



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, March 02, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers - 331 First Street East

AGENDA

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Workshops are not Public Hearings. No member of the public or interested party has the right to make a presentation or address the Council on an item under consideration in a workshop or a study session.

During the City Council Work Session, the Council will primarily discuss and debate items intended to be formally considered at a future City Council Meeting. However, the Council may at any noticed meeting, including a City Council Work Session meeting, take action on any item shown on the posted agenda as a potential action item. The City Council Work Session meeting is a regular meeting of the Independence City Council.

MEETING OPENING

Call the Meeting to Order

[Parks](#) Employee Introduction

PRESENTATIONS

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Update
2. Proposal for Professional Engineering Services (The Pines First and Third Stormwater Study)
3. Fire Department Expansion Project Update

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

4. Department Report – Fire
5. Department Report – Library
6. Department Report – Parks & Recreation
7. Department Report – Police

NEW BUSINESS

8. Parking on 2nd Street NE (200 block)
9. Police Department Mobile Command sale/transfer to Black Hawk County, Iowa
10. Council Topics
11. Mayor Topics
12. City Manager Topics

ADJOURNMENT

This agenda is subject to change.



**CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MEMORANDUM**

TO: City Council
FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager
DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026
ITEM TITLE: Parks Employee Introduction

DISCUSSION:

Lane R. Sobieski was recently hired in the Parks & Recreation Department as the Program and Facility Operations Coordinator.

Lane will be present to introduce himself to the Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

DISCUSSION:

Bradley Lake from Strand Associates will present an update to the Council.

Additionally, Staff would like to discuss with the Council the appropriation from the Community Project Funding application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Proposal for Professional Engineering Services (The Pines First and Third Stormwater Study)

DISCUSSION:

At the Special Meeting on February 10, 2026, it was mentioned that a stormwater study should be conducted in the SW area of Independence, specifically Pines First and Third Additions. The City has received a proposal from Fehr Graham for these services in the amount of \$16,900.

Representatives from Fehr Graham will be present to discuss the proposal with the Council and answer any questions they may have.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.

February 25, 2026

Matt Schmitz
City Manager
City of Independence
331 1st Street East
Independence, Iowa 50644

**RE: Proposal for Professional Engineering Services
The Pines Third and First Addition Stormwater Review, Independence, Iowa**

Dear Matt,

The City of Independence is interested in reviewing the stormwater drainage in Pines Third Addition and the stormwater coming from the Pines First Addition via the 30-inch pipe. The size of the existing detention basin in Lot B in the Pines Third Addition will be reviewed based on the stormwater drainage calculations provided by Crawford Engineering and by reviewing the stormwater entering the basin through the 30-inch pipe from the Pines First Addition. We will use our findings to determine how the detention basin in Lot B will function and what size storm event it will detain before overtopping. We will also review the detention basin's outflows to assess how it functions as-is and whether additional modifications are needed to the existing 30-inch outlet pipe that discharges to the north.

A report will be provided explaining the findings of the stormwater review, with options to leave the detention basin as is or to consider what can be done to maximize stormwater detention and reduce peak flows.

The following is the scope of services that Fehr Graham will provide to support the stormwater study.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Task 1: Base Map Creation

- » Create a base map in AutoCAD with an aerial image, a LiDAR surface and county parcel linework to review and establish the stormwater drainage for the following area.
 - Pine Drive, Cedar Drive and Juniper Drive in the Pines First Addition that drains into the 30-inch storm sewer pipe, as shown on the attached location map.
 - Pines Third Addition calculations previously submitted by Crawford Engineering will be used to review stormwater drainage in this development.
 - Review LiDAR to determine if there are discrepancies in the surface where additional elevation data may need to be obtained to create a reasonably accurate surface model that reflects stormwater flow patterns.

Task 2: Field Work

- » Complete a topographic survey of the as-built detention basin in Lot B of the Pines Third Addition.
- » Collect any additional elevation data necessary if there are areas where the LiDAR is inaccurate. This may include obtaining elevation data in critical low points, high points or drainage swales, where LiDAR may not provide an adequate level of accuracy.

- » The estimated fee to complete the topographic survey and collect any additional elevation data is based on one field day.
- » Use GPS equipment to obtain accurate locations and rim and or top back of curb elevations of existing storm sewer structures in The Pines First Addition.
- » Storm sewer structures in The Pines First Addition (excluding four structures on the far east end), the structure on the south side of Spruce Drive that connects the 30-inch pipe and structures in the detention basin in Lot B of The Pines Third Addition will be diagrammed to confirm the invert elevations and sizes of existing storm sewer pipes. The fee is based on diagramming a total of 22 storm sewer structures.

Task 3: Stormwater Review

- » Storm flows will be estimated and reviewed for the 5, 10, 50 and 100-year events.
- » The storage capacity and functionality of the as-built detention basin in Lot B of The Pines Third Addition will be reviewed for each event.
- » Additional review will be completed to determine if an outlet control structure needs to be added to the 30-inch storm sewer pipe that outlets to the north side of the detention basin. The existing outlet control structure on the northeast corner of the detention basin is expected to be utilized as is with no modifications made.

Task 4: Stormwater Review Report and Meetings

- » A report will be prepared explaining the findings of the stormwater review, including a recommendation if the detention basin can be left as is or if modifications should be made.
- » We will attend one in-person meeting with city staff to review the stormwater review report and make any necessary changes.
- » The final report will be submitted to the city, and we will attend one council meeting to answer any questions.

EXCLUSIONS

The following items are **not** included in the scope of services:

- » Boundary survey.
- » Topographic survey of the entire stormwater review area.
- » Land acquisition and easement services.
- » Archaeological, Economic, Environmental and Geotechnical studies or services.
- » Complete field survey of the existing storm sewer system, outside of what is explained above.
- » GIS mapping of the existing storm sewer system.
- » Stormwater or street design.
- » Plan preparation.
- » Grant/funding research and application assistance.
- » Individual property owner communication.
- » Public property owner meetings.
- » Review and submit permits.
- » Franchise utility map review or coordination.
- » Construction services.

Any of the above services can be performed at an additional cost to the project upon request.

February 25, 2026
Matt Schmitz, City of Independence
Downtown Stormwater Review Proposal
Page 3

FEES

Based on the information available at this time, we are prepared to provide these services as outlined for the following fee amount:

Stormwater Review, Lump Sum \$16,900

Payment for the services rendered will be requested via a monthly invoice.

***Reimbursables are not to exceed more than 15% markup.*

SCHEDULE

Project work may proceed upon receipt of a signed agreement, with work expected to be completed within two months.

AUTHORIZATION

We look forward to continuing our relationship with the City of Independence. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this proposal and trust that our information aligns with your expectations. Please sign and return the attached Agreement for Professional Services, which will serve as your official authorization for us to proceed with the proposed work scope.

Sincerely,



Samuel R. Ertl, PE
Project Manager

SRE:rfg

Enclosure: Location map
 Agreement for Professional Services

N:\Proposals\2026\Samuel Ertl\Independence\Stormwater Study Pines 3rd\Independence SW Study Pines 3rd Review Proposal.docx

Item #2.

Legend

100 ft
Storm Inlets

Approximate stormwater review area, including about 12.5 acres of The Pines First Addition. We intend to use the calculations submitted by Crawford Engineering for The Pines Third Addition.

Black symbols are storm sewer structures that came from the City's GIS.
 Red symbols are locations of additional storm sewer structures that were not in the City's GIS.
 The red linework is the assumed storm sewer path for the Pines First Addition.



Google

**AGREEMENT
FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Client Matt Schmitz
 City Manager
 City of Independence
 331 1st Street East
 Independence, Iowa 50644

 319.334.2780

Description of Services:

City of Independence – The Pines Third and First Addition Stormwater Review, Independence, Iowa

Fehr Graham will provide professional services as described in our proposal dated February 25, 2026.

COST:

The fixed fee for performing the above services is \$16,900.

All plan reproduction and distribution costs along with publication and permit fees will be paid direct by Client and are not included in the above fees.

Payment for the services rendered will be requested via a monthly invoice.

***Reimbursable are not to exceed more than 15% markup.*

The attached General Conditions are incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

I/we, the undersigned, authorize Fehr Graham to provide services as outlined above, and also agree that I/we are familiar with and **ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THE ATTACHED GENERAL CONDITIONS.**

CLIENT:

Signature _____

Name _____

Title _____

Date Accepted _____

CONSULTANT:

By Ryan M Wicks

Name Ryan M. Wicks, PE

Title Principal

Date Proposed February 25, 2026

405.0026624.000

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1. The Client requests the professional services of Fehr Graham hereinafter called "The Consultant" as described herein.
2. The Consultant agrees to furnish and perform the professional service described in this Agreement in accordance with accepted professional standards. Consultant agrees to provide said services in a timely manner, provided, however, that Consultant shall not be responsible for delays in completing said services that cannot reasonably be foreseen on date hereof or for delays which are caused by factors beyond his control or delays resulting from the actions or inaction of any governmental agency. Consultant makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to his findings, recommendations, plans and specifications or professional advice except that they were made or prepared in accordance with the generally accepted engineering practices.
3. It is agreed that the professional services described in the Agreement shall be performed for Client's account and that Client will be billed monthly for said services. A 1½% per month service charge will be incurred by Client for any payment due herein and not paid within 30 days of such billing which is equal to an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE OF 18%. Partial payments will be first credited to the accrued service charges and then to the principal.
4. The Client and the Consultant each binds himself, his partners, successors, executors, and assigns to the other party to this agreement and to the partners, successor, executors, and assigns of such other party in respect to this agreement.
5. The Client shall be responsible for payment of all costs and expenses incurred by the Consultant for his account, including any such monies that the Consultant may advance for Client's account for purposes consistent with this Agreement.
6. The Consultant reserves the right to withdraw this Agreement if not accepted within 30 days.
7. A claim for lien will be filed within 75 days of the date of an invoice for services (last day of services rendered) unless the account is paid in full or other prior arrangements have been made. All attorney fees incurred by the Consultant due to the filing of said lien or the foreclosure thereof shall be borne by the Client.

In the event suit must be filed by Consultant for the collection of fees for services rendered, Client will pay all reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

If Client defaults in payment of fees or costs due under the terms of this Agreement and Consultant incurs legal expenses as a result of such failure, Client shall be responsible for payment for Consultant's reasonable attorney fees and costs so incurred.

8. The Consultant shall present, for the consideration of the Client, engineering and technical alternatives, based upon its knowledge and experience in accordance with accepted professional standards, with selection of alternatives and final decisions as requested by the client to be the sole responsibility of the Client.
9. Construction Phase Activities (When applicable) - In connection with observations of the work of the Contractor(s) while it is in progress the Consultant shall make visits to the site at intervals appropriate to the various stages of construction as the Consultant deems necessary in Agreement to observe as an experienced and qualified design professional the progress and quality of the various aspects of the Contractor(s)' work. Based on information obtained during such visits and on such observation, the Consultant shall endeavor to determine in general if such work is proceeding in accordance with the Contract Documents and the Consultant shall keep the Client informed of the progress of the work.

The purpose of the Consultant's visits to the site will be to enable the Consultant to better carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to and undertaken by the Consultant during the Construction Phase, and, in addition, by exercise of the Consultant's efforts as an experienced and qualified design professional, to provide for the Client a greater degree of confidence that the completed work of the Contractor(s) will conform generally to the Contract Documents and that the integrity of the design concept as reflected in the Contract Documents has been implemented and preserved by the Contractor(s). The Consultant shall not, during such visits or as a result of such observations of Contractor(s)' work in progress, supervise, direct or have control over Contractor(s)' work nor shall the Consultant have authority over or responsibility for the means, methods, techniques, sequences, or procedures of construction selected by Contractor(s), for safety precautions and programs incident to the work of Contractor(s) or for any failure of Contractor(s) to comply with laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, codes, or orders applicable to Contractors(s) furnishing and performing their work. Accordingly, the Consultant can neither guarantee the performance of the construction contracts by Contractor(s) nor assume responsibility for Contractor(s)' failure to furnish and perform their work in accordance with the Contract Documents.

10. Estimates of Fees – When fees are on a time and material basis the estimated costs required to complete the services to be performed are made on the basis of the Consultant's experience, qualifications, and professional judgment, but are not guaranteed. If the costs appear likely to exceed the estimate in excess of 20%, the Consultant will notify the Client before proceeding. If the Client does not object to the additional costs within seven (7) days of notification, the increased costs shall be deemed approved by the Client.
11. The Consultant is responsible for the safety on site of his own employees. This provision shall not be construed to relieve the Client or the Contractor(s) from their responsibility for maintaining a safe work site. Neither the professional services of the Consultant, nor the presence of his employees or subcontractors shall be construed to imply that the Consultant has any responsibility for any activities on site performed by personnel other than the Consultant's employees or subcontractors.
12. Original survey data, field notes, maps, computations, studies, reports, drawings, specifications and other documents generated by the Consultant are instruments of service and shall remain the property of the Consultant. The Consultant shall provide copies to the Client of all documents specified in the Description of Services.

Any documents generated by the Consultant are for the exclusive use of the Client and any use by third parties or use beyond the intended use of the document shall be at the sole risk of the Client. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Client shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Consultant for any loss or damage arising out of the unauthorized use of such documents.

13. No claim may be asserted by either party against the other party unless an action on the claim is commenced within two (2) years after the date of the Consultant's final invoice to the Client.
14. If a Client's Purchase Order form or acknowledgment or similar form is issued to identify the agreement, authorize work, open accounts for invoicing, provide notices, or document change orders, the preprinted terms and condition of said Purchase Order shall be superseded by the terms hereof.
15. Standard of Care – Services performed by Consultant under this agreement will be conducted in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the profession currently practicing under similar conditions. No other representation expressed or implied, and no warranty or guarantee is included or intended in any report, opinion or document under this agreement.
16. Liability Insurance – Consultant will maintain such liability insurance as is appropriate for the professional services rendered as described in this Agreement. Consultant shall provide Certificates of Insurance to Client, upon Client's request, in writing.
17. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability – Client and Consultant each agree to indemnify and hold the other harmless, including their respective officers, employees, agents, members, and representatives, from and against liability for all claims, costs, losses, damages and expense, including reasonable attorney's fees, to the extent such claims, losses, damages or expenses are caused by the indemnifying party's acts, errors or omissions.

The Client understands that for the compensation herein provided Consultant cannot expose itself to liabilities disproportionate to the nature and scope hereunder. Therefore, the Client agrees to limit Consultant's liability to the Client arising from Consultant's professional acts, errors or omissions, such that the total aggregate liability of Consultant shall not exceed \$50,000 or Consultant's total fee for services rendered on this Project, whichever is less.

18. Allocation of Risk – Consultant and Client acknowledge that, prior to the start of this Agreement, Consultant has not generated, handled, stored, treated, transported, disposed of, or in any way whatsoever taken responsibility for any toxic substance or other material found, identified, or as yet unknown at the Project premises. Consultant and Client further acknowledge and understand that the evaluation, management, and other actions involving toxic or hazardous substances that may be undertaken as part of the Services to be performed by Consultant, including subsurface excavation or sampling, entails uncertainty and risk of injury or damage. Consultant and Client further acknowledge and understand that Consultant has not been retained to serve as an insurer of the safety of the Project to the Client, third parties, or the public.

Client acknowledges that the discovery of certain conditions and/or taking of preventative measures relative to these conditions may result in a reduction of the property's value. Accordingly, Client waives any claim against Consultant and agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Consultant and its subcontractors, consultants, agents, officers, directors, and employees from any claim or liability for injury or loss allegedly arising from procedures associated with environmental site assessment (ESA) activities or the discovery of actual or suspected hazardous materials or conditions. Client releases Consultant from any claim for damages resulting from or arising out of any pre-existing environmental conditions at the site where the work is being performed which was not directly or indirectly caused by and did not result from, in whole or in part, any act or omission of Consultant or subcontractor, their representatives, agents, employees, and invitees.

If, while performing the Services set forth in any Scope of Services, pollutants are discovered that pose unanticipated or extraordinary risks, it is hereby agreed that the Scope of Services, schedule, and costs will be reconsidered and that this Agreement shall immediately become subject to renegotiation or termination. Client further agrees that such discovery of unanticipated hazardous risks may require Consultant to take immediate measures to protect health and safety or report such discovery as may be required by law or regulation. Consultant shall promptly notify Client upon discovery of such risks. Client, however, hereby authorizes Consultant to take all measures Consultant believes necessary to protect Consultant and Client personnel and the public. Furthermore, Client agrees to compensate Consultant for any additional costs associated with such measures.

19. In the event of legal action to construe or enforce the provisions of this agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to collect reasonable attorney fees, court costs and related expenses from the losing party and the court having jurisdiction of the dispute shall be authorized to determine the amount of such fees, costs and expenses and enter judgment thereof.
20. Assignment - Neither party to this Agreement shall, without the prior written consent of the other party, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, assign the benefit or in any way transfer its obligations under this Agreement or any part hereof; provided, however, either Party may freely assign this Agreement to a parent, subsidiary or affiliate without the other party's consent. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto, and except as otherwise provided herein, upon their executors, administrators, successors, and assigns.
21. Termination – The obligation to provide further services under this Agreement may be terminated by either party upon seven (7) days written notice in the event of substantial failure by the other party to perform in accordance with the terms hereof through no fault of the terminating party. In the event of any termination, Consultant will be paid for all services rendered to the date of receipt of written notice of termination, at Consultant's established chargeout rates, plus for all Reimbursable Expenses including a 15% markup.
22. Provision Severable – The unenforceability or invalidity of any provisions hereof shall not render any other provisions herein contained unenforceable or invalid.
23. Governing Law and Choice of Venue – Client and Consultant agree that this Agreement will be governed by, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Iowa. If there is a lawsuit, Client and Consultant agree that the dispute shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the Iowa District Court in and for Delaware County, Iowa.



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Fire Department Expansion Project Update

DISCUSSION:

Brian Stark from Martin Gardner Architecture will present an update to the Council.

Additional discussion will also be needed about next steps and plans for funding, etc., of the expansion.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

FROM: Blake Hayward – Fire Chief

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Fire

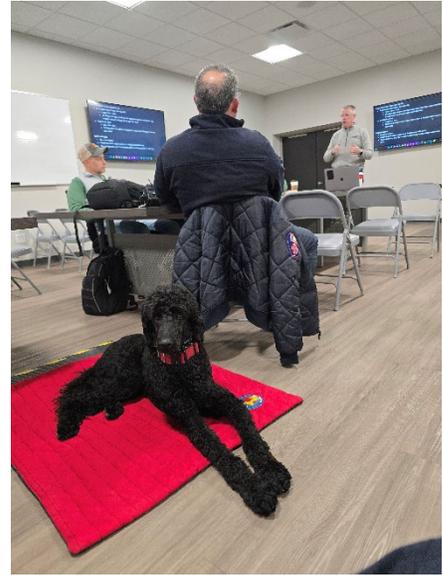
We had 5 members attend the 101st Iowa Fire School in Altoona last month. This was a great opportunity for our members to attend some great training classes on several topics, such as Electric Vehicle Fires, Recruiting & Retaining Firefighters, Motivational Speakers from across the Country, and a great chance to network with firefighters from across the state.



The Independence Fire Department recently took delivery of our Ballistic Personal Protective Equipment (BPPE). As you may recall, this was a grant we received from the Buchanan County Health Trust, which covered 100% of the cost of this lifesaving equipment. We originally wrote the grant for 8 vests, and due to some great discounts from our vendor, North American Rescue, we were able to actually get 10 vests for the cost of 8! These vests will be worn during high-risk calls where IFD members may be responding to assist. This could be a domestic, suicidal subject, law enforcement assists calls, etc. We have noticed an increase in these types of calls and wanted to make sure we provide the best protection for our members, including the new BPPV.



Several of us have started meetings with the RAGBRAI committee local chapter, as well as directors from RAGBRAI (Des Moines). So far, we have had 2 meetings and are starting to get people in place for all the different committees that are needed to help make this event a great success! A lot of hard work and planning is going on behind the scenes in hopes of making this event go smoothly, as well as a great success for our community! We have been fortunate enough to have our Crisis Canine Shakespeare at our meetings to help calm any stress or fears committee members may have.



Lastly Independence Fire Rescue Association held their annual Soup Supper at the Buchanan County Fairgrounds 4H building on February 17, 2026. We had great weather and an even better turnout!! We served over 400 people between drive-thru and inside seating. This was a great opportunity for us to connect with the community members as well as help raise funds for equipment for our department. The funds raised will be going towards a matching grant for EMS jump bags that will have emergency equipment in them to assist during RAGBRAI, as well as be issued to members who are medically trained to assist more quickly on medical calls within the community.



SOUP SUPPER FUNDRAISER

Supporting Life-Saving EMT Medical Backpacks



Prepared for RAGBRAI — Ready All Year

During RAGBRAI in July, Independence experiences increased emergency medical call volume. These EMT backpacks improve rapid response during high-demand events and strengthen daily emergency medical response throughout the city year-round. When seconds matter — organization and speed save lives.

Funds Raised Will Go Toward:

- Durable high-visibility EMT medical backpacks
- Advanced trauma supplies
- Airway management equipment
- AED support tools
- Updated emergency medical gear



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager
FROM: Laura Blaker, Library Director
DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026
ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Library



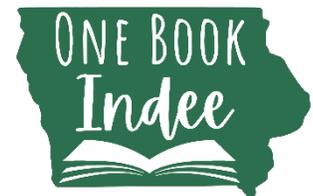
One Book Indee

The community has been enjoying One Book Indee, our annual community reading program. This year's title is *To Catch a Storm* by Mindy Mejia, a thriller featuring a physicist and a psychic teaming up to solve two missing person's cases. Books are found at the library, Em's Coffee, S&K Collectibles, the Falcon Civic Center, Brick Kitchen, Gedney Bakery, and the Little Free Libraries.



People have been engaged in reading, discussions, and various events like an author presentation, Iowa Storm Chasers, and Undercover Investigations. There are many events to come, including an open house and tour of the airport, a program on cold cases by the Psychic Bureau of Iowa, etc.

City Connection: Promote and encourage community involvement and engagement, Improved quality of life for everyone.



Proposed Legislation

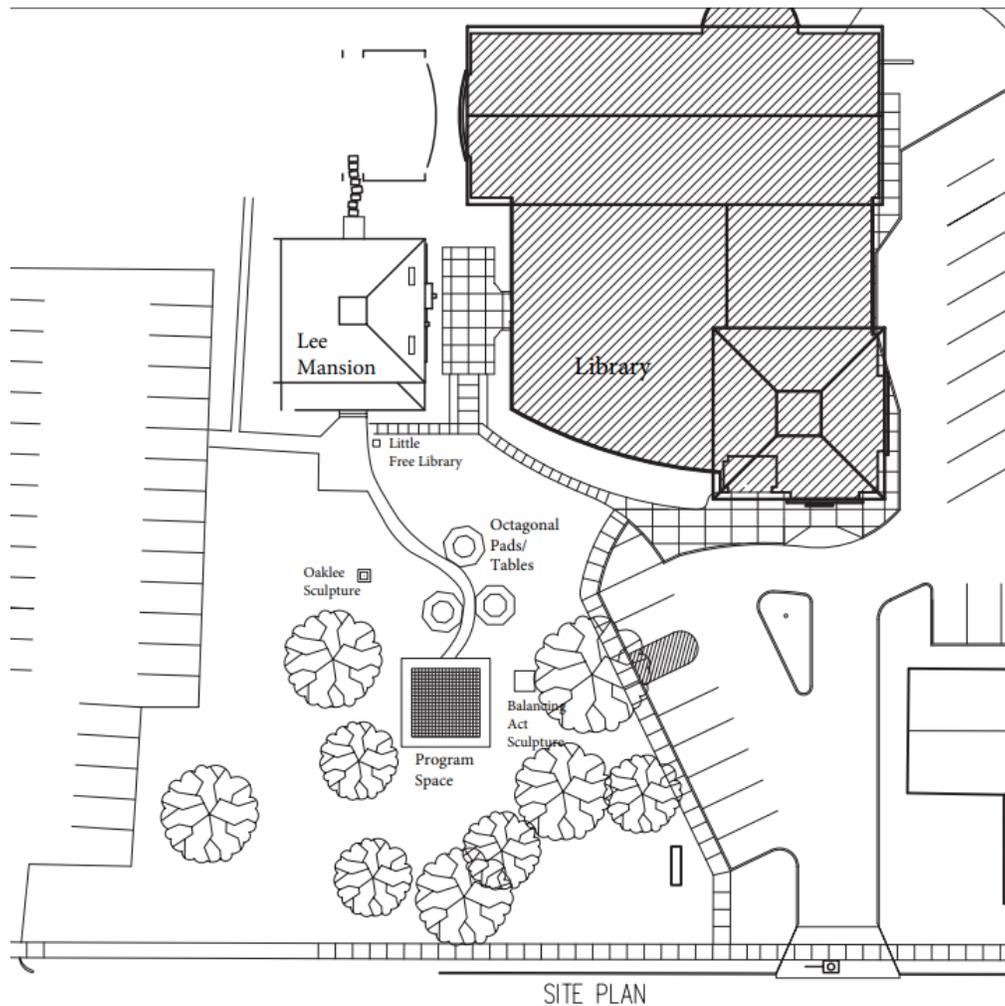
There are many threats to Iowa's cities and public libraries being discussed in the legislature. The property tax reform bills will erode cities, and especially small cities. Other states like Wyoming and Indiana, having passed similar bills, have experienced less upkeep and maintenance of parks, reduced or non-existent library services, cuts in fire departments, hiring freezes, and delayed capital projects. There are also harmful library bills that will increase burdens on libraries and cities, take rights away from parents, and increase legal liabilities.

City Connection: threatens capacity to provide improved quality of life for everyone

Park Funding and Fundraiser

There is a park committee working on making decisions and acquiring funding for the green space north of the library. This is the park that has Oaklee and the Balancing Act Sculpture. So far, the group has received a matching grant from McElroy for \$6,300. We are looking at other grants with the intent of

applying for one or two of them. Also, the group is planning a fundraising event for Saturday, May 2 from 10 am – 2 pm. It will consist of the Friends Book Sale, a raffle, live music, and the sale of baked goods and other foods/drinks. Plan to attend to support the library and park improvements like improved seating, a programming space, lighting, electrical, and accessibility. The plan is currently as shown below.



City Connection: Promote and encourage community involvement and engagement, Improved quality of life for everyone, Promote and encourage tourism and historical sites.

Library Motto: Enriching Lives, Inspiring Growth



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

FROM: Bob Beatty – Parks & Recreation Director

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Parks & Recreation

Forestry Department

Downtown flowers have been ordered for 2026. They typically arrive in late May.

Parks

When there hasn't been snow removal, the Parks Department has been working on projects here at the FCC. They have also ordered new picnic table frames and have been assembling them to get ready for spring.

Recreation Department

Youth indoor soccer finished up. Whiffleball and kickball have been advertised, and the youth basketball 1st/2nd-grade clinics are underway. We have started to advertise for spring/summer Little League programming. Next season, we will look to expand the basketball program and offer it in late fall.

River'sEDGE Facility

Team practices began after the new year. We are off to a great start. Teams are fundraising as the cost of playing continues to rise at a rapid rate. We are now \$840 per team for the state tournament alone. We will have our bags tournament and silent auction at RE this Friday. It is a fairly large event, but it can always accommodate more teams. Most teams will begin games on April 18/19.

Falcon Civic Center

The weightroom expansion went really well; the parks staff were able to do most of the demolition, and that left just a little build back to hire out. It is 95% complete, just waiting to start painting it all. The small expansion has made a huge impact on the look and feel of the space. We have received many compliments thus far.

Aquatic Center Facility

Local lifeguard certification has been set. We are hoping for many returners and many new guards for the summer of 2026.

RV Park Facility

The renovation last fall went very well; the street department did a great job on the upgraded pads. The early snow did cost us the opportunity to bring in dirt and seed. This will be pushed to this fall. Just have some potholes to fill this spring. We are searching for a new host/hostess for 2026. We open on March 1, so time is fairly pressed. At this point, we will have to handle the first month internally.

Complex

We have officially hired the new Facility and Program Operation Coordinator. This role will serve many roles within the organization. Main job functions are the operation of the Complex concession stand, the operation of the FCC membership software, and online registration management. This position will also assist with the development and operation of new programming.

Lane Sobieski introduction:

I am excited to begin my role as the Operations and Facilities Coordinator for the City of Independence. I recently earned my Master's Degree in Sports Management and Recreation from the University of Iowa, where I focused on athletic operations, event coordination, and facility management. I also earned my Bachelor's Degree in Sports Management and Leadership with a minor in Business from Lakeland University, where I was a two-sport collegiate athlete in football and baseball.

Throughout my academic and professional experiences, I have developed a strong background in operations, logistics, event setup, and team coordination. While at the University of Iowa, I served as a Football Recruiting Assistant and supported Division I recruiting operations, campus events, and game-day logistics. I also worked as a Softball Analytics Intern and a Teaching Assistant within the Sports Management program, gaining valuable experience in organization, communication, and data-driven decision making.

Prior to graduate school, I grew up in Berlin, Wisconsin, and being raised on a farm instilled in me a strong work ethic, attention to detail, and appreciation for teamwork and service.

I am passionate about creating well-maintained, safe, and welcoming facilities for the community. I look forward to supporting the City of Independence's operations, contributing to efficient facility management, and serving residents with professionalism and dedication

I'm excited to get started and become an active part of the Independence community!

Lane Sobieski

The 2026 Tournament Schedule was set before the new year. We have shifted some to more USSSA rentals, including hosting two weekends of State. Schedule listed below.

April 4	Sandlot Showdown	BSB 9-13u	USSSA
April 11	Queen of Diamonds Showdown	SB 8, 10, 12u	USSSA
April 12	Queen of Diamonds Showdown	SB 14 16 18	USSSA
April 18	Turf Slamfest	BSB 12u	River'sEDGE
April 19	Turf Slamfest	BSB 11u	River'sEDGE
April 25/26	KQ Rumble on Turf	BSB 8-13u	USSSA
May 2	Turf Shootout	SB 9, 10, 11, 12U	River'sEDGE
May 3	Turf Shootout	SB 7, 8 13, 14 15, 16	River'sEDGE
May 9/10	Battle On Turf	BSB 10-12	USSSA
May 16	Cedar Valley Slugfest	SB 9, 10, 13, 14	USSSA
May 17	Cedar Valley Slugfest	SB 8 11, 12 16, 18	USSSA
May 30	Battle on Turf	SB 12 13 14	USSSA
May 31	Battle on Turf	SB 8, 9 10	USSSA
June 6	Turf Showdown	BSB 7/8u	River'sEDGE
June 6	Turf Showdown	BSB 13u	River'sEDGE
June 7	Turf Showdown	BSB 11u	River'sEDGE

June 13/14	Summer Madness	BSB 7-13u	USSSA
June 20/21	Diamond Duel	BSB 7-13	USSSA
June 27	Turf Smackdown	BSB 9u	River'sEDGE
June 28	Turf Smackdown	BSB 7/8u	River'sEDGE
June 28	Turf Smackdown	BSB 13u	River'sEDGE
July 5	Turf Takedown	BSB 11u	River'sEDGE
July 10-12	USSSA State Championships	TBD	USSSA
July 17-19	USSSA State Championships	TBD	USSSA

Cemetery

The Chili cookoff seemed to go well. They had several silent action items and good chili.



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager
FROM: Chief Brian Lau
DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026
ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Police

Captain Isley attended the yearly sex crimes investigator conference January 25-28th in Johnston, Iowa. This is a yearly conference that continues to be very valuable to the department with case studies and legal updates.

Chief Lau and Officer Ohrt attended the Iowa Police Officers' Association conference on February 23rd-24th in Altoona, Iowa. This year's conference presented a few case studies for education, legal updates, and an officer wellness presentation on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

This week, Lieutenant Morris and Officer Ball are attending the Iowa Association of Women Police conference in Dubuque, Iowa, on March 2nd- 3rd.

Officer Jason Ohrt has been awarded the 2025 Officer of the Year Award for his outstanding dedication to the service of the community as well as our department. This year, Officer Ohrt has stepped up and become the department's firearms instructor and also volunteered to help with the department's vehicle maintenance program. No task is too big or small for Officer Ohrt to dedicate his time to better the department or help his community.

Officer Nicole Ball has been awarded the 2025 Apollo 11 Award. The Apollo 11 Award is new this year and recognizes an officer within the department who goes "Above and Beyond" in teamwork excellence. Officer Ball brings positive energy to work every day, and this has been noticed not only within the department but also in her service to our community.

Bank Iowa graciously donated eight filing cabinets to the Independence Police Department, which are currently updating and replacing some that are used for the officer's evidence management system.



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Parking on 2nd Street NE (200 block)

DISCUSSION:

Dustin Dallenbach has asked to have a conversation with the City Council about the parking regulations in the 200 block of 2nd Street NE.

Mr. Dallenbach will be present to speak to the Council.

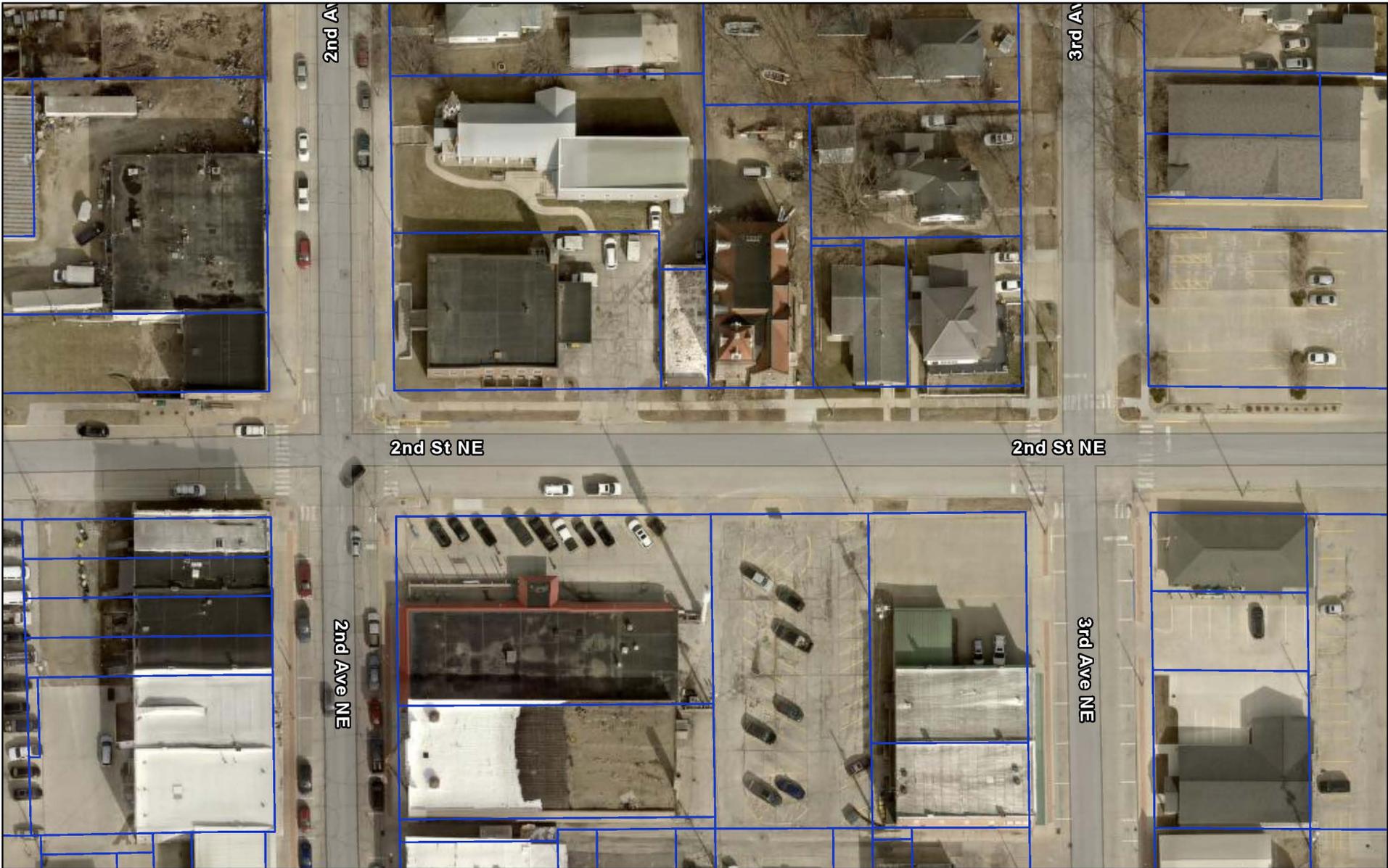
A map is included for reference of the area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.

Independence, IA Informational Map

Item #8.

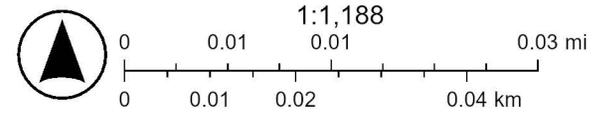


2/26/2026, 3:43:22 PM

-  Municipal Boundary
-  Buchanan Parcels
- World Imagery

- Low Resolution 15m Imagery
- High Resolution 60cm Imagery
- High Resolution 30cm Imagery

- Citations
- 30cm Resolution Metadata



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Vantor



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Police Department Mobile Command sale/transfer to Black Hawk County, Iowa

DISCUSSION:

Chief Lau has been working on disposing of the Police Department's Mobile Command vehicle, as it is not used.

This item is to discuss potentially transferring it to Black Hawk County, Iowa, for their use. The vehicle was originally donated to the City of Independence by Area Ambulance, with no restrictions on what we could do with it in the future.

It is important to know that the graphic removal and radio work that needs to be done will cost about \$1,000, which will be covered by Black Hawk County. The Police Department would then have a new radio for a future squad car. If we had to purchase a radio, it would cost approximately \$6,000 for the dual-head radio system currently in the vehicle.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.

VEHICLE PURCHASE AND TRANSFER AGREEMENT

This Vehicle Purchase and Transfer Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Black Hawk County, Iowa, a political subdivision of the State of Iowa ("County"), and the City of Independence, Iowa, a municipal corporation ("City").

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the terms and conditions under which the City agrees to sell, and the County agrees to purchase, a vehicle for official County use.

2. Vehicle Description

The vehicle subject to this Agreement is described as follows:

Year: 2016

Make: Ford

Color: White

VIN: 1FDXE4FS2GDC47731

3. Purchase Price

The City agrees to sell the vehicle to the County for the total purchase price of One Dollar (\$1.00).

4. Conditions of Sale

As a condition of the sale, the County agrees to:

- a. Pay all costs associated with the removal of any striping, radios, or other City-owned equipment from the vehicle; and
- b. Return all removed equipment to the City of Independence once removed.

5. Condition of Vehicle

The vehicle is sold "as is, where is," with no warranties, express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

6. Transfer of Title

Upon completion of the conditions outlined in this Agreement and receipt of payment, the City shall transfer title of the vehicle to the County in accordance with Iowa law.

8. Liability

Upon transfer of title, the County assumes all responsibility, liability, insurance, maintenance, and operation of the vehicle.

9. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Iowa.

10. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties regarding the subject matter herein and may be amended only by written agreement signed by both parties.

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, IOWA

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

BLACK HAWK COUNTY, IOWA

By: Justin Stafford
Name: Justin Stafford
Title: Lieutenant
Date: 2-6-26