

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 13, 2026.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, and Appleby 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

Mayor Bleichner stated he would like to move the Triumphant Church donation before Public Comment. Motion by Council Member Mayner, seconded by Council Member O'Loughlin to approve the agenda as amended for the regular meeting held April 13, 2026. Ayes: All.

Pastor Lance Fricke and other representatives from Triumphant Church presented a donation to the Independence Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Kenninger, 301 7th Avenue SE, addressed the Council regarding the conduct of the Independence Police Department and his repurposed toilet planter in his yard. Mr. Kenninger stated that he filed a federal Civil Rights lawsuit against the Independence Police Department and the City of Independence.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Mayner, seconded by Council Member Weber to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the March 23, 2026, special meeting. b) The minutes of the March 23, 2026, regular meeting. c) Independence Park & Recreation Class C retail alcohol license renewal for the Baseball/Softball Complex with a tentative effective date of May 17, 2026, through May 16, 2027. d) Mini Mart Class E retail alcohol license ownership amendment. e) The Trendy Tulip Special Class B retail native wine license renewal with a tentative effective date of April 15, 2026, through April 14, 2027. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ADP	PAYROLL SVCS-ALL	\$115,099.39
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	VEH REPAIR-PD	\$56.94
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	MISC EXP-CH,F,PD,PR,W	\$4,619.07
ANGELA KILER	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
ARMOR EQUIPMENT	MISC EXP-W	\$1,319.42
ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE CO	ASSUR CRIT ILL	\$586.64
BLAKE HAYWARD	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$100.00
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$2,672.00
BRAD ESCH	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
BRENT RECK	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
BRIAN LAU	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
BRUENING ROCK	SUPPLIES-PR, W	\$1,282.37
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-PR,PD,CH,A,W	\$10,515.98
CITY LAUNDERING CO. INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$185.62
COLE'S ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-ST,PR,A,W	\$1,026.53
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-A,PR,ST	\$4,246.02
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SURVEYI	SERVICES-W	\$4,740.00
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE INC	VEH MAINT-W	\$75.67
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT COCL	EQUIP-F	\$444.00
DAN'S OVERHEAD DOORS	SUPPLIES-A	\$93.00
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL BENEFIT	\$4,421.92
DUNLAP MOTORS INC	VEH MAINT-W,PR,ST,CH	\$279.76

ELECTRIC PUMP INC	SERVICES-W	\$1,860.00
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT, LLC	SERVICES-W	\$7,405.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	MISC EXP BENEFIT	\$22,642.00
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$2,091.52
FREEDOM AND GLORY	FLAGS-CH	\$1,575.77
GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS	EQUIP REPAIRS-ST	\$521.00
GREEN PRO SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$2,657.94
GUARDIAN	LIFE-LTD-ADD	\$1,509.45
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COMPANY	SERVICES-F,PR,PD,ST,W	\$1,167.00
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$123.65
HYDRITE CHEMICAL CO.	CHEMICALS-W	\$1,349.24
IA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE	DUES-A	\$9.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWER	UTILITIES-ALL	\$32,007.62
INDEPENDENCE NAPA	SUPPLIES-ST,W,PR,A	\$561.85
INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING, HEATING	SERVICES-W	\$173.84
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR	\$1,736.28
IPERS	IPERS	\$35,065.14
JOHN BUTLER	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-W,PR	\$168.89
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W,ST	\$2,623.00
KEITH R. CORKERY	SUPPLIES-ST	\$323.97
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	TRAINING-F	\$70.00
KLUESNER SANITATION, LLC	GARBAGE-G	\$47,022.08
KQ SPORTS	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$11,550.00
KROMMINGA MOTORS INC.	VEH REPAIR-A	\$219.07
LEGALSHIELD	LEGAL/ID BENEFIT	\$174.55
LIFE TIME FENCE COMPANY	SUPPLIES-PR	\$90.00
MATTHEW SCHMITZ	PHONE ALLOW	\$100.00
MICROBAC LABORATORIES, INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$158.25
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	UTILITIES-CH,ST,W,PR,PD	\$8,973.61
MIDWEST BREATHING AIR L.L.C.	SERVICES-F	\$214.50
MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC	SERVICES-W	\$3,375.00
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIES	SUPPLIES-W	\$32.07
NORTH LINN YOUTH BASEBALL	TOURNEY FEES-PR	\$210.00
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPANY	PUBLICAT-CH	\$874.57
OFFICE TOWNE INC.	SUPPLIES-PR,PD	\$3,408.77
OPTINS	CEMETERY FEE-PR	\$17.50
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	SUPPLIES-PR	\$1,651.96
POLLARDWATER	SUPPLIES-W	\$282.70
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATING,	SERVICES-PR	\$454.09
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-PR	\$362.93
RICK RATCHFORD, INC.	SERVICES-PR	\$1,058.91
RITLAND KUIPER LANDSCAPE ARCHI	SERVICES-ST	\$5,325.98
ROBERT BEATTY	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
ROTO-ROOTER	SERVICES-W	\$3,307.69
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC.	BLDG MAINT-CH,PR	\$237.60
SEILER INSTRUMENT & MANUFACTUR	SUPPLIES-W	\$290.00
SIGNS & MORE LLC	MISC EXP-PR,W	\$1,769.93
SITE ONE LANDSCAPE SUPPLY	SUPPLIES-PR	\$1,207.41
S&K COLLECTIBLES	POSTAGE-W	\$15.48
SOBIESKI, LANE	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPANY	SUPPLIES-PR,ST,A	\$1,539.46
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$593.50
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST CO	RETIRE BENEFIT	\$7,341.83
TASC	FLEX MED BENEFIT	\$1,497.28
T-MOBILE	PHONE-B,F,CH,PR,PD,W	\$1,041.04

TRAVIS FOLEY	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
TRENTON CABELL	PHONE ALLOW	\$50.00
USA BLUE BOOK	CHEMICALS-W	\$876.52
US CELLULAR	PHONE-W	\$46.40
UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY	SERVICES-W	\$4,038.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	UTILITY-F,PD	\$45.50
VERN'S TRUE VALUE	SUPPLIES-PR,ST,AC	\$249.69
VESSCO INC	EQUIP-W	\$1,414.30
WATERLOO TENT & TARP	REPAIR-PR	\$400.00
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT	\$48,010.23
WEST EDGE AUTO SALVAGE	VEH REPAIR-PD	\$75.00
WEX BANK	FUEL-PD,F,B,A,PR,CH,W	\$3,513.08
YONKOVIC, SAMANTHA	REFUND-PR	\$564.50
ZARNOTH BRUSH WORKS INC	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$317.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$431,954.47; General Fund \$191,341.46; Library \$12,141.92; Hotel-Motel \$1,810.12; Streets Dept-Road Use \$26,546.89; Employee Benefits \$64,399.55; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$7,957.12; Cap Project-1st Street W Reconstruction \$5,325.98; Water Fund \$44,675.55; Sewer Utility Fund \$54,710.40; Storm Water \$403.48; Self Insurance \$22,494.63; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$147.37.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$233,940.19; General Fund \$56,442.02; Library \$131.35; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$386.00; Water Fund \$52,189.28; Sewer Utility \$95,744.90; Storm Water \$7,906.71; Self Insurance \$20,992.56; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$147.37.

The March 2026 bank reconciliation and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Weber made a motion to approve the third and final reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations, seconded by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, Appleby, and Weber. Nays: O’Loughlin.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-632 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

Council Member Moore made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 170 – Zoning Regulations, seconded by Council Member Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O’Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, and Hanna.

Council Member Weber made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 65 – Stop Required, seconded by Council Member O’Loughlin. City Manager Schmitz stated this is related to the new housing subdivision that Steve Gee is developing. For the stop signs to be installed, they need to be added individually to Code of Ordinances. He also stated that Cardinal and Goldfinch Courts do not have stop signs where they meet Spruce Drive. Those sign locations are included in this amendment. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O’Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and Mayner. Council Member Prusator made 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, seconded by Council Member O’Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, and O’Loughlin. Nays: Appleby and Hanna.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Mayner made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution to provide for a notice of hearing on proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications Project, and the taking of bids therefor, seconded by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O’Loughlin, Appleby, and Weber.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-20 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O’Loughlin made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, CIP, and transfers, seconded by Council Member Moore. City Manager Schmitz stated the total levy from the City for Fiscal Year 2027 is 19.0125 which is roughly a \$0.62 decrease from the Fiscal Year

2026 rate of 19.63340. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, Weber, and Hanna. Nays: Appleby.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-21 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore made a motion to set a public hearing on April 27, 2026, at 5:30 pm for consideration of a rezoning request from M-2 heavy manufacturing to C-2 commercial within the City of Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa, seconded by Council Member Mayner. 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. 2026-22 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin made 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, seconded by Council Member Hanna. 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 2027 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, O'Loughlin, Weber, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Nays: Appleby.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-23 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Weber made 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, seconded by Council Member Moore. 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 2027 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and Mayner.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-24 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator made 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, seconded by Council Member Moore. 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 \$5,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, and O'Loughlin. Nays: Appleby.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-25 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin made 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, seconded by Council Member Weber. 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 \$8,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, and O'Loughlin. Nays: Appleby.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-26 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin made 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, seconded by Council Member Prusator. 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 2027 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, Appleby, and Weber.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2026-27 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Hanna made a motion to approve the write-offs for 2025 submitted by Independence Light & Power, seconded by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, and Hanna.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Building Department Monthly Report – Council Member Hanna wanted to know if work will be done on the junk properties throughout the City. Council Member Appleby asked her if there was something specific she had in mind? Council Member Hanna responded that there are lots of properties that need cleaning up and it seems like nothing has been done with them for a long time. Council Member O’Loughlin asked if there was an update on the property on 3rd St NE? Building Official Chesmore stated a RFP is being drafted. Unsafe building tags have been put on the house. Appleby – Ms. Alber contacted her to apologize for comments at the budget public hearing earlier tonight. Building Official – Reported that 1/3 of the property owners that received mailbox letters have been in contact with him. Another letter will be mailed out to the remaining property owners to remind them of the July 1st deadline to submit their paperwork.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Prusator, seconded by Council Member Weber to adjourn. Ayes: All.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:02 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

