

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, October 23, 2023.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

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

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 October 23, 2023. Ayes: All. Absent: Callahan.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member O’Loughlin, second by Council Member Prusator to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the October 9, 2023, Regular Meeting. Ayes: All. Absent: Callahan.

FINANCIALS

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

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	EQUIP CONTRACT-ALL	\$ 1,528.41
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-PR,A	\$ 23.09
AFLAC	AFLAC PRE-TAX	\$ 287.46
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-A,B,F,L,PD	\$ 1,090.31
AVFUEL CORPORATION	EQUIP RENTAL-A	\$ 28.42
B & F FASTENER SUPPLY CO	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 79.92
BAGBY'S AUTOMOTIVE	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 85.00
BANNER FIRE EQUIPMENT	VEH REPAIR-F	\$ 188.35
BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC	VISION PRETAX	\$ 372.04
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 309.99
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT 01	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 239.03
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	ENGINEERING-A	\$ 21,535.00
BRODART CO	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 934.82
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	ROCK-PR,W	\$ 924.91
BUCHANAN COUNTY HEALTH CE	AMB SVC-CH	\$ 15,008.33
CARD SERVICES-ADMIN	MISC EXP-CH	\$ 423.48
CARD SERVICES-FIRE	MISC EXP-F	\$ 2,392.28
CARD SERVICES-LIBRARY	MISC EXP-L	\$ 955.59
CARD SERVICES-PARKS & REC	MISC EXP-PR	\$ 3,060.63
CARD SERVICES-POLICE	MISC EXP-PD	\$ 2,824.58
CARD SERVICES-UTILITIES	MISC EXP-W	\$ 787.71
CARROT-TOP INDUSTRIES,	FLAGS-CH	\$ 1,217.63
CC'S FLOORS & MORE LLC	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 175.00
CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY	SERVICES-AC	\$ 108.00
CENGAGE LEARNING	BOOKS-L	\$ 173.18
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-W	\$ 104.25
COLONIAL LIFE & ACCIDENT	COLONIALPRETAX	\$ 640.68
CORKERY PAINT AND REPAIR	EQUIP MAINT-PR	\$ 625.00
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	VEH MAINT-W	\$ 81.88
D & K PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 405.00
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL BENEFIT	\$ 4,092.24
DON'S TRUCK SALES INC	VEH MAINT-ST	\$ 2,558.85
DUNLAP MOTORS INC	VEH MAINT-B,W	\$ 86.90
EAST-CENTRAL IOWA R.E.C.	UTILITY-A,PR,ST,W,CH	\$ 1,746.30

EASTERN IOWA EXCAVATING	SERVICES-A	\$ 432,379.25
ELECTRIC PUMP INC	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$ 11,047.89
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 4,755.71
FITNESS FACTORY	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 1,826.00
FREDERICK, MICHAEL MR.	BOOKS-L	\$ 50.00
GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLI	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 133.00
GREEN PRO SOLUTIONS	SERVICES-ST	\$ 2,472.03
HARDWARE HANK	SUPPLIES-PR,W	\$ 94.96
HAUSERS WATER SYSTEMS INC	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 20.90
HAWKINS, INC.	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 3,855.83
HYDRITE CHEMICAL CO	CHEMICALS-W	\$ 1,523.56
IA DEPT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX-PR,W	\$ 9,007.06
IAWEA01	TRAINING-W	\$ 160.00
INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE	UTILITIES-ALL	\$ 31,292.71
INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING HEA	SERVICES-PR	\$ 726.68
INDEPENDENCE ROTARY CLUB	DUES-L	\$ 143.00
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	BOOKS-L	\$ 357.72
INRCOG	SERVICES-CH	\$ 1,265.02
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$ 24,386.26
IPERS	IPERS-PROTECTIV	\$ 33,070.78
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-ST,W	\$ 1,520.00
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-W,PR	\$ 512.93
KEYSTONE LABORATORIES INC	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 251.00
LARSON CONSTRUCTION CO IN	SERVICES-PD	\$ 31,833.05
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL EXP-CH	\$ 3,171.44
MANATT'S INC	CEMENT-PR,W	\$ 4,973.35
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-CH,L,PD,PR,ST,W	\$ 1,639.77
MID-AMERICAN RESEARCH CHE	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 70.39
MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMEN	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 2,506.67
NISSEN, THOMAS	PROGRAMS-L	\$ 600.00
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 25.50
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH,PR,W	\$ 550.08
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PD,ST	\$ 2,501.99
ORIGIN DESIGN	SERVICES-ST	\$ 3,552.50
OVERDRIVE INC.	BOOKS-L	\$ 2,000.00
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 30.94
PAYROLL CHECKS	TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 78,463.18
PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE LLC	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 23.25
PENWORTHY COMPANY, THE	BOOKS-L	\$ 559.91
PERMANENT ROOFING SPECIAL	SERVICES-L	\$ 3,895.00
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	MISC EXP-L,PR	\$ 1,318.35
PRO HYDRO-TESTING LLC	SUPPLIES-F	\$ 276.00
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-B,CH.PR.W	\$ 270.99
RYAN EXTERMINATING INC	PEST CONTROL-CH	\$ 55.00
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-PD	\$ 140.00
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 25.50
SHIELD TECHNOLOGY CORP	SOFTWARE-PD	\$ 1,800.00
SIGNS & MORE	SIGNAGE-ST	\$ 714.01
SIMMERING-CORY IA CODIFI	WEB DUES-CH	\$ 450.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR,ST	\$ 3,497.54
STAR EQUIPMENT, LTD	MAINT-W	\$ 334.84
STATE FARM	BENEFITS-CH,ST,W	\$ 63.65
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 14.50
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	ICMA-RC \$ PRE	\$ 4,478.20
STOREY KENWORTHY - MATT P	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 213.55
STRAND ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-W	\$ 97,500.00

SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-L	\$ 1,850.00
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,259.81
TREASURER-STATE OF IOWA	STATE TAXES	\$ 7,321.16
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-A,CH,F,L,PR,ST	\$ 2,234.55
TSCHIGGFRIE EXCAVATING IN	SERVICES-W	\$ 5,335.00
UNUM	LTD-ALL	\$ 1,054.05
US CELLULAR	PHONE-B,PD	\$ 618.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	UTILITY-CH,PR,PD	\$ 166.08
VOLTMER, INC.	SERVICES-A	\$ 7,841.29
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES-L	\$ 56.50
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-PR,A,W	\$ 1,686.73
WELLMARK BCBS	HEALTH BENEFIT	\$ 47,213.54
WESTON WOODS	AUDIO REC-L	\$ 32.95
WHITED, WILL	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$ 215.00
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS	TRAINING-PD	\$ 225.00
ZOOBEAN, INC.	SERVICES-L	\$ 845.00

CLAIMS TOTAL \$951,450.36; General Fund \$181,248.87; Library \$32,503.85; Hotel-Motel Tax \$1,442.63; Streets Dept-Road Use \$36,991.08; Employee Benefits Fund \$1,483.24; Economic Development \$1,265.02; Parks & Rec Projects \$26.68; Cap Project-City Buildings \$31,833.05; Cap Project-Airport \$461,755.54; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$16,401.14; Water Fund \$34,579.72; Sewer Utility Fund \$147,163.83; Self Insurance \$4,568.91; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$186.80.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$2,417,935.92; General Fund \$845,796.47; Library \$35,062.41; Streets Dept-Road Use \$68,080.97; Employee Benefits \$432,418.79; Emergency Levy \$23,153.93; Tax Increment Financing \$366,806.62; Economic Development \$60,912.00; Debt Service \$305,151.90; Debt-Special Assessment \$19,268.47; Parks & Rec Projects \$54,500.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$15,234.26; Water Fund \$47,830.04; Water Revenue Bond \$7,824.58; Sewer Utility \$70,306.42; Sewer SRF Sinking Fund \$7,996.67; Sewer Sinking Revenue Bond \$42,422.67; Storm Water \$7,006.29; Self Insurance \$7,936.63; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$226.80.

The October 2023 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 first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Zoning Code Article 17 Signs, second by Council Member Jensen. Mayor Bleichner said the City has experienced issues of signs being compliant or not. The revisions were sent through the City Attorney, reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Committee, and the draft ordinance is the final recommendation. Mayor Bleicher pointed out he would like to strike "electronic" in Section 17.03 so Public Decency Standards are applied to all signs. Billboards could have something that isn't decent just as easy as an electronic sign. There are concerns of how the First Amendment could be used for signs that may not be considered decent. Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Zoning Code Article 17 Signs with the additional change made to section 17.03, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen. Absent: Callahan. Council Member Moore with 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, second by Council Member Huston. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Huston. Absent: Callahan. Council Member Moore with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Zoning Code Article 17 Signs be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Huston, and Hanna. Absent: Callahan.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-580 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Hanna with a motion to approve a resolution to assess property owner(s) for Chapter 52 Mowing of Properties – Failure to Comply and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Huston, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Callahan.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-94 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Oelwein Police Department and to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement and the resolution, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Callahan.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-95 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve a resolution to accept the work covering the 2023 Street Rehabilitation Project and authorizes the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Jensen, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Absent: Callahan.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-96 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve a resolution confirming and levying the special assessments, directing that the same be certified to the Buchanan County Treasurer and directing publication and mailing of notice, at the interest rate of 4%, all as required by Section 384.60 of the Code of Iowa, second by Council Member Jensen. Council Member O'Loughlin made the comment this is how it has been done with previous street rehabilitation projects. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen. Absent: Callahan.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-97 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve a resolution to assess property owner(s) for Chapter 90 Water Service System and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Jensen. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Huston. Absent: Callahan.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-98 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**OTHER BUSINESS**

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve the submittal of a Host Town Application to RAGBRAI for the 2024 event indicating Yes, Independence would like to be a Host Town, second by Council Member Huston. Council Member O'Loughlin asked Nikki Barth and Fred Smock to speak on the previous times Independence was a Host Town. Discussion was held on community volunteers, payments to the Host Town for certain expenses, fundraising opportunities, and lodging for the RAGBRAI participants. It was mentioned there is no direct public safety reimbursement for the additional law enforcement officers needed by a Host Town. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Huston, and Hanna. Nays: Prusator. Absent: Callahan.


REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Huston – All is well. Hanna – RAGBRAI was enough. Asked if there was an update about the water leak in front of Affordable Accounting. O'Loughlin – Mentioned the positive things that could happen if RAGBRAI comes through. Jensen – Asked if there had been discussion on who was attending the November 2nd training in Ames for the 1st Street West Corridor. City Clerk – That will be discussed at the next meeting this Wednesday, October 25th. Mayor – The Boo Bash is this Friday, October 27th from 5 – 7 pm. There is a Library event this Thursday, October 26th at 6:30 pm that is a part of the 150th Anniversary celebration. City Wide Trick-or-Treating is October 31st from 5 – 7 pm. November 7th is election day, and absentee voting can be done at the Auditor's office. City Manager – The wiring has been re-done in Council Chambers and hopefully this addresses the sound system issues. He authorized the purchase of code enforcement software to better track issues. The building permit software is getting close to going live on the website. There is continued discussion about the wall at Brimmer Park and how to best track any movement. The City was approved for a rural housing grant. The economic development incentive package that was talked about at the October 9, 2023, meeting is being increased by the State. This means the City's match will also be increasing to potentially \$300,000. The match can be done with in-kind services and cash. The water leak in front of Affordable Accounting is scheduled to be repaired before winter.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Jensen, second by Council Member O'Loughlin to adjourn. Ayes: All. Absent: Callahan.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 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