

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 23, 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

Motion by Council Member Mayner, second by Council Member Weber to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held March 23, 2026. Ayes: All.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation that declared April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nikki Barth, Independence Area Chamber of Commerce Director, passed out a flyer on being a host for RAGBRAI and provided upcoming RAGBRAI meeting dates.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Mayner, second by Council Member Moore to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: a) The minutes of the March 9, 2026, Regular Meeting. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$1,746.98
ADP	PAYROLL SVCS	\$113,960.71
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	MISC EXP-A	\$102.31
ALBURNETT YOUTH SPORTS	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$325.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	MISC EXP-L	\$944.98
ARMOR EQUIPMENT	ROLLER CHAIN-W	\$311.29
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	EQUIP-PD	\$10,919.52
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VSP/BEAM BENEFIT	\$565.33
BIG INNING, INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$2,223.80
BIG THREE CONSTRUCTION, LLC	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$4,000.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	MISC EXP-L	\$152.97
BLAKE HAYWARD	REIMBURSE-F	\$217.50
BLOHM INSPECTION ENVIRONMENTAL	MISC SVCS-W	\$4,370.00
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	ENGINEERING-A	\$6,680.00
BRODART CO	BOOKS-L	\$804.90
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CENTER	AMB SVC-AMB	\$11,726.35
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$362.94
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-B,CH,F,PD,PR,W	\$13,466.14
CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY	SERVICES-AC	\$64.00
CENGAGE LEARNING	BOOKS-L	\$215.83
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	BOOKS-L	\$201.39
CLIFF BALDWIN	BBALL CLINIC-PR	\$405.00
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA	ROAD SALT-ST	\$7,240.48
CONNIE MCDONALD	UNIFORM-PD	\$25.50
CONTROLWORX INC	EQUIP MAINT-W	\$2,566.50
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SURVEYI	SERVICES-ST,W	\$10,860.00

DEMCO	SUPPLIES-L	\$72.63
DEWITT YOUTH BASEBALL SOFTBALL	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$350.00
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH MAINT-ST	\$265.00
DYERSVILLE TIGERS	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$350.00
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITIES-A,CH,PR,ST,W	\$2,670.53
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	MISC EXP-W	\$100.00
FAREWAY STORES INC	MISC EXP-PR	\$264.70
GALLS, LLC	UNIFORM-PD	\$288.64
HAUSERS WATER SYSTEMS INC	SUPPLIES-ST	\$36.10
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$2,231.00
IA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	DUES-PD	\$937.50
IAMU	DUES-W	\$653.00
ICAP	INSURE-ALL	\$277,059.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWER	UTILITIES-ALL	\$31,417.19
INDEPENDENCE NAPA	MISC EXP-L,W	\$15.48
INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING, HEATING	BLDG MAINT-W	\$699.19
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	BOOKS-L	\$1,492.04
INRTC	TRANSIT DUES-CH	\$2,500.00
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$11,348.14
JACOB KURT	REIMBURSE-F	\$627.80
JENNIFER SIMMONS	REIMBURSE-F	\$93.64
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-CH,PR,ST,W	\$1,132.39
JOHN H. YODER	BLDG MAINT-L	\$165.50
JOHNSON PLBG HEATING & AIR CON	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$146.00
KIECK'S CAREER APPAREL	UNIFORM-PD	\$1,475.00
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	TRAINING-F	\$70.00
KROMMINGA MOTORS INC.	EQUIP MAINT-A	\$253.58
LIFE TIME FENCE COMPANY	FENCE MATERIAL-PR	\$4,217.67
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL SVC-CH	\$2,897.50
MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE	SERVICES-F	\$3,655.00
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	EQUIP REPAIR-SW	\$881.16
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	SUPPLIES-ST	\$141.77
MIDWEST OVERHEAD CRANE	EQUIP MAINT-W	\$940.32
MIDWEST JANITORIAL SERVICE	BLDG MAINT-L	\$1,635.00
MONTICELLO PARKS AND RECREATIO	TOURNEY FEE-PR	\$300.00
MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC	SERVICES-W	\$6,750.00
OFFICE TOWNE INC.	SUPPLIES-PD,PR	\$222.79
PEER SUPPORT FOUNDATION	TRAINING-F	\$750.00
PERMA-BOUND	BOOKS-L	\$356.81
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-ALL	\$528.34
PUSH-PEDAL-PULL INC	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$2,614.09
RANGER REED	GROUND MAINT-L	\$60.00
RJS WELDING LLC	EQUIP MAINT-ST	\$75.00
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC.	BLDG MAINT-CH	\$81.36
SIGNS & MORE LLC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$110.04
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST CO	RETIRE BENEFIT	\$7,491.83
STATE FARM	BENEFIT-CH,ST,W	\$32.72
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT PARROT	SUPPLIES-L	\$116.89
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$2,495.00
SYNTECH SYSTEMS	EQUIP MAINT-A	\$96.00
TASC	FLEX MED BENEFIT	\$1,497.28
T & W GRINDING & COMPOST LLC	SERVICES-G	\$7,020.00
UNITYPOINT HEALTH AT WORK	SERVICES-F	\$642.46
UNITYPOINT HEALTH	SERVICES-ST,W	\$132.00
US CELLULAR	EQUIP-W	\$46.40
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-PD	\$38.48

VERN'S TRUE VALUE	SUPPLIES-A,F,PR,W	\$1,426.48
VESSCO INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$62.12
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT-CH	\$271.80
WILLIAM CASEY WARD	EQUIP-PR	\$3,825.00
WOODBURY COUNTY FIRE ASSOC	TRAINING-F	\$100.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$582,684.78; General Fund \$325,627.06; Library \$34,418.03; Streets Dept-Road Use \$25,388.66; Employee Benefits \$7,706.98; Cap Project-Street Improvements \$3,000.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$29,497.62; Water Fund \$48,266.07; Sewer Utility Fund \$107,307.31; Storm Water \$1,473.05.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$626,673.19; General Fund \$149,456.57; Library \$35,236.78; Streets Dept-Road Use \$57,557.39; Employee Benefits \$37,138.34; Tax Increment Finance \$36,312.48; Debt Service \$62,682.36; Debt-Special Assessment \$1,236.00; Parks & Rec Projects \$600.00; Water Fund \$120,840.18; Water Revenue Bond \$7,737.91; Sewer Utility \$97,468.41; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund \$7,928.41; Storm Water \$7,187.01; Self Insurance \$5,061.12; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$230.23.

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

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Moore made a motion to set April 13, 2026, at 4:45 pm as a public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, seconded by Council Member Weber. The roll being called, the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Mayner, O'Loughlin, Appleby, and Weber.

Council Member Mayner made a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 69-Parking Regulations, seconded by Council Member Moore. Mayor Bleichner gave a review of this agenda item to Council and public in attendance. Council Member O'Loughlin stated he voted no at the last meeting and will vote no again as he feels it has taken the City a long time to clean up the parking regulations. The roll being called, the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, Mayner, Appleby, Weber, and Hanna. Nays: O'Loughlin. Council Member Moore 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 Hanna. The roll being called, the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Weber, Hanna, and Moore. Nays: Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Appleby.

Mayor Bleichner convened a public hearing for the proposed rezoning request. City Clerk Lampe stated no comments were received for the proposed rezoning request. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe noted all comments for the record. Council Member O'Loughlin made a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 170-Zoning Regulations, seconded by Council Member Mayner. Council Member Hanna asked if this is related to the two properties the City will need to take? City Manager Schmitz asked if she could clarify the two properties. Council Member Hanna said the Tempus property and the other one. City Manager Schmitz stated this rezoning is for the area of land at the end of Pine Drive and separate from those two properties. Those properties are related to the potential annexation. Council Member Moore wanted clarification about what would be allowed in this rezoning. City Manager Schmitz stated it would be what is allowed in R-3 multi-family residential. The roll being called, the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Appleby, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and Mayner. Council Member O'Loughlin 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 Prusator. The roll being called, the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Prusator, Mayner, and O'Loughlin. Nays: Appleby, Hanna, and Moore.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: O'Loughlin – His neighbor is starting a mobile detailing business and he has flyers for those people interested. Appleby – Mentioned trying to do something at the Starlight Cinema. City Manager – City Clerk Lampe and he will be out of the office this Wednesday through Friday for the IMMI Conference in Iowa City. Dom Sparrgrove would like to set up a tour of the upstairs housing for Council Members this week. Leanne Harrison sent him an email that the Wapsi Mill will be on "Road Trip Iowa" a PBS show on Monday, May 18th and Saturday, May 23rd. Nikki sent him a message that the website for Independence RAGBRAI is up and running.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50 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