

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, January 26, 2026.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Prusator, Mayner, O’Loughlin, and Appleby in attendance. Council Members Hanna and O’Loughlin attended via phone. Council Member Moore arrived at 5:31 pm.

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 Mayner, second by Council Member Appleby to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held January 26, 2026. Ayes: All.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donald Kolar, 718 5th Street NE, presented a petition in opposition to the 2026 Street Rehabilitation project and the proposed assessment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Weber, second by Council Member Mayner to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting. b) The Spot #2 Class E retail alcohol license renewal with a tentative effective date of February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027. c) Hartig Drug Company Class E retail alcohol ownership amendment. d) Walmart Class E retail alcohol ownership amendment. e) Dollar General Class B retail alcohol license renewal with a tentative effective date of March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

Motion by Council Member Weber, second by Council Member Mayner to approve the following bills for payment. Ayes: All.

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$1,746.98
ACCU-SAW LLC	SERVICES-PR	\$710.74
ADP	PAYROLL SVCS	\$112,089.09
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	VEH REPAIR-A,PD	\$377.40
ALEX SATTIZAHN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$65.22
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-L	\$893.92
ANDREW ROMAN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$804.35
ANTHONY SCHULER	VOLUNTEER-F	\$54.35
ARMOR EQUIPMENT	SUPPLIES-W	\$95.71
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VSP-BEAM BENEFIT	\$562.89
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$281.00
BRODART CO	BOOKS-L	\$425.95
BRODY TILL	VOLUNTEER-F	\$97.83
BSN SPORTS, INC.	SUPPLIES-PR	\$199.80
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER	AMB SVC-AMB	\$11,726.35
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$659.96
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-PR,PD,F,CH,W	\$7,487.72
CC'S FLOORS & MORE, LLC	SNOW REMOVAL-L	\$148.00
CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY	SERVICES-AC	\$620.00
CENGAGE LEARNING	BOOKS-L	\$132.58
CHRISTIAN BLAD	VOLUNTEER-F	\$695.65
CITY LAUNDERING CO. INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$92.81
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	SNOW REMOVAL-ST	\$2,700.00
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-A,PR,ST	\$6,287.70
CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE	VEH REPAIR-F	\$2,641.46
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE INC	VEH REPAIR-W,A	\$142.00

DARE IOWA, INC	DUES-PD	\$100.00
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL INSURE	\$4,333.08
DINGES FIRE COMPANY	SUPPLIES-F	\$295.85
DREW REICKS	VOLUNTEER-F	\$260.87
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITIES-A,PR,ST,CH,W	\$2,771.66
EBSCO	COMP EXP-L	\$439.00
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT, LLC	SERVICES-W	\$1,785.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND	\$9,181.43
FELD FIRE	SUPPLIES-F	\$266.00
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU	TRAINING-F	\$150.00
FLETCHER-REINHARDT CO	EQUIP-PR	\$652.49
GORDY FENNER	VOLUNTEER-F	\$173.91
GREEN PRO SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$2,499.20
HAGER, LANDEN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$97.83
HAUSERS WATER SYSTEMS INC	SALT-ST	\$36.10
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COMPANY	SERVICES-F	\$81.00
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$2,305.98
HURTIS, RYKER	VOLUNTEER-F	\$119.57
HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	SUPPLIES-PR	\$12.60
IDALS	DUES-AC	\$75.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWER	UTILITIES-ALL	\$28,388.11
INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMER	MISC EXP-CH	\$16,500.00
INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING, HEATING	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$433.46
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-L	\$157.00
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-W	\$7,822.39
JACOB KURT	VOLUNTEER-F	\$76.09
JACOBS, MORGAN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$239.13
JACOB WOLF	VOLUNTEER-F	\$32.61
JANET BULS	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$349.50
JASON DECKER	VOLUNTEER-F	\$217.39
JENNIFER SIMMONS	VOLUNTEER-F	\$293.48
JOHN BUTLER	REIMBURSE-F	\$25.12
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-PR,ST,W,A	\$688.19
JORDON WULFEKUHLE	VOLUNTEER-F	\$97.83
LEGACY FIRE APPARATUS	VEH REPAIR-F	\$3,663.39
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL SVC-CH	\$6,354.10
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	EQUIP REPAIR-F	\$1,885.58
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE	SERVICES-F	\$3,000.00
MCCLOUD SERVICES	SERVICES-PD	\$103.55
MCCURDY-SAVAGO, COOPER	VOLUNTEER-F	\$163.04
METLIFE	PAYROLL BENEFIT	\$1,714.58
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	UTILITIES-L,W,ST,CH,PD,PR	\$8,566.78
MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS INC	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$270.00
MIDWEST JANITORIAL SERVICE	BLDG MAINT-L	\$1,635.00
MIKE ZIMMERLY	VOLUNTEER-F	\$54.35
NATHAN BEENBLOSSOM	VOLUNTEER-F	\$304.35
NORTHWAY WELL AND PUMP COMPANY	EQUIP-W	\$33,795.16
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPANY	PUBLICAT-CH,ST	\$536.60
OFFICE TOWNE INC.	SUPPLIES-ST,F	\$44.24
OFFICE EXPRESS OFFICE PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES-CH	\$149.00
PERMA-BOUND	BOOKS-L	\$39.84
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATING,	SERVICES-PR	\$1,320.00
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-ALL	\$541.99
RJS WELDING LLC	VEH REPAIR-PR	\$320.00
ROMAN, DAISY	VOLUNTEER-F	\$141.30
ROTO-ROOTER	SERVICES-W	\$4,702.50
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH REPAIR-PD	\$134.45
SIMMONS, CHRISTIAN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$119.57

STATE STREET BANK & TRUST CO	RETIRE BENEFIT	\$8,752.03
STATE FARM	BENEFITS-CH,ST,W	\$32.72
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT PARROT	SUPPLIES-L	\$92.66
TANNER ERICKSON-DALE	VOLUNTEER-F	\$184.78
TASC	FLEX/DEP CARE	\$1,497.28
TAYLOR SIMMONS	VOLUNTEER-F	\$271.74
TIMOTHY MAIN	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$1,030.84
TONY DELGADO-CONNOR	VOLUNTEER-F	\$315.22
TOYNE	VEH REPAIR-F	\$57.78
TY FANGMAN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$304.35
USA BLUE BOOK	CHEMICALS-W	\$1,206.22
VERN'S TRUE VALUE	SUPPLIES-W,A,F	\$126.84
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT	\$48,652.03
WES HOOKEM	VOLUNTEER-F	\$315.22

CLAIMS TOTAL \$365,095.41; General Fund \$137,578.26; Library \$18,295.98; Hotel/Motel \$16,500.00; Streets Dept-Road Use \$29,232.10; Employee Benefits \$48,447.72; Cap Project-Street Improvements \$105.86; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$2,833.92; Water Fund \$66,266.48; Sewer Utility Fund \$36,653.66; Self Insurance \$9,148.18; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$33.25.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$384,844.95; General Fund \$77,544.66; Library \$38,280.39; Streets Dept-Road Use \$69,824.45; Employee Benefits \$11,380.89; Tax Increment Finance \$9,059.86; Debt Service \$35,520.23; Debt-Special Assessment \$995.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$31,814.79; Water Fund \$24,726.40; Water Revenue Bond \$7,737.92; Sewer Utility \$55,100.07; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund \$7,928.42; Storm Water \$3,494.21; Self Insurance \$11,358.45; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$79.21.

The January 2026 budgeted monthly transfers and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve the third and final reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapters 76 (Bicycle Regulations) and 77 (Skateboards, Roller Skates, and In-Line Skates) of the City Code of Ordinances, second by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Prusator, Mayner, O’Loughlin, and Weber. Nays: Moore and Appleby.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-631 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-08 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution to assess property owner for Chapter 136 Sidewalk Regulations – failure to comply, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, Mayner, O’Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-09 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve the agreement with McGrath Human Resources Group for the classification and compensation study, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, O’Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator.

City Manager Schmitz stated the Iowa Department of Transportation will be doing a pavement marking project on IA-150 from I-380 to US-20. Council Member O’Loughlin asked that a notice be given prior to the project starting to make people aware of this and plan accordingly.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Fire Department Annual Report – Council Member O’Loughlin stated it appears the department is doing more medical assist calls. He asked if there is anything that could be done to lessen the impact and potential hardship on the department? Fire Chief Hayward replied that the calls could increase as the AMR contract nears its term. Moore – The Oakwood chili cook off was held and had a fair turnout given the cold weather. He thanked everyone that participated in the event. Hanna – Asked if a copy of the petition could be emailed to those Council Members attending via phone. Mayner – He is looking forward to riding in RAGBRAI this year. O’Loughlin – Feels that RAGBRAI puts a feather in our cap and it seems to fit with the 250th anniversary of the United States. City Manager – RAGBRAI will be in Independence on July 23, 2026. KWWL was in earlier today and interviewed him and Chamber Director Nikki Barth. Regular operating budgets for FY2027 will be discussed at the February 2nd work session. He will be out of the office this Thursday and Friday for the ICMA conference planning session. Mayor – On January 27th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, there will be a BESS informational meeting at Heartland Acres for those interested in attending.

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

The City Attorney has approved going into a closed session for the City Manager’s review. Council Member Weber with a motion to enter closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i); to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session at 5:54 p.m., second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and Mayner. Those invited into the closed session were the following: Council Member Weber, Council Member Hanna, Council Member Moore, Council Member Prusator, City Manager Schmitz, Mayor Bleichner, City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe, Council Member Mayner, Council Member O’Loughlin, and Council Member Appleby.

At 7:09 p.m., Council Member Weber made a motion to enter back into open session, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, and O’Loughlin.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

ATTEST:

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