

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, January 8, 2024.

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.

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 O’Loughlin to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held January 8, 2024. Ayes: All.

Carol Quass, 2076 Jamestown Avenue, presented a proposal to the Council regarding the US flag by Highway 20.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Moore to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the December 11, 2023, Regular Meeting. 2) The minutes of the January 2, 2024, Work Session/Special Meeting. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$	1,528.41
ACCO	CHEMICALS-W	\$	393.00
ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-W,B,ST,F,CH,PR	\$	1,060.71
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-A	\$	730.25
AFLAC	AFLAC PRE-TAX	\$	287.46
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-L	\$	2,950.21
ANALYTICAL SERVICES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$	1,425.00
AVFUEL CORPORATION	EQUIP RENTAL-A	\$	20.00
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	EQUIP-PD	\$	10,919.52
BANK IOWA	DEPOSIT BOX-CH	\$	15.00
BANNER FIRE EQUIPMENT	VEH REPAIR-F	\$	1,885.63
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VISION PRETAX	\$	443.17
BERGANKDV	SERVICES-CH	\$	8,615.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$	148.48
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT 01	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$	1,192.90
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$	31,590.00
BRODART CO	SUPPLIES-L	\$	587.23
BUCHANAN COUNTY AUDITOR	ELECTION-CH	\$	3,832.10
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CE	AMB SVC-CH	\$	11,271.00
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$	934.28
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-CH,PR,PD,F,W	\$	3,247.02
CASS LASER ENGRAVING	SUPPLIES-PD	\$	186.00
CENGAGE LEARNING	BOOKS-L	\$	377.11
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	BOOKS-L	\$	24.00
CHRISTIE DOOR CO, INC.	REPAIR-F	\$	307.75
CHRISTOPHERSON HYDRAULICS	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$	260.00
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-W,ST,PD	\$	635.16
COLONIAL LIFE & ACCIDENT	COLONIALPRETAX	\$	961.02
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	SNOW MAINT-ST	\$	4,896.51
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU	SERVICES-B,PR,ST,SW	\$	32,090.50

CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE	VEH REPAIR-F	\$	3,960.76
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD,PR,ST	\$	1,406.06
D & S PORTABLES INC	SERVICES-PR	\$	480.00
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	SUPPLIES-W	\$	207.92
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	EQUIPMENT-F	\$	1,279.99
DAVE SCHMITT CONSTRUCTION	SERVICES-W	\$	65,888.53
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL BENEFIT	\$	4,268.28
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITY-A,PR,ST,W,CH	\$	2,954.45
EASTERN IOWA EXCAVATING	SERVICES-A,PR	\$	900,779.88
ELECTRIC PUMP INC	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$	1,324.00
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING &	EQUIPMENT-F	\$	541.41
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$	5,730.18
FAHR BEVERAGE INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$	47.42
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUR	TRAINING-FD	\$	150.00
GALLS INC	UNIFORM-PD	\$	100.09
GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLI	SUPPLIES-PR	\$	136.72
HAUBER, ANDY	BASKETBALL-PR	\$	302.50
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$	1,655.00
HEARTLAND MECHANICAL LLC	SERVICES-L	\$	380.25
HOTSY CLEANING SYSTEMS	SUPPLIES-W	\$	56.00
I.S.C.I.A.	TRAINING-PD	\$	175.00
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$	7,194.24
IA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOC	DUES-PD	\$	330.00
IA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOC.	DUES-PD	\$	200.00
IA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SUPPLIES-CH	\$	29.00
IMAGINE THAT PERFORMANCE	TRAINING-CH	\$	1,188.00
INDEPENDENCE BULLETIN-JOU	DUES-PR	\$	99.00
INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY BE	SERVICES-CH	\$	450.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE	UTILITIES-ALL	\$	31,631.51
INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING HEA	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$	162.68
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-CH	\$	195.00
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	BOOKS-L	\$	564.36
INRCOG	SERVICES-CH	\$	278.15
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$	49,775.34
IPERS	IPERS-PROTECTIV	\$	49,178.36
IRVINE, MEGAN	REFUND-PR	\$	20.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-W,ST,A,PR,F	\$	2,258.98
KARL CHEVROLET	VEHICLE-PD	\$	1,359.00
KEYSTONE LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$	125.50
LAMPE, SUSI	REIMBURSE-CH	\$	4.44
LUMBER RIDGE HOME SOURCE	RENTAL-PR	\$	41.50
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$	3,229.87
MAGNOLIA JOURNAL	DUES-L	\$	30.00
MAVERICK POWERSPORTS	EQUIPMENT-PR	\$	1,500.00
METERING & TECHNOLOGY SOL	SUPPLIES-W	\$	2,688.65
METLIFE	MET ER LIFEAD&D	\$	1,395.86
MICHEL'S, TOM	BASKETBALL-PR	\$	302.50
MICROSOFT CORPORATION	DUES-CH	\$	720.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-CH,PD,PR,W,ST	\$	5,076.98
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHE	SUPPLIES-ST	\$	211.27
MIDWEST BREATHING AIR L.L	SERVICES-F	\$	189.00
MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS	SERVICES-W	\$	255.00
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-PD	\$	45.00
NATIONAL PELRA	DUES-CH	\$	215.00
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$	25.50
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-CH,PD,PR	\$	1,802.84

P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$	41.48
PALMER, CARTER	SNOW REMOVAL-L	\$	40.00
PAYROLL CHECKS	TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS	\$	156,783.59
PENWORTHY COMPANY, THE	BOOKS-L	\$	171.77
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	CONCESSION-PR,L	\$	564.81
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	SERVICES-L	\$	100.00
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-B,CH,PR,W	\$	270.99
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-CH	\$	55.00
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-PD	\$	537.88
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$	14.65
SAFEWARE, INC	EQUIP-PD	\$	12,439.00
SCHROEDER BASEBALL	SUPPLIES-PR	\$	340.00
SIGNS & MORE	SUPPLIES-PR,PD	\$	479.67
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PD,PR,F,CH,ST	\$	5,143.00
STATE FARM	BENEFITS-CH,ST,W	\$	63.65
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	ICMA-RC \$ PRE	\$	8,452.40
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT P	SUPPLIES-CH,L	\$	781.12
STRAND ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-W	\$	101,600.00
SUNRISE SEAMLESS GUTTERS	COMPLEX-PR	\$	1,378.00
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-L	\$	6,730.00
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$	2,520.92
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$	1,876.53
THREE OAKS GREENHOUSE	FLOWER BASKETS-CH	\$	2,950.00
TITAN MACHINERY	VEH MAINT-ST	\$	624.42
TREASURER-STATE OF IOWA	STATE TAXES	\$	11,493.73
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-L	\$	33.56
TSCHIGGFRIE EXCAVATING IN	SERVICES-W	\$	10,384.97
UMB BANK NA	BOND FEES-CH	\$	1,050.00
US CELLULAR	PHONE-PD,B	\$	544.74
US POLICE CANINE ASSOC	DUES-PD	\$	50.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	UTILITY-F	\$	7.02
VOGEL CROP SERVICES	GRASS SEED-PR	\$	730.00
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-L	\$	842.14
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-ALL	\$	47,421.62
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT	\$	42,956.87
WINTHROP BUILDING SUPPLY	SUPPLIES-PR	\$	59.94
WINTHROP NEWS, THE	PUBLICAT-CH	\$	390.72

CLAIMS TOTAL \$1,697,335.58; General Fund \$344,053.30; Library \$41,435.93; Hotel-Motel Tax \$2,950.00; Streets Dept-Road Use \$46,955.21; Employee Benefits \$1,142.92; Economic Development \$278.15; Debt Service \$1,050.00; Cap Project-Street Improvement \$35,201.22; Parks & Rec Project \$425,699.14; Cap Project-Airport \$501,537.02; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$33,194.88; Cap Project Highway 150 \$65,888.53; Water Fund \$37,797.78; Sewer Utility Fund \$154,098.32; Storm Water Dept \$323.00; Self Insurance \$5,661.41; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$68.77.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$70,627.38; General Fund \$23,470.34; Parks & Rec Project \$8,600.00; Water Fund \$13,649.78; Sewer Utility \$21,674.92; Storm Water \$2,003.17; Self Insurance \$1,164.17; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$65.00.

The December 2023 bank reconciliation, the December 2023 budgeted monthly transfers, and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution designating the 2024 City depositories, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-01 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

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

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-02 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution setting the annual mileage rate designation, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. Mayor Bleichner shared the IRS designated the new rate to be .67 per mile. Council Member Hanna asked what the rate was last year? Mayor Bleichner said the rate was .655 per mile last year. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, and Hanna.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-03 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution appointing Emily Ownby to the Library Board of Trustees, second by Council Member Jensen. Mayor Bleichner shared Melinda Engelbrecht moved out of Independence and is no longer able to be on the Board. He spoke of Emily Ownby's background and that he spoke to Library Director Blaker and Board of Trustees President Bleichner already about this appointment. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, and Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-04 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to authorize the City Manager to facilitate the sale of the items identified in the City Council memorandum, second by Council Member Moore. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if prices had been set for the items yet? City Manager Schmitz stated no prices have been set as the idea is to put the items on an online government auction site. Council Member Moore asked if pictures would be taken and put on the auction site or if it is just item descriptions? City Manager Schmitz said there will be pictures and descriptions of each item put onto the site. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve Change Order #9 for the Independence Façade COVID project with no change to the contract amount and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Change Order, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve Change Order #7 for the Independence Façade Phase 1 project with no change to the contract amount and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Change Order, second by Council Member Huston. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve Change Order #15 for the Independence Façade Phase 1 project with no change to the contract amount and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Change Order, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve Change Order #19 for the Independence Façade Phase 1 project with no change to the contract amount and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Change Order, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Huston.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign the ILPT annual billing agreement, second by Council Member Jensen. Council Member Huston asked if there were any changes? City Manager Schmitz stated this was talked about at the January 2nd work session but does not remember the exact dollar amount change. City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe stated the red-lined agreement was on the work session agenda so council could see what changes were made. City Manager Schmitz believed it was a 3% increase from last year. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, and Hanna.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Huston – Would like to talk at the next regular meeting

about where the City is at with the public schools about a School Resource Officer given the recent event in Perry, Iowa. Mayor – Recommends that any discussion about a School Resource Officer be done at the first work session in February. At the last regular meeting, discussion was held on the audit finding related to the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library. After that meeting, further discussions were held about the segregation of duties those entities perform and it was reported to BerganKDV. Moore – Asked if the discussion about Waste Management services was pushed back to February as it was not discussed at the January work session. City Manager – The discussion about Waste Management services was pushed back to February to allow Waste Management representatives to be present. Prusator – Reminded everyone that if there is a fire hydrant near their house, please clear it in the event the Fire Department needs to use it. O’Loughlin – Encouraged citizens to reach out to the Supervisors about getting the EMS levy on the next ballot to help fund ambulance service county wide.

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

City Manager Schmitz had confirmed with the City Attorney about the request of the closed session earlier in the day. City Attorney Morgan stated it is appropriate to go into closed session. Council Member Huston with a motion to enter closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(c); to discuss strategy with counsel in a matter that is presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent at 5:27 p.m., second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, and Moore. Those invited into the closed session were the following: Building Inspector Sherrets, Council Member Weber, Council Member Huston, 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 5:35 p.m., Council Member Jensen made a motion to enter back into open session, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to proceed with the filing of the petition as discussed in closed session, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O’Loughlin.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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, City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Independence, Iowa