



City of Independence Minutes

**Budget Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Schwarzler called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm

2. **Roll Call.**

Present: BCM Kate Schwarzler
BCM Bradley Karkanen
BCM Marilyn Morton
BCM Dawn Roden
BCM Erin Seiler
BCM Dana Sharman
BCM Evan Sorce
BCM Nathan Christensen
BCM Shannon Corr

Absent: BCM Bill Boisvert
BCM Kathy Martin-Willis
BCM Jessica Porter
BCM Miranda Garrison
BCM Alex Paraskevas, Excused

City Staff Present: Kenna West, City Manager
Myra Russell, City Recorder
Rob Moody, Finance Director
Amanda Carey, Finance Director

3. **Presentation/Discussion.**

3.1. **City Fiscal Strategy Discussion.**

CM West opened an informal roundtable meeting and handed it over to Finance Director Moody to share information with the budget committee. Moody came back with information requested at the last meeting in August. The committee discussed a draft fee study that is currently under review by the city manager, with plans to present it to the council in a work session next week. The Urban Renewal Agency's action to move forward with a development plan for three properties was also briefly mentioned, though it was noted that this would not provide immediate financial benefits to the general fund. Moody let the committee know that the Council approved turning over the Independence Days event to a nonprofit. Moody presented an economic update showing national market growth and consumer confidence trends. The group discussed funding challenges for the library and museum, emphasizing that a levy might be the only viable solution given limited options and the urgent timeline before June

next year, when the library could close. They explored various interim funding options, including borrowing and using one-time monies. The group focused on strategies to attract industrial businesses to Independence, highlighting the importance of leveraging existing relationships and preparing comprehensive packages that include land details, wetland impacts, and timelines. The group discussed strategies for engaging the community and addressing financial challenges through listening sessions or town hall meetings to gather input and build support for necessary budget adjustments. The group will meet again in December.

4. **Adjourn.** The meeting ended at 7:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Myra Russell, City Recorder