

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:10 p.m., on Monday, April 14, 2025. This meeting started later due to the public input from the 4:45 pm special meeting and included a five-minute break to ensure staff could start a new video stream.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, 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 Jensen, second by Council Member Moore to approve the agenda as amended for the regular meeting held April 14, 2025. Ayes: All. The plaque presentation will be moved to the April 28, 2025, meeting.

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation that declared April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. He also read a proclamation that declared April 2025 as Fair Housing Month.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member Mayner to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the March 24, 2025, Special Meeting. 2) The minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular Meeting. 3) Kwik Star #717 Class B Retail Alcohol License amendment for premises updates with a tentative effective date of April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. 4) Independence Park & Recreation Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal with a tentative effective date of May 17, 2025, through May 16, 2026. 5) The Trendy Tulip Special Class B Retail Native Wine License renewal with a tentative effective date of April 15, 2025, through April 14, 2026. 6) Celebrate Indee Special Event Application for the time period of Wednesday, July 2, 2025, through Saturday, July 5, 2025. 7) Celebrate Indee Special Class C Retail Alcohol License application with a tentative effective date of July 2, 2025, through July 6, 2025. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-F,ST,W,PR,A	\$ 1,247.29
ADP	PAYROLL	\$ 108,807.76
ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	SERVICES-A,F,ST,W,PD	\$ 573.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-W,F,PD	\$ 415.21
ANALYTICAL SERVICES INC	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 1,482.56
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT	SUPPLIES-A	\$ 363.52
BROWN-LANE INSURANCE	INSURE-A	\$ 6,588.00
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	ROAD ROCK-ST,W	\$ 3,852.10
BUCHANAN COUNTY RECORDER	BOAT REGISTER-F	\$ 41.65
BUTLER, JOHN R	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-CH,PD,PR	\$ 2,145.31
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 89.40
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-ALL	\$ 5,980.67
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD,PR,W	\$ 194.17
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 52.00
DAVE SCHMITT CONSTRUCTION	SERVICES-ST	\$ 30,000.00
DECKER SPORTING GOODS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 5,374.00
DELL MARKETING, LP	DUES-ALL	\$ 1,769.04
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH MAINT-F	\$ 246.00
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT	SERVICES-W	\$ 6,820.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 10,855.85

ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
FELD FIRE	EQUIP-F	\$ 680.42
FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
GALLS INC	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 289.11
GCS ELECTRICAL SERVICES	SERVICES-F	\$ 112.50
HAUSERS WATER SYSTEMS INC	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 22.90
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COM	SERVICES-ST,W	\$ 870.25
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 40.00
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
HOLIDAY INN	TRAINING-CH	\$ 237.44
HOTSY CLEANING SYSTEMS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 412.50
IA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOC.	TRAINING-PD	\$ 175.00
ICMA	DUES-CH	\$ 681.41
INRCOG	SERVICES-CH	\$ 565.00
IPERS	IPERS	\$ 33,412.62
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W,ST	\$ 3,414.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-W,PR,ST,A	\$ 544.99
KIECK'S CAREER APPAREL	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 1,475.00
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
KQ SPORTS	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 1,400.00
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
LEGALSHIELD	LEGAL/ID BENEFIT	\$ 161.61
LINOH20	SERVICES-W	\$ 299.00
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$ 1,330.00
MCDONALD, CONNIE	UNIFORM-PD	\$ 30.00
METERING & TECHNOLOGY SOL	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 5,674.88
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 162.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-PR	\$ 822.33
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHE	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 438.36
MOUNT VERNON SOFTBALL	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 375.00
MULTIFORCE SYSTEMS CORP.	FUEL MODEM-CH	\$ 806.00
MYERS POLARIS	VEH REPAIR-F	\$ 1,369.92
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-PR,F,ST,A,W	\$ 855.26
NEJDL, MICHELLE	REIMBURSE-CH	\$ 433.46
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 133.03
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH	\$ 990.61
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PR,PD	\$ 205.04
OLD DOMINION BRUSH CO	SUPPLIES-A	\$ 1,202.79
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 311.57
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	SERVICES-PR	\$ 152.91
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-PR	\$ 214.99
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
RITLAND+KUIPER LANDSCAPE	SERVICES-ST	\$ 1,030.65
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-PR,CH	\$ 228.46
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 46.96
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
SIGNS & MORE	MISC EXP-A,B	\$ 452.01
SITE ONE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 330.00
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR,ST	\$ 1,383.20
STANARD & ASSOCIATES INC	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 161.00
STAR EQUIPMENT, LTD	EQUIP RENTAL-ST	\$ 427.50
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 560.00
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 6,045.33
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,495.00
T MOBILE	PHONE-PD,F,CH,B,PR,W	\$ 876.56

TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,369.73
TBT SPORTS	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$ 3,300.00
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 68.51
US CELLULAR	PHONE-W	\$ 46.40
USA BLUE BOOK	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 60.60
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-F,PD	\$ 48.49
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-W,PR	\$ 82.56
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-ALL	\$ 49,208.37
WELLMARK BCBS	INSURE-CH	\$ 253.80
ZORO TOOLS, INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 21.18

CLAIMS TOTAL \$316,395.74; General Fund \$171,678.48; Library \$11,614.90; Streets Dept-Road Use \$21,859.47; Employee Benefits \$24,901.10; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$590.61; Cap Project Highway 150 \$30,000.00; Cap Project 1st St W Recon \$1,030.65; Water Fund \$21,602.44; Sewer Utility Fund \$22,262.24; Self Insurance \$10,681.10; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$174.75.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$244,612.81; General Fund \$102,717.07; Employee Benefits \$8,700.86; Water Fund \$42,239.08; Sewer Utility \$73,700.83; Storm Water \$6,731.75; Self Insurance \$10,384.43; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$138,79.

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

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 170 – Zoning Regulations, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Council Member Moore with a motion to suspend 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, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: Hanna. Council Member Moore with a motion to have this ordinance which amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 170 – Zoning Regulations be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-602 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, CIP, and transfers, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-22 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution appointing Nathan Hansen to the Planning and Zoning Commission, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-23 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that authorizes the bid process and sets a public hearing date of May 12, 2025, at 5:00 pm for the proposed sale of property, second by Council Member Jensen. City Manager Schmitz stated the property is located at 812 10th St NE. Council Member Moore asked how this notice would be advertised? City Clerk Lampe stated there will be two notices sent to the Bulletin Journal and will be advertised on the City’s website. Council Member Weber asked who is the contact if someone has questions? City Manager Schmitz replied that questions can be directed to Building Official Chesmore and sealed bids need to be given to City Clerk Lampe. Council Member Hanna asked what the starting bid was for the property? City Manager Schmitz said the minimum bid is \$13,000.00. Council Member Moore asked if that minimum bid covers all the expenses incurred so far? City Manager Schmitz stated it will. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O’Loughlin.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-24 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with Operation Threshold Inc. and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Weber. The funds will be used for processing applications to provide programs for low-wage and at-risk individuals living in Independence and providing eight units of safe, affordable housing within Independence. The City has agreed to pledge \$2,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-25 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with Buchanan County Tourism and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Jensen. The funds will be used for marketing the City of Independence as outlined in the marketing strategy for Buchanan County Tourism Bureau using print materials, social media campaigns, advertisements, and branded promotional items. The City has agreed to pledge \$2,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-26 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with the Buchanan County Senior Center and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Jensen. The funds will be used for the continued operations and maintenance of the center. The City has agreed to pledge \$1,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-27 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with the Independence Celebrations Committee and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The funds will be used to assist in funding the fireworks display on July 4th. The City has agreed to pledge \$12,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-28 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Hanna. The funds will be used to assist in funding the event insurance and dramshop insurance for the three community events hosted by the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce. The City has agreed to pledge \$5,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-29 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Hanna with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce and the Independence Celebration Committee and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Prusator. The funds will be used to expand the Fourth of July activities and to potentially have one event each quarter of calendar year 2026 to celebrate the nation's history for the 250th birthday of the United States. The City has agreed to pledge \$30,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-30 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with Northeast Iowa RC&D and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Weber. The funds will be used for grant identification, proposal development and coordination of projects that achieve the Watershed Management Authority's goals and strategies. The City has agreed to pledge \$4,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-31 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to accept and approve the final plat of survey for a boundary line adjustment for Lori Cleveland, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-32 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to accept and approve the preliminary plat of survey for a boundary retracement for Indee Storage and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Mayner. City Manager Schmitz said the property is located at the Northeast corner of the intersection at Bland Boulevard and 20th Street/Iowa Avenue. Council Member Hanna asked if this had been through Planning and Zoning? City Manager Schmitz stated Planning and Zoning reviewed it on April 1st. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-33 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to accept and approve the final plat of survey for a boundary retracement for Indee Storage and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Maynor, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-34 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**OTHER BUSINESS**

Council Member Jensen with a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the proposal from Levi Architecture for the Theatre/Civic Center, second by Council Member Prusator. Mayor Bleichner stated an entity came to the City with an interest in purchasing the Falcon Civic Center. The City then contacted Levi Architecture to see if the Starlight Cinema would be able to be remodeled to become a Civic Center. Council Member Hanna asked what would happen to the Dog Park if this move happened. City Manager Schmitz said the Dog Park and Skate Park would remain where they are currently located. The City would work through that in the purchase agreement that the City would retain ownership until the Council decides what to do. Council Member Moore asked if the City only reached out to the one firm for this proposal and why not others? City Manager Schmitz said Levi Architecture was the only one contacted due to the good working relationship. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: Hanna and Moore.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Hanna – She has heard positive comments about Assistant Fire Chief Butler and Shakespeare being out in the public. Moore – Heard positive comments from a company working in Independence about working with Building Official Chesmore. Mayner – Mentioned that Assistant Fire Chief Butler and Shakespeare were certified last week or the week before in the Crisis Canine Program. O'Loughlin – Reminded everyone that if you have an indytel email address you need to get that changed before May 1st as they will no longer support that. City Manager – Representative Hinson's office reached out this morning asking for either updated letters of support for projects submitted in 2025 and were resubmitted for 2026 or a council resolution of support for the project. There is not enough time to make a resolution of support and so he will be working on obtaining updated letters of support. With the current legislation session, it appears that the State is going to preempt fireworks and will make it so no City or County can withhold the ability for residents to discharge fireworks on July 3rd, July 4th, and December 31st. Mayor – This Friday is April 18th and he recited the introduction of a poem that describes Paul Revere's ride.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:42 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