

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, May 12, 2025.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bleichner opened the meeting by calling the meeting to order with Council Members Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O’Loughlin, and Jensen 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 Jensen, second by Council Member O’Loughlin to approve the agenda as presented for the regular meeting held May 12, 2025. Ayes: All.

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation declaring May 16-17, 2025, as Poppy Days.

Mayor Bleichner read a proclamation declaring May 11-17, 2024, as National Police Week.

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 April 28, 2025, Regular Meeting. b) Dollar General #2329 Class B Retail Alcohol License renewal with a tentative effective date of March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026. c) The Crowbar Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal with outdoor service with a tentative effective date of May 15, 2025, through May 14, 2026. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-F,W,PR,A,ST	\$ 1,074.42
ADP	PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 113,043.55
AHERN	SERVICES-PR	\$ 350.87
ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	SERVICES-F,ST,W	\$ 132.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-PD,CH	\$ 525.92
ASSURITY LIFE INSURANCE	ASSUR CRIT ILL	\$ 491.10
BANNER FIRE EQUIPMENT	VEH REPAIR-F	\$ 70,408.02
BEATTY, MARCUS	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 600.00
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
BEENBLOSUM, NATHAN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 811.16
BLAD, CHRISTIAN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 1,254.92
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 123.24
BOWMAN, RICHARD	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 121.09
BRANDENBURG, ADESSA	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 450.00
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	MATERIALS-W	\$ 100.83
BUTLER, JOHN R	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-A,B,CH,F,PD,W	\$ 2,352.51
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 89.40
CIVICPLUS	WEBSITE DUES-ALL	\$ 7,030.34
CLINTON, SHAR	HOST-PR	\$ 900.00
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-ALL	\$ 5,109.56
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU	SERVICES-SW	\$ 687.00
CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE	VEH REPAIR-F	\$ 1,938.27
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-PD	\$ 799.75
DECKER SPORTING GOODS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 1,228.80
DECKER, JASON	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 502.65

DELGADO-CONNOR, TONY	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 498.74
DELL MARKETING, LP	SUPPLIES-CH	\$ 319.49
DIAMOND VOGEL PAINTS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 11,025.00
DOUBLE A ARMORY	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 1,145.81
ELITE LAND IMPROVEMENT	SERVICES-W	\$ 10,347.50
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 18,266.50
ERICKSON-DALE, TANNER	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 722.47
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
ESCHEN'S CLOTHING	UNIFORM-W	\$ 59.95
FANGMAN, TY	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 375.21
FEHR-GRAHAM & ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-B	\$ 1,482.00
FENNER, GORDY	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 295.67
FOLEY, TRAVIS	REIMBURSE-W	\$ 101.00
GALLS INC	UNIFORM-F,PD	\$ 596.42
GIBBY'S CATERING & VENDIG	CONCESSIONS-PR	\$ 262.50
GROESBECK, ALAN	REIMBURSE-PR	\$ 128.39
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COM	SERVICES-F	\$ 295.20
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
HEIMAN FIRE EQUIPMENT INC	EQUIP-PD	\$ 61.98
HOOKEM, WES	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 581.82
HUPKE, BEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 225.00
IA DEPT OF AGRICULTURE	DUES-A	\$ 9.00
IA DNR	DUES-W	\$ 20.00
IA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SUPPLIES-CH	\$ 29.00
INRCOG	SERVICES-CH	\$ 1,050.00
J & R SUPPLY INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 5,187.00
JACOBS, MORGAN	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 608.46
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 918.55
JOHNSON PLBG HEATING & AI	SERVICES-PR	\$ 132.00
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
KREMER, KADEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 210.00
KRIVACHECK JANITORIAL SUP	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 44.00
KUENNEN, GABE	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 525.00
KURT, JAKE	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 646.47
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
LEAD CUSTOM ENGRAVING	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 90.00
LEADERNSHIP INSTITUTE	TRAINING-CH	\$ 1,250.00
LL PELLING COMPANY	SERVICES-W	\$ 960.86
MANATT'S INC	CEMENT-SW,W	\$ 2,154.69
MCCLOUD SERVICES	PEST CONTROL-PD	\$ 95.00
MEIKE, CAIDEN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 525.00
MESTAD, GAVIN	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 180.00
METERING & TECHNOLOGY SOL	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 7,628.15
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-CH,PR	\$ 519.61
MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 300.00
MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	SERVICES-W	\$ 3,375.00
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 122.50
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
NEJDL, THOMAS	REIMBURSE-W	\$ 150.00
NICOLAS, ROY	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 296.04
NORTH CENTRAL LABORATORIE	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 32.28
OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN	PUBLICAT-CH	\$ 856.52
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PR,PD	\$ 995.51
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 138.18
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINAN	EQUIP LEASE-PR	\$ 167.64
RATCHFORD, DANIEL	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 139.91



RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
REICKS, DREW	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 658.57
REIERSON, ALEX	REFUND-PR	\$ 35.00
ROMAN, ANDREW	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 1,229.77
RYDELL AUTO GROUP	VEH MAINT-PD	\$ 987.26
SATTIZAHN, ALEX	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 96.88
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 100.00
SIGNS & MORE	SERVICES-ST	\$ 195.30
SIMMERING-CORY IA CODIFI	CODE UPDATES-CH	\$ 249.00
SIMMONS, JENNIFER	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 315.97
SIMMONS, TAYLOR	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 203.07
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOW	\$ 50.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-PR.ST.F	\$ 348.12
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	MISSIONSQUARE ICMA RC BENEFIT	\$ 5,945.33
STRAND ASSOCIATES	SERVICES-W	\$ 1,580.00
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,565.00
T MOBILE	PHONE-PD,F,CH,B,PR,W	\$ 891.44
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,369.73
TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES	LAB ANALYSIS-W	\$ 1,761.71
TILL, BRODY	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 179.97
TROTT TROPHIES	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 900.00
USA BLUE BOOK	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 380.49
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-F,PD	\$ 48.49
VOGEL CROP SERVICES	SUPPLIES-A	\$ 204.00
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-A,G,PR	\$ 48,786.68
WEBER, TREY	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 210.00
WEX BANK	FUEL-F,PD,W	\$ 624.91
WILSON, DAVID	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 540.00
WOLF, JACOB	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 1,078.50
WULFEKUHLE, JORDON	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 345.40
YOUNGBLUT, DAX	UMPIRE-PR	\$ 270.00
ZIMMERLY, MIKE	VOLUNTEER-F	\$ 37.26

**CLAIMS TOTAL \$359,010.27;** General Fund \$240,329.83; Library \$10,065.28; Streets Dept-Road Use \$26,646.73; Employee Benefits \$7,639.24; Urban Renewal-LMI Housing \$1,050.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$61.98; Water Fund \$32,376.50; Sewer Utility Fund \$20,840.65; Storm Water \$1,046.56; Storm Water Project \$687.00; Self Insurance \$18,193.13; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$73.37.

**REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$216,578.41;** General Fund \$83,580.16; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$5,979.47; Water Fund \$38,712.85; Sewer Utility \$64,672.57; Storm Water \$5,708.48; Self Insurance \$17,887.47; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$37.41.

The April 2025 bank reconciliation and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

**HEARINGS & ORDINANCES**

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment #2. City Clerk Lampe stated no comments were received for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment #2. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing for the proposal to sell real property. City Clerk Lampe stated no comments were received for the proposal to sell real property. City Manager Schmitz stated no bids were received for the property. Council Member Jensen asked when Council would be talking about the next steps for the property? City Manager Schmitz replied it will be brought to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Session. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 90 – Water Service System, second by Council Member Hanna. Council Member Jensen asked for



clarification on whose responsibility is it for repairs? City Manager Schmitz stated this would make repairs from the curb valve to the main would be the City's responsibility. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayer, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Council Member O'Loughlin 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 Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: Hanna. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 90 – Water Service System be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

**Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-605 in the Official Book of Ordinances.**

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber Hanna, Moore, and Mayner. Council Member O'Loughlin 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 Weber. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Moore, Mayner, and Prusator. Nays: Hanna. Council Member Weber with a motion to have this ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations 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: Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, and O'Loughlin.

**Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-606 in the Official Book of Ordinances.**

**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 at the beginning of the pay period which includes July 1, 2025, second by Council Member Prusator. Council Member Hanna asked if this would be in effect for one year? City Manager Schmitz said this is in effect for one year as it does need to be looked at each year. Council Member O'Loughlin commented he believed in prior years that it was based upon a two-year schedule. City Clerk Lampe stated it may have been that way based upon union contracts, but a wage resolution was brought to Council each year for approval. Council Member Moore said since it is the first time the City is using a merit-based schedule it does need to be reviewed next year. He had heard the questions in the review process were not very detailed or related to the merit process. City Manager Schmitz explained the questions in the review process and how the review process worked with the merit piece. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

**Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-43 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 a salary increase based on the performance review of the City Manager, effective at the beginning of the pay period which includes July 1, 2025, second by Council Member Mayner. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

**Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-44 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**

Council Member Jensen with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution to approve a Homeowner/Agency Repair Program Project according to the Independence TIF LMI Set-Aside Administrative Plan, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, and Hanna.

**Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-45 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**

Council Member Jensen with a motion to set a public hearing on May 27, 2025, at 5:00 pm for consideration of a rezoning request from C-2 Commercial to C-1 Commercial within the City of Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Mayner, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, and Moore.

**Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-46 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**

Council Member Mayner with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a resolution that changes the meeting time for Work Sessions and Regular meetings of the City Council effective July 1, 2025, second by Council Member Moore. Mayor Bleichner shared comments had been received that 5:00 pm is too early for some people to



attend the meetings. There would be some department heads that would be required to clock back in to attend a later meeting. Council Member Hanna asked what the department heads thought of moving the meeting time to 5:30 p.m.? City Manager Schmitz replied they are not necessarily in favor of it, but they aren't overly concerned about it either. They were okay with it being pushed back by a half hour but were more concerned if it had been pushed back further. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if residents made any comments about changing the start time? City Manager Schmitz nothing was received from residents on the topic. Council Member Hanna stated that Council Member Prusator raised a good point at the Work Session if someone wanted to be a Council Member in the future but couldn't make the 5:00 pm meetings due to his/her schedule. This change may bring more potential candidates to future Council seats. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Weber, Moore, and Mayner. Nays: Jensen and Hanna.

**Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2025-47 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to adopt the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Strategic Goals outlined in the agenda memo, second by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Jensen, Weber, Hanna, Moore, Mayner and Prusator.

There was no motion or second made to authorize the City Manager to move forward with the Axon camera purchase for the Independence Police Department even though the roll was called and all were in favor. This will be taken to the May 27, 2025, Council meeting.

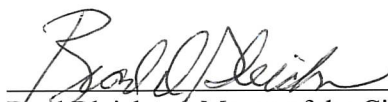
#### **REPORTS**

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: Hanna – Stated there were ten complaints on the building report and two were closed. What does that mean? What does assigned mean in the report? She drove by one of the closed properties and couldn't understand how it was closed when it looks like it does. There is the tour above the Gedney Bakery at 2:00 pm. O'Loughlin – Disappointed because he had to change his email and thought it would change everywhere. He has to reach out to the different entities and update his contact information. Jensen – It was nice to see the K9 officers in town for training. Mayor – At the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, Daniel Young had questions for Council Members. He understands that some Council Members have already reached out to him. Mayor answered Mr. Young's questions based upon the information he had available for the meeting. City Manager – If a property is marked as closed it means it became compliant with City Code. He believes assigned means it is a work in process. The City can only enforce what is written in the City Code of Ordinances.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

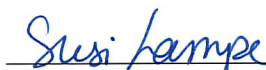
Motion by Council Member Hanna, second by Council Member O'Loughlin to adjourn. Ayes: All.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

ATTEST:



Susi Lampe, IaCMC, IaCFO,

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Independence, Iowa