

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, October 28, 2024.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, and Jensen in attendance. Council Member Huston via phone. Council Member Moore 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 Jensen, second by Council Member O’Loughlin to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held October 28, 2024. Ayes: All. Absent: Moore.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member O’Loughlin, second by Council Member Weber to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the October 14, 2024, Regular Meeting. 2) The Sanity Room Class C retail alcohol license renewal that includes outdoor service effective November 16, 2024, through November 15, 2025. 3) Tobacco application permit for King Tobacco at 209 1st St E effective October 28, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Ayes: All. Absent: Moore.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$ 1,634.00
ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-PR,F,ST,W	\$ 1,646.03
ACEK9	CANINE PURCH-PD	\$ 168.00
ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 109,256.60
ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	SERVICES-F,PD,ST	\$ 361.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-CH,L,PD	\$ 563.94
ARMOR EQUIPMENT	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 3,358.71
AVFUEL CORPORATION	EQUIP RENTAL-A	\$ 20.00
BAKER & TAYLOR ENTERTAINM	BOOKS-L	\$ 205.62
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VSP-BEAM PRETAX	\$ 424.23
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 103.48
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$ 7,288.90
BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN FIRE	EQUIP-F	\$ 13,750.00
BRODART CO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 930.71
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	ROCK-CH,PR,W	\$ 3,321.75
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CE	AMB. SVC-CH	\$ 11,271.00
BUCHANAN COUNTY RECORDER	FEES-CH	\$ 30.50
BURCO SALES	MAINT-PR	\$ 480.90
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$ 202.99
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-PR,F,W,CH	\$ 5,588.54
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 77.07
CIVICPLUS	ANNUAL FEE-CH	\$ 4,188.00
CLINTON, CHAR	HOST-PR	\$ 300.00
CORE & MAIN LP	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 197.11
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-ST	\$ 31.00
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURANCE ER SHARE	\$ 4,126.08
DEMCO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 100.40
DETCO	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 1,001.68
DREYER PAINTING	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$ 43,378.00
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITY-A,PR,ST,W,CH	\$ 2,364.69
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT	SERVICES-W	\$ 2,093.44

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 1,656.44
EPIC CLEAN, LLC	BLDG MAINT-L	\$ 1,400.00
FELD FIRE	EQUIP-F	\$ 5,911.30
FOLEY, TRAVIS	REIMBURSE-W	\$ 1,101.59
FUTURE LINE LLC	VEH REPAIR-A	\$ 650.55
GALLS INC	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 363.95
HAWKEYE ALARM SIGNAL COMP	SERVICES-PR	\$ 585.00
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 2,624.48
HAYZLETT TOWING & RECOVY	TOWING-PD	\$ 196.00
HOLIDAY INN	LODGING-CH	\$ 237.44
HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 284.25
IA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 141.60
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE	UTILITIES-ALL	\$ 30,054.91
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-CH	\$ 148.00
IPERS	EE SHARE	\$ 34,143.86
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 1,418.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-PR,PD,W,ST,A	\$ 966.76
KIECK'S CAREER APPAREL	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 59.40
KRIVACHECK JANITORIAL SUP	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 45.98
LEGALSHIELD	IND IDENTITY-303741	\$ 125.70
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	SERVICES-CH	\$ 3,992.26
MANATT'S INC	CEMENT-CH,W	\$ 8,441.63
MAVERICK POWERSPORTS	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$ 2,158.50
METLIFE	EE SHARE 52	\$ 1,456.93
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 644.25
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-CH,L,PD,PR,ST,W	\$ 1,426.63
MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS	EQUIP-W	\$ 265.00
MQ LLC	REFUND-CH	\$ 18.75
NAPA AUTO PARTS	REIMBURSE-CH	\$ 6,824.84
NE IOWA IMPACT	REFUND-PR	\$ 499.00
NISSAN, THOMAS	PROGRAMS-L	\$ 375.00
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 25.54
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PD,PR,W	\$ 92.24
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 416.48
PENWORTHY COMPANY, THE	BOOKS-L	\$ 169.18
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-ALL	\$ 270.99
PUSH-PEDAL-PULL INC	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$ 307.00
RJS WELDING LLC	SERVICES-W	\$ 500.00
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-PD	\$ 364.44
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 14.89
SIGNS & MORE	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 508.57
SIMMERING-CORY IA CODIFI	WEB DUES-CH	\$ 450.00
STATE FARM	BENEFITS-CH,ST,W	\$ 32.72
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	EE SHARE	\$ 5,521.19
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT P	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 170.40
STRAND ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-W	\$ 66,350.00
TASC	FLEX MED	\$ 1,276.71
TOP GRADE EXCAVATING INC.	SERVICES-W	\$ 4,896.13
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 12.99
UTILITY SERVICE CO., INC.	SERVICES-W	\$ 7,700.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-PD	\$ 29.70
VISU-SEWER INC	SERVICES-W	\$ 12,273.15
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-ST,PR	\$ 348.48
WBC MECHANICAL INC	EQUIP-W	\$ 3,398.85
WELLMARK BCBS	BCBS ER SHARE	\$ 41,809.26
WINTHROP BUILDING SUPPLY	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 60.94

ZERO9 SOLUTIONS

UNIFORM-PD

\$59.45

CLAIMS TOTAL \$473,741.67; General Fund \$152,933.68; Library \$17,832.74; Streets Dept-Road Use \$17,699.15; Employee Benefits \$59,985.18; Economic Development \$6,824.84; Cap Project-Airport \$7,288.90; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$49,677.87; Water Fund \$37,767.11; Sewer Utility Fund \$122,075.76; Self Insurance \$1,576.44; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$80.00.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$3,175,643.18; General Fund \$1,081,272.43; Library \$37,667.63; Streets Dept-Road Use \$67,925.14; Employee Benefits \$594,007.32; Tax Increment Financing \$480,061.60; Debt Service \$558,383.99; Debt-Special Assessment \$80,597.57; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$6,281.79; Water Fund \$49,249.96; Water Revenue Bond \$7,832.08; Sewer Utility \$140,959.61; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund \$7,996.66; Sewer Sinking Revenue Bond \$42,422.66; Storm Water \$7,570.75; Self Insurance \$13,261.68; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$152.31.

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

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending provisions pertaining to Code Section 69.08-No Parking Zones, second by Council Member Prusator. Mayor Bleichner explained this is the area on the south side of 2nd Street NE west of 2nd Avenue NE that was in place for when the Food Pantry was at its old location on 2nd Avenue NE. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Absent: Moore. Council Member Prusator with a motion that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Huston. Absent: Moore. Council Member Jensen with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Code Section 69.08-No Parking Zones be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, and Hanna. Absent: Moore.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-598 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution to include improvements at Flag Park for the Bob Hill Memorial to the allocation list for the use of American Recovery Plan Act Funds, second by Council Member Weber. Council Member O’Loughlin stated he is in favor of this but would like to limit the amount of funds to be used not to exceed \$10,000. Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe replied the resolution just allocates funds but does not require a dollar amount to be specified. There is less than \$10,000 remaining of ARPA monies to be spent before the December 31, 2026 deadline. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, and Prusator. Absent: Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-72 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution accepting and approving the final plat of the MBH Addition within two miles of the city limits of the City of Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Prusator, and O’Loughlin. Absent: Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-73 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution approving a moratorium on the enforcement of certain signed regulations, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. Mayor Bleichner stated signs were being used in the downtown area that were not allowed per the zoning ordinance. This moratorium would stop the enforcement of those regulations while the sign ordinance is being reviewed for the period of 120 days or until a new amended ordinance is approved whichever occurs first. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Huston, Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, and Jensen. Absent: Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-74 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Jensen with a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the attached acceptance of service, waiver of hearing, and consent to petition regarding the Mary Lou Cook estate, second by Council Member Weber. Mayor Bleichner reported that Ms. Cook wanted to leave the Library Foundation funds from her estate, however it was incorrectly worded as Independence Public Library. The acceptance of service form will allow Roberts and Eddy to properly distribute the funds as was intended. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Absent: Moore.

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve the Commercial Restoration Rehab Grant application with B & D Services in the amount of \$3,994.34, second by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Huston. Absent: Moore.

Utility Director Foley provided Council an update about recent water and sewer system projects happening in Independence.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Hanna – Asked a question about a claim for approximately \$43,000 for painting. O’Loughlin – Vote early. Mayor – The Rotary lunch last week invited Airport Director Soukup to speak about projects and grants. Last Wednesday, he attended the quarterly AMR meeting, and the AMR Regional Director was present to go over the financials and the service calls. The service calls do not distinguish calls within the city limits and rural calls. Also discussed at that meeting were the calls that other entities had to respond to as AMR couldn’t. He spoke on the meetings he has attended with Audrey Hill on having a memorial for Bob. Last Friday was the opening of the ADA pier at Triangle Pond. He volunteered to be a greeter at the Library’s Boo Bash that was held at the Falcon Civic Center last Friday night. City Manager – The painting claim for approximately \$43,000 was for the pool to be redone. This Wednesday, there is a PDI Legislative meeting at the Library starting at 10:00 am for those interested in attending. The Independence School District has reached out to the City about entering into a SRO agreement. He has been working on a draft agreement and once this gets closer to a general agreement of all parties, the agreement will be brought to Council for review. The School is going through their facility planning process and he attended a recent meeting. Building Inspector Chesmore is continuing to work on flood plain properties and has sent out a mailer. There is no update about the replacement engine at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

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