

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

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O’Loughlin, and Jensen in attendance.

This meeting was available for public attendance. The meeting was also broadcast on the local access channel.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Council Member O’Loughlin, second by Council Member Moore to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held April 8, 2024. Ayes: All.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Crawford, Crawford Engineering, spoke on the 2nd Street SW Bridge and 8th Avenue SW Pedestrian Bridge Rehab and the Baseball/Softball Complex Turf projects.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation that declared April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Moore, second by Council Member Jensen to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the March 25, 2024, Special Meeting. 2) The minutes of the March 25, 2024, Regular Meeting. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-F,ST,W,PR,A	\$ 790.14
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-CH,F,PD,W	\$ 848.04
AVFUEL CORPORATION	EQUIP RENTAL-A	\$ 20.00
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
BOWKER MECHANICAL	SERVICES-SW,W	\$ 53,066.85
BREEDLOVE SPORTING GOODS	EQUIP-PR	\$ 2,340.00
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	ROCK-PR	\$ 60.29
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-CH,W	\$ 560.09
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD,PR	\$ 217.93
CITY OF OELWEIN	SERVICES-B	\$ 2,100.00
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	SNOW MAINT-ST	\$ 10,804.96
CONTINENTAL RESEARCH CORP	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 252.79
CONTROLWORX INC	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$ 1,622.15
CORE & MAIN LP	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 685.76
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU	SERVICES-PR,ST	\$ 8,608.32
D & K PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 405.00
D & N FENCE CO INC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 2,921.00
DECKER SPORTING GOODS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 1,411.05
DUNLAP MOTORS INC	VEH MAINT-F	\$ 195.25
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 5,382.14
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
FAREWAY STORES INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 69.80
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUR	TRAINING-FD	\$ 150.00
FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00

GREEN PRO SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 1,879.12
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COM	SAFETY EQUIP-PD,F	\$ 780.20
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
HYDRITE CHEMICAL CO	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 3,092.58
IAMU	DUES-W	\$ 616.00
ICAP	INSURANCE-ALL	\$ 249,067.00
INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING HEA	SERVICES-PR	\$ 190.52
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-CH	\$ 143.00
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$ 24,364.10
JACOBS, MORGAN	REIMBURSE-W	\$ 150.00
JOHNSON PLBG HEATING & AI	SERVICES-PR	\$ 282.00
KEYSTONE LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 226.75
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
LUMBER RIDGE HOME SOURCE	EQUIP RENTAL-PR	\$ 41.50
METLIFE	LTD-ALL	\$ 332.23
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHE	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 240.18
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 360.00
MULTIFORCE SYSTEMS CORP.	FUEL SYSTEM-ALL	\$ 2,094.00
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-F,PR,A,ST	\$ 917.25
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 24.75
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH	\$ 449.84
OFFICE TOWNE INC	MISC EXP-CH,PR	\$ 1,207.17
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 418.45
PAYROLL CHECKS	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 75,704.15
PRINT EXPRESS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 352.75
RAY O'HERRON CO.	TRAINING-PD	\$ 3,101.13
REALCLEAR SETTLEMENT	FEES-CH	\$ 25,000.00
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
RJS WELDING LLC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 78.90
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-CH,PR	\$ 209.55
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 28.42
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
SIGNS & MORE	SERVICES-CH,PR	\$ 503.68
SIMMERING-CORY IA CODIFI	CODE UPDATES-CH	\$ 613.00
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR,F,ST	\$ 3,879.75
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	ICMA-RC \$ PRE	\$ 5,684.64
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,410.00
SURFACE, SARA	REFUND-PR	\$ 375.00
T MOBILE	PHONE-PD,F	\$ 92.80
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,356.71
TEAM SERVICES	SERVICES-W	\$ 9,737.50
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 1,393.96
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-F,ST,PR	\$ 253.26
YEAROUS, BO	REIMBURSE-W	\$ 150.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$510,963.40; General Fund \$251,648.42; Library \$24,466.70; Streets Dept-Road Use \$26,704.65; Employee Benefits \$265.41; Urban Renewal-LMI Housing \$25,000.00; Cap Project-Bridges \$3,945.00; Parks & Rec Projects \$1,835.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$6,028.54; Cap Project-Highway 150 \$1,697.00; Water Fund \$17,258.56; Sewer Utility Fund \$94,680.77; Storm Water Projects \$52,051.21; Self Insurance \$5,382.14.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$220,146.07; General Fund \$19,101.00; Employee Benefits \$734.69; Parks & Rec Projects \$2,200.00; Cap Project-Highway 150 \$162,850.31; Water Fund \$8,377.30; Sewer Utility \$20,247.99; Storm Water \$1,252.64; Self Insurance \$5,382.14.

The March 2024 bank reconciliation and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, CIP, and transfers, second by Council Member Moore. 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. 2024-20 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 salary/wage increases effective July 1, 2024, second by Council Member Prusator. 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. 2024-21 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Hanna with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves a salary increase of 3% effective July 1, 2024, for the City Manager second by Council Member O'Loughlin. Council Member Huston believes it should be higher, but he could understand that it might put the City Manager in an uncomfortable position with the other staff and employees. He does deserve more. Council Member Moore agrees on that point and it was discussed at the work session. The City Manager is at the helm and should deserve a little bit more. Council Member Moore says he was not here for when the other wage items, he didn't know if that would cause harsh feelings for the employees not getting as much as him. Council Member Hanna said that the department heads have been here for how long and they are getting 3%. Mayor Bleichner shared that while he doesn't have a vote, he feels the person in charge should get a higher increase as he deals with all issues in the city. He would recommend a 4% increase. Council Member Jensen said when City Manager Schmitz was hired, the Council would look at increases based on his performance and would be in favor of the 4% increase. She does understand the reasoning for the 3%. Council Member Moore stated the current motion has been made with a second and to go with the vote and see how it goes. Another motion could be made if needed. Mayor Bleichner said that a vote yes means a 3% increase will be given and if the vote is no, then another motion would be made with a different percentage. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Weber, and Hanna. Nays: Moore, Jensen, and Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-22 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 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 2025 budget. 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. 2024-23 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 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 \$1,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-24 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that approves the funding agreement with Buchanan County Senior Center and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Weber. The funds will be used to assist with the rising cost of utilities for the building. The City has agreed to pledge \$700.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-25 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 Independence Celebrations Committee and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Jensen. The funds will be used to assist in funding the fireworks display on July 4th. The City has agreed to pledge \$10,840.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-26 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 Heartland Acres Agribition Center and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Moore. The funds will be used for expanding educational programs, enhancing the event center facilities, and preserving and showcasing historical artifacts and documents. The City has agreed to pledge \$1,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: Huston.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-27 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 Jensen. 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 \$5,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. 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. 2024-28 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 Pathways Behavioral Services, Inc. and for the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the funding agreement, second by Council Member Moore. The funds will be used for providing substance use disorder and mental health treatment, early intervention, and prevention services from the Independence location. The City has agreed to pledge \$2,000.00 from funds in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. 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. 2024-29 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution that increases the Fire Service Fees as shown in Exhibit A of the resolution, second by Council Member Weber. 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. 2024-30 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve the revised Airport Rules and Regulations, second by Council Member Jensen. 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 the removal of the fountain at Veteran's Park, second by Council Member Hanna. 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 removal of the bridge at Knott's Landing, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve the private septic tank installation at 308 14th Avenue SE, second by Council Member Huston. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Council Member Hanna with a motion to approve the private septic tank installation at 1201 6th Avenue SW contingent upon Iowa DNR approval, second by Council Member Huston. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Huston.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the Commercial Restoration Rehab Grant application with Boubin Automotive in the amount of \$18,769.19, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. 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: Jensen – Followed up with the Police Chief about earlier correspondence in the day. Moore – There will be a meeting about the project for Oakwood Cemetery at the Falcon Civic Center at 7:00 pm on Wednesday. Hanna – That project is a volunteer group to clean and repair stones. There is a raffle to help raise funds for Oakwood Cemetery and she said where tickets can be purchased. Huston – Proud of the University of Iowa Woman’s Basketball program with how they worked as a team and represented the school and the state. City Manager – The Governor signed SF2096 which repeals gender balance requirements for boards and commissions. The City can still try and maintain this, but there is no legal requirement to do so. The Iowa DOT provided notice of an upcoming patching project on Highway 20. Staff worked with BankIowa to get a better interest rate for the Oakwood account. The final renewal for ICAP has been submitted. The former building inspector was using the Chevy Venture to perform inspections. He would like to start the process to get a used truck for the new building inspector. There was discussion on Facebook about the flag by Highway 20 and its condition. The Fire Department does replace that flag when notified and when time allows. In the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2025, the City plans on purchasing three of those flags to assist with the private citizen group that also purchases flags. Last Friday, the State of Iowa approved the SRF planning and designing loan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:47 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