

The Independence City Council met in regular session in the council chambers at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, February 13, 2023.

OPENING/ROLL CALL

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

This meeting was available for public attendance. The meeting was also broadcasted on the local access channel in addition to being hosted electronically on Microsoft Teams.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Mayor Bleichner stated that Item 9. A. Resolution approving Final Plat – Hummingbird Phase 2 needed to be removed. Motion by Council Member Moore, second by Council Member O’Loughlin to approve the agenda as amended for the regular meeting held February 13, 2023. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Callahan, second by Council Member O’Loughlin to accept and approve the consent agenda that approves the following: 1) The minutes of the January 23, 2023, Regular Meeting. 2) Kwik Star #717 Class B Retail Alcohol License effective April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

FINANCIALS

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

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| ADAMS FAMILY FURNITURE | EQUIPMENT-F | \$ | 147.00 |
| ADB SAFEGATE AMERICAS LLC | REPAIR-A | \$ | 48.69 |
| ADVANCE AUTO PARTS | VEH REPAIRS-PD | \$ | 313.97 |
| AFLAC | AFLAC PRE-TAX | \$ | 287.46 |
| AIR SERVICES INC | EQUIP REPAIR-F | \$ | 169.00 |
| ALLEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH | SERVICES-CH,ST,W | \$ | 243.00 |
| AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES | SUPPLIES-F | \$ | 59.99 |
| ANALYTICAL SERVICES INC | LAB ANALYSIS-W | \$ | 1,530.46 |
| AVFUEL CORPORATION | EQUIP RENTAL-A | \$ | 20.00 |
| BEAM INSURANCE ADMIN LLC | VISION PRETAX | \$ | 482.13 |
| BEATTY, ROBERT | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ | 45.00 |
| BERGANKDV | AUDIT FEES-CH | \$ | 2,000.00 |
| BLACK HAWK CO HEALTH DEPT | LICENSE-PR | \$ | 300.00 |
| BLAD, CHRISTIAN | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ | 629.39 |
| BLEICHNER, BRAD | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ | 100.00 |
| BOWMAN, RICHARD | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ | 138.16 |
| BULS, JANET L | INSTRUCTOR-PR | \$ | 819.33 |
| BURNS, JEFFERY | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ | 537.28 |
| CABELL, TRENTON | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ | 45.00 |
| CARD SERVICES-VISA | MISC EXP-CH,PR,W.PD,B | \$ | 7,413.26 |
| CASS LASER ENGRAVING | SUPPLIES-PD | \$ | 160.00 |
| CC'S FLOORS & MORE LLC | BLDG MAINT-PR | \$ | 2,832.59 |
| CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY | SERVICES-AC | \$ | 108.00 |
| CERAS, JOSHUA | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ | 230.26 |
| CITY LAUNDERING CO INC | BLDG MAINT-W,ST,CH,PR,A | \$ | 509.94 |
| CITY OF JESUP | TRAINING AGREEMENT-PD | \$ | 16,307.54 |
| CLINTON, CASEY | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ | 184.21 |
| COLONIAL LIFE & ACCIDENT | COLONIALPRETAX | \$ | 561.35 |
| COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA | SNOW MAINT-ST | \$ | 5,246.30 |
| CONSOLIDATED ENERGY CO | FUEL-ALL | \$ | 9,764.46 |
| CONTROLWORX INC | EQUIP REPAIR-W | \$ | 7,049.95 |

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| CRAWFORD ENGINEERING & SU | SERVICES-ST,SW | \$ 34,371.00 |
| CURTIS ARCHITECTURE | SERVICES-CH | \$ 6,060.00 |
| CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE | Veh Maint-PD,W | \$ 161.58 |
| DAVE SCHMITT CONSTRUCTION | SERVICES-ST | \$ 59,721.75 |
| DECKER, JASON | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 199.56 |
| DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA | DENTAL BENEFIT | \$ 4,034.90 |
| DICK'S PETROLEUM COMPANY | REPAIR-A | \$ 725.12 |
| DUNLAP MOTORS INC | VEH MAINT-PR | \$ 30.95 |
| EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SYSTEMS | SAFE-T FUND-ALL | \$ 15,031.99 |
| ERICKSON-DALE, TANNER | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 383.77 |
| ESCH, BRAD | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ 45.00 |
| ESCHEN'S CLOTHING | UNIFORM-W | \$ 94.50 |
| FELD FIRE | SUPPLIES-F | \$ 206.00 |
| FENNER, GORDY | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 138.16 |
| FOLEY, TRAVIS | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ 45.00 |
| GALLS INC | UNIFORM-F,PD | \$ 956.25 |
| GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS | EQUIP REPAIR-ST | \$ 510.22 |
| GRIFFITH, TRAVIS | TOURNAMNET-PR | \$ 600.00 |
| HARDWARE HANK | SUPPLIES-PR,W,CH | \$ 260.78 |
| HAYWARD, BLAKE | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ 45.00 |
| HOOKEM, WES | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 337.72 |
| IA DEPT OF REVENUE | Sales Tax-W | \$ 10,147.50 |
| IA PRISON INDUSTRIES | Supplies-CH,W | \$ 111.20 |
| IA PUBLIC AIRPORTS ASSOC | DUES-A | \$ 175.00 |
| IA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | Fees-ST | \$ 1,807.60 |
| IIMC | DUES-CH | \$ 185.00 |
| INDEPENDENCE LIGHT & POWE | UTILITIES-ALL | \$ 5,561.14 |
| INDEPENDENCE PLUMBING HEA | STARLIGHT-CH | \$ 122.00 |
| INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE | FED/FICA TAX | \$ 44,652.84 |
| IPERS | IPERS-PROTECTIV | \$ 30,965.75 |
| ISLEY, ANDREW | REIMBURSE-PD | \$ 248.77 |
| JACOBS, MORGAN | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 399.12 |
| JAKS RESTAURANT SUPPLY | SUPPLIES-PR | \$ 300.00 |
| JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL | SUPPLIES-ST,PR,W,PD,A | \$ 776.03 |
| KEYSTONE LABORATORIES INC | LAB ANALYSIS-W | \$ 125.50 |
| KIECK'S CAREER APPAREL | UNIFORM-PD | \$ 200.43 |
| KILER, ANGELA | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ 45.00 |
| LAMPE, SUSI | REIMBURSE-CH | \$ 5.00 |
| LAU, BRIAN | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ 45.00 |
| LOVELESS, MIKE | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 153.51 |
| LYNCH DALLAS, PC | LEGAL EXP-CH | \$ 3,614.25 |
| MAIN, TIMOTHY E | INSTRUCTOR-PR | \$ 450.00 |
| MAVERICK POWERSPORTS | EQUIP REPAIR-PR | \$ 313.98 |
| MAYNER, MATTHEW | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 153.51 |
| MCDONALD, CONNIE | UNIFORM-PD | \$ 35.00 |
| MICROSOFT CORPORATION | LICENSES-ALL | \$ 136.44 |
| MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPAN | UTILITY-PR | \$ 1,701.02 |
| MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS | SAFETY EQUIP-W | \$ 260.00 |
| MOCIC | MEMBERSHIP FEE-PD | \$ 150.00 |
| MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERV | REPAIR-F | \$ 2,612.03 |
| NAPA AUTO PARTS | SUPPLIES-ST,PR,F,W | \$ 713.27 |
| NICOLAS, ROY | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 337.22 |
| OELWEIN PUBLISHING COMPAN | PUBLICAT-CH | \$ 916.35 |
| OFFICE TOWNE INC | SUPPLIES-B,CH,F,PD,PR | \$ 23,304.05 |
| P & N CORPORATION | FUEL PROFITS-A | \$ 329.29 |
| PATHWAYS | DUES-CH | \$ 1,000.00 |

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| PAYROLL CHECKS | TOTAL PAYROLL CHECKS | \$ 140,239.37 |
| PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINAN | EQUIP LEASE-PR | \$ 167.64 |
| PRICE ELECTRIC | SERVICES-W | \$ 737.50 |
| PRINT EXPRESS | Supplies-PD,PR | \$ 2,730.60 |
| PURCHASE POWER | POSTAGE-B,PR | \$ 208.99 |
| RAY O'HERRON CO. | UNIFORM-PD | \$ 162.95 |
| RECK, BRENT | PHONE ALLOWANCE | \$ 45.00 |
| RJS WELDING LLC | VEH REPAIR-ST | \$ 160.00 |
| RYAN EXTERMINATING INC | PEST CONTROL-CH | \$ 55.00 |
| RYDELL AUTO GROUP | VEH MAINT-PD,PR | \$ 1,968.00 |
| SCHMITZ, MATTHEW | VEHICLE ALLOW | \$ 400.00 |
| SIGNS & MORE | UNIFORM-CH | \$ 16.00 |
| SIMMONS, JENNIFER | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 168.86 |
| SIMMONS, TAYLOR | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 92.11 |
| SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER COMPA | SUPPLIES-PR,ST | \$ 1,007.71 |
| STATE STREET BANK & TRUST | ICMA-RC \$ PRE | \$ 11,142.22 |
| STRAND ASSOCIATES | SERVICES-W | \$ 18,950.00 |
| TASC | FLEX MEDICAL | \$ 2,392.66 |
| TBT SPORTS | TOURNAMNET-PR | \$ 4,750.00 |
| TESTAMERICA LABORATORIES | LAB ANALYSIS-W | \$ 1,925.09 |
| THREE OAKS GREENHOUSE | BASKETS-PR | \$ 600.00 |
| TILL, BRODY | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 260.96 |
| TREASURER-STATE OF IOWA | STATE TAXES | \$ 7,018.21 |
| TRUE VALUE HARDWARE | SUPPLIES-PR,F,ST,PD | \$ 1,054.47 |
| TSCHIGGFRIE EXCAVATING IN | STARLIGHT-CH | \$ 2,433.75 |
| UNUM | LIFE/AD&D INS | \$ 969.62 |
| US CELLULAR | Utility-B,F,PD | \$ 709.80 |
| USA BLUE BOOK | SUPPLIES-W | \$ 376.75 |
| VERIZON WIRELESS | UTILITY-CH,PR,F,PD | \$ 172.34 |
| VESSCO INC | EQUIP REPAIR-W | \$ 2,877.25 |
| WAHLERT BASEBALL | TOURNAMNET-PR | \$ 125.00 |
| WALMART COMMUNITY | SUPPLIES-W,PD,PR | \$ 261.86 |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT | GARBAGE-A,CH,PR,W | \$ 47,555.34 |
| WEBER, JOE | REIMBURSE-B | \$ 150.00 |
| WELLMARK BCBS | HEALTH BENEFIT | \$ 47,383.64 |
| WESTERN DUBUQUE YOUTH BAE | TOURNAMNET-PR | \$ 300.00 |
| WINTHROP NEWS, THE | PUBLICAT-CH,F,SW | \$ 568.23 |
| WOLF, JACOB | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 521.93 |
| WULFEKUHL, JORDON | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 245.61 |
| ZIMMER & FRANCESCON INC | EQUIP REPAIR-W | \$ 169.72 |
| ZIMMERLY, MIKE | VOLUNTEER-FD | \$ 138.16 |

CLAIMS TOTAL \$615,508.11; General Fund \$312,827.82; Library \$29,221.29; Streets Dept-Road Use \$51,570.61; Employee Benefits \$1,876.95; Economic Development \$6,060.00; Cap Project-Street Improvements Project \$7,260.00; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$24,916.44; Cap Project Highway 150 \$67,914.75; Water Fund \$19,117.35; Sewer Utility Fund \$68,619.07; Storm Water Projects \$11,091.84; Self Insurance \$14,879.59; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$152.40.

REVENUES MONTH TO DATE TOTAL \$147,058.60; General Fund \$34,708.82; Library \$299.30; Employee Benefits \$800.11; Cap Outlay Savings/LOST \$61,077.12; Water Fund \$25,929.19; Sewer Utility \$6,914.26; Storm Water \$2,297.81; Self Insurance \$14,879.59; Self Insurance-Enterprise \$152.40.

The January 2023 bank reconciliation and the revenues and expenses by department to date were available for council review and discussion.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council Member Prusator with a motion to approve the Independence Fire Department request to close 4th Avenue

SE on February 21, 2023, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, second by Council Member Moore. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

HEARINGS & ORDINANCES

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing for the Independence CV Downtown Revitalization Project. Mayor Bleichner said this phase has been going well and asked if the targeted completion date of May 5th was still going to be reached. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if other downtown merchants have expressed an interest in doing similar work. Isaiah Corbin said it would be a separate project and the DTR project will have to be closed out first. Mayor Bleichner asked if it would be possible for rehab work to be done on the upper stories of the buildings closer to the river. 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 Independence Downtown Revitalization Project. Mayor Bleichner asked if this project was scheduled to end in August 2023. Isaiah Corbin said this façade project actually has a time frame of three years to get the work done. However, the project's progress has been moving very well and it is anticipated that work could be completed in July 2023. Isaiah did say the status of funds for both projects are available at City Hall if anyone is interested in reviewing them. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance that adds a new section – Fire Service Fees and Charges, second by Council Member Moore. Mayor Bleichner stated this does not apply to all service calls the Fire Department responds to. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Callahan. Absent: Jensen. Council Member Prusator 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 Callahan. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, and Huston. Absent: Jensen. Council Member Moore with a motion to have this ordinance that adds a new section – Fire Service Fees and Charges be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, and Hanna. Absent: Jensen.

Ordinance adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-573 in the Official Book of Ordinances.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing for the Maximum Property Tax Levy for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. Council Member O'Loughlin asked if there was an update to the rollback amendment. City Manager Schmitz stated there was not an update at the time of the meeting, but there is an amendment to move the budget deadline to April 30th. City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe said there is to be a discussion tomorrow about the bill and city clerks were advised to keep doing budgets like normal until there is official word on how to proceed. Council Member O'Loughlin asked how this would impact the City's budget. City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe said the City was already having to use fund balance and this will just mean more fund balance will be used. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

Council Member Huston with a motion to approve a resolution approving the Max Levy for the Fiscal Year SF634 Max Levy Budget, second by Council Member Callahan. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-19 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Huston with a motion to set a public hearing date of March 13, 2023, at 4:45 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers for the approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Budget Transactions, second by Council Member Callahan. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

12TH ST NE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mayor Bleichner stated, pursuant to the agenda, he will now convene a public hearing for the 12th Street NE 2023 Storm Sewer Improvements Project. No comments were received for the project. Mayor Bleichner closed the public hearing and stated City Clerk Lampe will note all comments in the record.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve a resolution finally approving and confirming plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the 12th Street NE 2023 Storm Sewer Improvements Project, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-20 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Crawford Engineering reviewed the bids received for the 12th Street NE 2023 Storm Sewer Improvements Project. After their review of all bids a recommendation was given to award the contract to Bowker Mechanical from Cedar Rapids, IA.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve a resolution awarding the contract for the 12th Street NE 2023 Storm Sewer Improvements Project to Bowker Mechanical Contractors with the bid amount of \$226,894.00, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-21 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**2023 STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT**

Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve a preliminary resolution pursuant to Section 384.42 of the Iowa Code covering the 2023 Street Rehabilitation Project, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Callahan. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-22 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Huston with a motion to approve a resolution approving and adopting the preliminary plans and specifications, estimate of cost and plat and schedule, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, and Huston. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-23 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve the introduction of proposed resolution of necessity and setting a date of hearing for March 13, 2023, at 5:00 pm thereon, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, and Hanna. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-24 in the Official Book of Resolutions.**RESOLUTIONS**

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve a resolution that approves a moratorium on the issuance of various sign permits, second by Council Member Callahan. Mayor Bleichner reported this resolution puts a moratorium on all future sign permits until the Zoning Ordinances are amended. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-25 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve a resolution that sets a public hearing date of February 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm for the proposed ordinance to amend Article 17 of the City of Independence Zoning Ordinance (Code) regarding signage, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-26 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Moore with a motion to approve the administrative services agreement with Mission Square, second by Council Member Huston. Mayor Bleichner stated this is for a 401(a) plan for the City Manager's retirement. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-27 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve a resolution setting March 13, 2023, at 5:00 pm for public hearings on proposals to enter into General Obligation Corporate Purpose Loan Agreements and to borrow money thereunder, second by Council Member Huston. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Callahan. Absent: Jensen.

Resolution adopted and upon approval by Mayor assigned No. 2023-28 in the Official Book of Resolutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark Crawford, Crawford Engineering, said there were no updates as items had already been addressed earlier in the meeting. Council Member O'Loughlin asked what the Engineer's Estimate was for the 12th Street NE Storm Sewer project. Mark Crawford replied it was \$328,000. Mayor Bleichner asked when the final paperwork for the Highway 150 project should be expected. Mark Crawford responded that it may be several months yet, as they are waiting to see if the seeding done last year will take this spring. If it doesn't, the contractor will need to come back and reseed those areas. Mayor Bleichner asked about the proposed work timeline for the 12th Street NE Storm Sewer Improvements Project. Mark Crawford said that the formal contract will need to be drawn up and then a pre-construction meeting will be held that will give an estimated timeline of work to be done.

Council Member Moore with a motion to take the tabled item of the MSA Professional Services Agreement from the table, second by Council Member Huston. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen. Mayor Bleichner stated the original motion from the previous motion was still valid. Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve the updated professional services agreement with MSA, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, and Huston. Absent: Jensen.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to approve the home occupation application for M. Henry, second by Council Member Callahan. Mayor Bleichner provided a brochure about the work the home occupation will be doing. Planning and Zoning had reviewed the application and had questions about the process and M. Henry addressed those questions and any concerns Planning and Zoning had. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, and Hanna. Absent: Jensen.

Council Member Huston with a motion to approve the Street Department to start the process to purchase the Elgin Whirlwind One Street Sweeper with Vac, second by Council Member Callahan. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Jensen.

Council Member Callahan with a motion to approve the 2023 Agreement for Billing Services and Water Meter Reading with Independence Light & Power, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Jensen.

REPORTS

The following comments were heard from Council and Staff: O'Loughlin – Encourage everyone to support the soup supper the Fire Department will be hosting next week. City Manager – The Chamber will be hosting their annual celebration on Saturday, February 25th and the City does have 4 seats available for those interested in attending. Mayor – This coming Saturday, February 18th will be the Community Visioning Focus Group meeting at the Reynolds Building at MHI. Police – Gave an update on the remodeling work at the new Police Department. Spoke on the need to submit an order for furniture before the next Council Meeting in order to take advantage of the current pricing before March 1st increases.

CLOSED SESSIONS

Mayor Bleichner confirmed with the City Attorney about the request of the closed session. City Attorney Herman stated it is appropriate to go into closed session at this time. Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to enter closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(c); to discuss strategy with counsel in a matter that is presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent at 5:53 p.m., second by Council Member Callahan. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, and O'Loughlin. Absent: Jensen. Those invited into the closed session were the following: Council Member Callahan, Council Member Huston, Council Member Hanna, City Attorney Herman, City Manager Schmitz, Mayor Bleichner, City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe, Council Member Moore, Council Member Prusator, and Council Member O'Loughlin.

At 6:23 p.m., Council Member Huston made a motion to resume regular session, second by Council Member Prusator. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Huston, Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, and Callahan. Absent: Jensen.

Council Member O'Loughlin with a motion to direct staff as discussed in closed session, second by Council Member Moore. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Hanna, Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, and Huston. Absent: Jensen.

Mayor Bleichner confirmed with the City Attorney about the request of the closed session. City Attorney Herman stated it is appropriate to go into closed session at this time. Council Member Moore with a motion to enter closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(j); to discuss the purchase of particular real estate at 6:24 p.m., second by Council Member Huston. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Moore, Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, and Hanna. Absent: Jensen. Those invited into the closed session were the following: Council Member Callahan, Council Member Huston, Council Member Hanna, City Attorney Herman, City Manager

Schmitz, Mayor Bleichner, City Clerk/Treasurer Lampe, Council Member Moore, Council Member Prusator, and Council Member O'Loughlin.

At 6:45 p.m., Council Member Moore made a motion to resume regular session, second by Council Member Callahan. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: Prusator, O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, and Moore. Absent: Jensen.

Council Member Moore with a motion to direct staff to negotiate the acquisition of the property discussed in closed session, second by Council Member O'Loughlin. The roll being called the following Council Members voted: Ayes: O'Loughlin, Callahan, Huston, Hanna, Moore, and Prusator. Absent: Jensen.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Callahan, second by Council Member Huston to adjourn. Ayes: All. Absent: Jensen.

Whereupon Mayor Bleichner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:47 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