

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, March 10, 2025.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

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

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 Moore to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held March 10, 2025. Ayes: All.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pete Gaumer, 1749 Golf Course Blvd Lot 58, had comments regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 69 Parking Regulations that is on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Hanna, second by Council Member Weber to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the February 24, 2025, Regular Meeting. 2) Tobacco device retailer permit application for King Tobacco with a tentative effective date of February 27, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-A,PR,ST,W	\$ 1,076.83
ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 107,369.10
ALBURNETT ATHLETIC BOOSTE	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$ 300.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-CH,F	\$ 36.93
ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE	ASSUR CRIT ILL	\$ 491.10
BAGBY'S AUTOMOTIVE	VEH MAINT-PR	\$ 149.11
BALDWIN, BOB	SERVICES-W	\$ 510.00
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY SOIL & WA	TREES-PR	\$ 335.00
BUTLER, JOHN R	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-B,PR,F,CH,W	\$ 21,613.62
COAST TO COAST CALIBRATIO	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 157.70
COOPER, STEVE	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 135.00
CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 86.85
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD,W	\$ 347.99
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	EQUIP-F	\$ 136.17
DELL MARKETING, LP	DUES-ALL	\$ 2,051.29
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURANCE	\$ 4,133.88
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH REPAIR-F	\$ 317.39
ELECTRIC PUMP INC	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$ 2,040.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 16,459.73
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
ESCHEN'S CLOTHING	UNIFORM-ST,W	\$ 376.50
FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
GRAINGER INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 220.22
GREATER AMERICAN DISTRIBT	EQUIPMENT-PR	\$ 5,850.00

HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 2,757.00
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
IAMU	DUES-W	\$ 635.00
IMFOA	DUES-CH	\$ 100.00
INDEPENDENCE BULLETIN-JOU	SUBSCRIP-ST	\$ 109.00
IPERS	IPERS REG-PROT	\$ 34,018.03
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-ST,PR,A,W	\$ 1,897.16
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEG	TRAINING-A,PD,W,F	\$ 111.00
KQ SPORTS	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 950.00
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
LEGALSHIELD	LEGAL/IDENTITY	\$ 161.61
LYNX YOUTH BASEBALL	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 300.00
MCCORMICK, AMANDA	REFUND-PR	\$ 25.00
METLIFE	LIFE-LTD-AD&D	\$ 1,441.20
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 142.25
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-PR	\$ 1,096.40
MONTICELLO PARKS AND REC	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$ 300.00
MORKEL, JAMES	SERVICES-W	\$ 342.91
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-ST,PR	\$ 678.43
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
NUTRI-JECT SYSTEMS, INC.	SERVICES-W	\$ 709.35
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH	\$ 367.57
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-F,PR,W	\$ 621.02
ON-TARGET STRATEGIES	TRAINING-PD	\$ 650.00
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 111.68
PINE GROVE SHOES & MORE	UNIFORM-ST	\$ 53.00
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINAN	EQUIP LEASE-CH	\$ 490.53
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	SERVICES-PR	\$ 251.43
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-PR	\$ 261.25
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
RITLAND+KUIPER LANDSCAPE	SERVICES-ST	\$ 25,495.74
RUNDE, LUKE	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$ 225.00
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 22.20
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
SECRETARY OF STATE	DUES-A	\$ 30.00
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-CH	\$ 33.69
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 6,334.85
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,477.50
T MOBILE	PHONE-PD,F,CH,B,PR	\$ 860.29
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,369.73
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 1,667.55
TOYNE	EQUIP-F	\$ 34.75
TRIPLE BAGGER BASEBALL	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 3,300.00
USA BLUE BOOK	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 1,402.72
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-F	\$ 7.02
VESSCO INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 1,104.85
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-PR,W,ST	\$ 234.63
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-ALL	\$ 47,485.12
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT	\$ 45,266.76

CLAIMS TOTAL \$350,877.63; General Fund \$177,536.60; Library \$12,145.42; Streets Dept-Road Use \$12,733.00; Employee Benefits \$64,195.10; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$136.17; Cap Project – 1st Street W Reconstruction \$25,495.74; Water Fund \$10,856.83; Sewer Utility Fund \$31,319.04; Self Insurance \$16,252.74; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$206.99.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$154,161.32; General Fund \$32,321.76; Water Fund \$34,506.00; Sewer Utility \$65,706.41; Storm Water \$5,167.42; Self Insurance \$16,252.74; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$206.99.

The February 2025 bank reconciliation and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Mayor Bleichner gave an explanation of why Chapter 69 is being amended but feels that more discussion needs to be done to address other areas that need to be updated before the second reading is held. Council Member Prusator with a motion to table the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 70 – Traffic Code Enforcement Procedures, second by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution to accept the Division 1 work covering the Highway 150 Reconstruction Project, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the remaining necessary paperwork, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-15 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Weber with a motion to set a public hearing on March 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. for consideration of a rezoning request from A-1 agricultural to R-2 residential within the City of Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-16 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to accept and approve the preliminary plat of survey for boundary line adjustment for Lori Cleveland, second by Council Member Jensen. Mayor Bleichner stated there is a garage on a lot that does not currently meet zoning regulations. This adjustment would combine two lots into one. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-17 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Bleichner stated there is a revision needed on page five, section E needs to say School instead of Student. Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the 28E agreement with the Independence Community School District for a School Resource Officer Program and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with the revision to page five, Section E, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. Council Member Hanna asked if the agreement was in place last year? Mayor Bleichner said there was no agreement last year as it was only discussed because last year it did not work out for budgets to go forward with this. Council Member Hanna asked what the City’s share for this position was? City Manager Schmitz said the City would be responsible for paying for the time the officer worked for the City. The officer would allocate hours accordingly on his/her time sheet to show hours worked at the school. The school would then reimburse the City for actual hours worked. Council Member O’Loughlin asked if the school would be assisting with the financing of the training for the School Resource Officer? School Superintendent Cynthia Phillips replied that the School Board approved the agreement that states the City would be responsible for paying for the training. The agreement would need to go back to the School Board for discussion to address that question if it would be something they are interested in. Typically, in these situations, the employer, which is the City, is responsible for training and maintaining necessary certifications. Council Member Hanna asked if there was an officer already designated for this position? City Manager Schmitz said there would be a bid process for the position as stated in the union handbook. Council Member Hanna asked if current officers are trained for the position? Captain Lau replied that once an officer was selected following the bid process, there is a training scheduled this June that he/she could attend. Exact costs for the training would have to be looked into. Council Member Moore asked if there would be a back-up officer if the assigned SRO is out for an extended period? Captain Lau said that at this time with the current staffing levels, there would not be a back-up. Superintendent Phillips stated the agreement does address if the SRO is out for an extended period. Council Member Hanna asked how many hours would the officer be at the school? Superintendent Phillips replied it could vary depending upon the needs of the school and events during the year. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin,

Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator.

Council Member Weber with a motion to authorize the City Manager to sell the K9 and provide any remaining K9 equipment to the Buchanan County Sheriff's K9 program, second by Council Member Moore. Mayor Bleichner stated the K9 program is no longer active. City Manager Schmitz said the City is working with a third party to evaluate the dog to ensure another department can purchase him. Council Member Hanna asked where the dog was now? City Manager Schmitz said the dog is with the third party now. Council Member Hanna asked about the funds in that account? City Manager Schmitz replied the funds will stay within the Police Department and would be used for their expenses. Council Member Hanna says she feels more discussion needs to be held about the funds as the funds were raised for the dog. City Manager Schmitz stated the City Attorney made it very clear that returning the funds would be in violation of Iowa State Law. Council Member Prusator asked if there was a list of items that would be given to the Buchanan County Sheriff's office? City Manager Schmitz said it would be minor items such as leashes and harnesses. The vest would stay with the dog as it is fitted for him and can't be used by another. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: O'Loughlin – Asked what is the protocol for dealing with a homeless call? Asked if the Fire and Police Departments are reimbursed for assisting with medical calls? Is there any update on the traffic camera appeal? Police – Explained that the numbers on the monthly report are the number of calls for service. Assistance is offered to a person, and that person has the right to accept or decline the assistance being offered. That individual was from a different state and did leave town on his own. Mayor – The City is not reimbursed for assisting on medical calls currently. The Fire Department is still working on getting a First Responder status. The Upstairs Downtown Tour event was part of the One Book Indie. Dan Walter contacted him for letters of support for a grant to purchase an ambulance during Fiscal Year 2026, and those letters are due this Wednesday. The Independence Rotary Spaghetti Dinner at the Independence High School tomorrow night from 5 – 7 pm. Applications are still being taken for the 5th Ward Council seat. Moore – The Chamber banquet had a good turnout and congratulations to everyone that won. He attended the Library's event of the Upstairs Downtown Tour on Sunday and heard positive comments from everyone in his group. City Manager – Garbage RFPs were due last Friday and will be brought to the March 17th work session. He received a phone call from Representative Hinson's office regarding the funding request submitted of the Treatment Plant project not being funded at this time. No projects were being funded at the federal level. The traffic camera appeal packet was submitted and there has not been anything heard back yet. Encouraged Council Members and residents to read HSB 313 and SSB 1208 which are companion property tax bills during this current legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Moore, second by Council Member Jensen to adjourn. Ayes: All.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:46 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