

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, March 11, 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 Prusator to approve the agenda as amended for the regular meeting held March 11, 2024, with the private septic tank item being moved to the April work session. Ayes: All.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Crawford, Crawford Engineering, gave updates on the 2nd St SE Bridge and 8th Ave SW Pedestrian Bridge Rehabilitation and the Complex Turf Projects.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Moore, second by Council Member Prusator to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the February 26, 2024, Regular Meeting. Ayes: All.

FINANCIALS

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

ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-A,F,PD,PR,ST,W	\$ 620.85
ADAMS FAMILY FURNITURE	EQUIP-F	\$ 757.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES-A,F,PD	\$ 442.93
BEATTY, ROBERT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
BLEICHNER, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
BREEDLOVE SPORTING GOODS	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 532.00
BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS IN	ROAD ROCK-PR	\$ 125.41
BULS, JANET L	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$ 418.50
CABELL, TRENTON	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
CARD SERVICES-VISA	MISC EXP-CH,PR	\$ 11,271.15
CHARLES CITY BASEBALL CLB	BASEBALL FEE-PR	\$ 500.00
CITY LAUNDERING CO INC	BLDG MAINT-PD	\$ 154.14
CLINTON, CHAR	HOST-PR	\$ 750.00
CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO	FUEL-ALL	\$ 2,943.84
CORE & MAIN LP	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 192.86
CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU	SERVICES-ST,SW	\$ 4,398.00
CULLIGAN TOTAL WATER MONT	COMMERCIAL SALT-A	\$ 33.00
CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE	SERVICES-F,PD	\$ 94.92
D & N FENCE CO INC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 6,038.00
D.J. GONGOL & ASSOCIATES	EQUIP REPAIR-W	\$ 464.00
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	EQUIP-F	\$ 207.52
DAVE SCHMITT CONSTRUCTION	SERVICES-W	\$ 722.88
DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA	DENTAL BENEFIT-CH	\$ 41.86
EASTERN IOWA EXCAVATING	SERVICES-A,PR	\$ 18,698.38
EASTERN IOWA HUSTLE	BASEBALL FEE-PR	\$ 250.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS	SAFE-T FUND-ALL	\$ 32,217.64
ESCH, BRAD	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
FAHR BEVERAGE INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 259.30
FAREWAY STORES INC	SUPPLIES-PR	\$ 331.09

FOLEY, TRAVIS	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
FRONTLINE PUBLIC SAFETY	SOFTWARE-PD	\$ 500.00
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COM	SUPPLIES-PD,F	\$ 138.00
HAYWARD, BLAKE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
IA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 682.50
IA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	SUPPLIES-PD	\$ 200.46
IA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOC	TRAINING-PD	\$ 250.00
IMFOA	DUES-CH	\$ 100.00
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$ 25,335.27
IOWA D.A.R.E. ASSOCIATION	DUES-PD	\$ 100.00
JOHNSON PLBG HEATING & AI	SERVICES-PR	\$ 351.00
KILER, ANGELA	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
LAU, BRIAN	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
MAIN, TIMOTHY E	INSTRUCTOR-PR	\$ 937.68
MANCHESTER KIDS LEAGUE	BASEBALL FEE-PR	\$ 400.00
METROPOLITAN COMPOUNDS	SUPPLIES-ST	\$ 559.15
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN	UTILITY-PR	\$ 1,675.54
MONTICELLO PARKS AND REC	BASEBALL FEE-PR	\$ 300.00
NAPA AUTO PARTS	SUPPLIES-ST,A,W,PR	\$ 385.78
NBS CALIBRATIONS INC	SUPPLIES-W	\$ 150.00
NEJDL, MICHELLE	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
OFFICE EXPRESS OFFICE PRD	SUPPLIES-CH	\$ 110.60
OFFICE TOWNE INC	SUPPLIES-PR,PD	\$ 1,374.15
P & N CORPORATION	FUEL PROFITS-A	\$ 709.62
PAYROLL CHECKS	TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS	\$ 77,315.97
PELLA WINDOW	SERVICES-A	\$ 1,707.99
PEPSI-COLA GEN. BOT. IN	CONCESSION-PR	\$ 593.30
PIZZA RANCH	CONCESSIONS-PR	\$ 144.00
PRECISION PLUMBING, HEATI	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 176.38
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE-PR	\$ 208.99
RECK, BRENT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
RJS WELDING LLC	SERVICES-PR	\$ 60.00
S & K COLLECTIBLES	SHIPPING-W	\$ 17.02
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, LLC	EQUIP-F	\$ 1,706.99
SCHMITZ, MATTHEW	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 100.00
SCOT'S SUPPLY	VEH REPAIR-ST	\$ 97.02
SERVICE ROOFING CO	BLDG MAINT-CH	\$ 197.19
SIGNS & MORE	SIGNAGE-PR	\$ 1,399.32
SOUKUP, BRETT	PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 45.00
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA	SUPPLIES-F,PR,ST	\$ 394.01
STATE STREET BANK & TRUST	ICMA-RC \$ PRE	\$ 6,284.64
SUPERB CLEANING SERVICES	BLDG MAINT-PR	\$ 2,450.00
TASC	FLEX MEDICAL	\$ 1,356.71
TBT SPORTS	BASEBALL FEE-PR	\$ 29,100.00
TOYNE	VEH REPAIR-F	\$ 41.88
TREASURER-STATE OF IOWA	STATE TAX	\$ 7,604.88
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES-A,F,PR,ST	\$ 368.19
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE-CH,PD,PR,F	\$ 172.74
WASTE MANAGEMENT	GARBAGE-W,PR,A	\$ 1,417.02

CLAIMS TOTAL \$250,189.26; General Fund \$137,254.30; Library \$11,253.52; Streets Dept-Road Use \$13,877.75; Employee Benefits \$41.86; Cap Project-Street Improvements \$1,442.00; Cap Project-Bridges \$1,478.00; Parks & Rec Projects \$10,749.05; Cap Project-Airport \$15,330.63; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$4,865.67; Cap Project-Highway 150 Reconstruction \$983.00; Water Fund \$5,716.91; Sewer Utility Fund \$14,483.93; Storm Water \$495.00; Self Insurance \$31,979.04; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$238.60.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$77,081.92; General Fund \$20,190.24; Water Fund \$8,522.63; Sewer

Utility \$15,299.09; Storm Water \$1,229.90; Self Insurance \$31,646.41; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$193.65.

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

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve the final reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Public Health and Safety – Discharging Weapons, second by Council Member Prusator. Mayor Bleichner reviewed the proposed amendments. Council Member Hanna asked if Council Members should vote yes to keep the ordinance the same? Mayor Bleichner said if a Council Member votes yes, he or she is in favor of accepting the changes and a no vote means he or she wants to keep the ordinance as it currently reads. Council Member O’Loughlin asked if this includes allowing firearms to be discharged within City limits? Mayor Bleichner said it does allow that. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, Jensen, and Weber. Nays: O’Loughlin.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2024-581 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve the resolution that approves the Buchanan County Housing Study and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member O’Loughlin. Mayor Bleichner said the housing study was important for any future grants that the City may apply for and requires a housing study. Council Member Prusator asked if the study is good for five years? Mayor Bleichner replied it is good for five years. Council Member Hanna asked if this was done free of charge? Lisa Kremer, Buchanan County Economic Development, stated funds were received from MidAmerican Energy, USDA, Buchanan County Economic Development, and the City of Independence to complete the study. Mayor Bleichner asked if other cities within Buchanan County also helped to pay for the study. Ms. Kremer stated no as it was done through Buchanan County Economic Development. Council Member O’Loughlin recommended that it be looked at what can be done to attract families with children to the area. 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. 2024-15 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Weber with a motion to approve the resolution to assess property owner(s) for Chapter 136 Sidewalk Regulations – failure to comply and to authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution, second by Council Member Moore. 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. 2024-16 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Huston with a motion to approve the resolution that endorses the STBG Funding Program for the 2028 STBG Street Rehabilitation Project, second by Council Member Moore. Mayor Bleichner said the deadline for applications is March 15th. He also said this is important as it is a potential funding source for the project. City Manager Schmitz said the streets identified for this agenda item were originally scheduled to be done in 2027. However, the 2025 Street Rehabilitation project was pushed back and in 2026, the First Street West Reconstruction project is scheduled. This means that the streets identified to have been done in 2025 have been pushed back to 2027. 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. 2024-17 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member O’Loughlin with a motion to designate John Evers as the property and liability insurance broker for the City moving forward, second by Council Member Prusator. Council Member Hanna said that Council doesn’t deal with ICAP and asked what City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe’s opinion is as she works with them? Mayor Bleichner suggested that City Manager Schmitz answer that instead. City Manager Schmitz reviewed the number of claims per year for the last five years. In his time with the City, he has not heard any complaints or concerns when working with PDCM. At the end of the day it is Council’s decision to decide who will be the best broker for the City. Council Member O’Loughlin said in his experience of being on the Council, Mr. Evers was the broker and he had not heard of any complaints either. He would also encourage the rest of the Council to vote for the local agent Mr. Evers. Council Member Jensen asked aren’t both brokers local? Council Member O’Loughlin said PDCM rents a spot out in Blin’s building. Council Member Prusator echoed Council Member O’Loughlin’s statements on Mr. Evers and the possibility of using Smith D & L in the future. Council Member Jensen asked about Smith D & L being the backup when they weren’t listed in Mr. Evers’s proposal? Council Member O’Loughlin said Smith D & L is certified

to work with ICAP, but the agents decide which agent works with each customer. Council Member Moore did state the PDCM has an office in Independence, but it is a satellite office. The funds go to the mother company, but if Mr. Evers is chosen then we are promoting business within the community. City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe stated that the City pays ICAP and not the broker. The City reaches out to the broker if something happens. Council Member Hanna stated that City Manager Schmitz didn't really answer her original question and asked it again on what the staff thinks. Further discussion was held on how each broker participates in the community and the history of interactions between the City and each broker. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Nays: Jensen.

Council Member Prusator with a motion to designate Anderson Bogert as the selected engineer for the storm drainage improvements in the 812 3rd Street NW Area Project and to authorize the City Manager to engage the selected firm to establish an Engineering Services Agreement and cost to be brought back to the Council for approval, second by Council Member Moore. Mayor Bleichner reviewed the proposed plans that each firm suggested for the area. General discussion was held on how the Council Members should be looking at this to know which firm is the best one for the City. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Nays: Jensen, Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Council Member Moore with a motion to designate Crawford Engineering as the selected engineer for the storm drainage improvements in the 812 3rd Street NW Area Project and to authorize the City Manager to engage the selected firm to establish an Engineering Services Agreement and cost to be brought back to the Council for approval, second by Council Member Hanna. Council Member Moore stated that Crawford Engineering has done lots of projects within the City and knows the area this project is located at. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, O'Loughlin, Prusator, Moore, Weber, and Jensen. Nays: Hanna.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Airport Operator's Liability Insurance Quotation and to authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary paperwork, second by Council Member Prusator. Council Member Jensen asked if the City should look at other agents for this insurance policy as well? City Manager Schmitz said that is an option but recommends that Council approve this quote to not delay the renewal. A RFP can be done before the next renewal in 2025. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Weber, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Jensen.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to withdraw the application for a Catalyst Grant due to financial concerns, second by Council Member Hanna. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Jensen, and Weber.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the parking agreement with BKC Properties, LLC, owner of the building that houses Cole's Ace Hardware and the residential units above, second by Council Member Prusator. 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: O'Loughlin – Reminded residents that in two months the City will hopefully be hosting its annual waste amnesty day. Moore – The High School sent 22 individuals to state speech last weekend. The musical is this Friday - Sunday. Hanna – On March 17th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Triangle Park, the VFW is having a fundraiser for a handicap accessible dock. Huston – Wondered if Caitlin Clark could volunteer to be the parade person for the 4th of July parade. City Clerk – The parade is organized by the Independence Area Chamber. Mayor – Tomorrow night, March 12th, is the Rotary Spaghetti Supper at the High School. The Childcare Market Study will present a report on May 6th work session with the hopes of having it at the High School in hopes that more people will attend. City Manager – The septic tank item that was moved to the April work session could have been at the March work session as it was submitted in time, but he overlooked it. That is why it was on this agenda. Had an interested individual reach out about cleaning headstones and potential fundraising at Oakwood Cemetery. JT from the Independence FFA has sent an invitation for a ribbon cutting on March 22nd at 3 pm for the chickens that will be at the school. If any Council Members are interested in attending, please let him know so it can be posted as a potential quorum. Staff are working on finalizing Waste Amnesty for June 8th. There has been a verbal offer for the Building Official with a tentative start date of March 28th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.



Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, Iowa

ATTEST:

Susi Lampe

Susi Lampe, IaCMC, IaCFO, City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Independence, Iowa