.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

Susi Lampe, IaCMC, IaCFO, City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Independence, Iowa

DRAFT