



City of Independence  
**Minutes**  
**Independence Days Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 12, 2025**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Courtney Williams.
  
  2. **ROLL CALL.**  
Courtney Williams, Myra Russell, Aaron Wimer, Andrea Van Heeswyk, Vidal Peña, Karin Johnson, Gabby Walton, Emmanuel Goicochea  
  
Absent: Lisa Cox, Nathan Junior, Lyle Gilbert, (all excused)  
  
Others present:  
Samantha Young, Polk County Mounted Sheriff's Posse  
Lupita, YMCA  
Diego Peña  
  
Council Liaison, Bill Boisvert
  
  3. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the May 8, 2025 meeting were submitted in the agenda packet. Myra moved to approve as submitted; Vidal seconded. Motion passed by all commissioners present.
  
  4. **VISITORS:**  
4.1. Samantha Young, PC Mounted Sheriff's Posse. Their goal is to eventually have a large equestrian team, looking at possible fundraising. Reached out to Aaron to see if they can be of any help at the event; they will assist with parking. Discussion of details.
  
  5. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.**  
5.1. Coordinator/Chair. Courtney reported:
    - Announced we are getting a carnival (!) – they will be here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. They want to sign a 3-year contract. They will be self-sustaining; they will provide all their needs, including power and also give us 15% of sales. We will provide space and water. Discussion.
    - She went to sponsors, delivered thank you gifts, etc.
    - Ordered more staff t-shirts  
5.2. Entertainment. No report.  
  
5.3. Talent Show.  
Vidal reported:

Video was helpful in getting the word out; as of this afternoon, 8 adults, 7 teens and 2 kids. Will continue to recruit. Have some from last year coming back. Judges are set. Going very well today. Myra asked that he provide her with the amounts needed for prizes. Discussion of entry wristbands – for contestants only. Discussion of show details.

5.4. Vendors. Courtney reported we have 40 vendors. Aaron would like to get the vendors' power requirements.

5.5. Family Activities. Andrea reported all is good:

- Compiled list of what have, and what needed
- Staffed. Courtney asked about shirts; discussion followed. Shirts will be able to identify their group.

5.6. Volunteer Coordinator. Gabby reported:

- Needs her email updated for receiving volunteer signups.
- Volunteer waiver needed; will be onsite, and will get it to her.
- Asked what is most beneficial day for ServePro volunteers; discussion.
- Courtney reviewed volunteer opportunities/description.
- Discussion of other parking groups/volunteers (handicap parking)
- Courtney asked Emmanuel if he was interested in photograph volunteers this year
- Discussion of rowing club assisting with derby
- Discussion of volunteer starting times.

5.7. Parks. Aaron reported:

- Fireworks crew is all set
- Gators rented/reserved
- Porta Potties scheduled
- Needs fence pricing approved
- Courtney suggested a meeting to go over park layout

5.8. Public Safety. No report.

5.9. Budget/Finance. Myra reported:

- Wristbands being sold now, at city hall and fire dept with discounts, and at without a discount offered.
- Merch sales doing well. 32 ducks sold already; the last duck # is 180. Missing 5 ducks; will work on updating numbers and the amount of ducks. Instead of a ticket with duck number on it, purchasers will get a duck keychain
- We will have 3 wifi hotspots this year
- Discussion of wristband sales along parade route. Discussion if additional volunteer needed.
- Many items coming in under budget.
- Discussion of number of volunteers and paid staff.

5.10. Publicity/Social Media. Emmanuel reported:

- Going well. Answering many questions.

- Was included with Travel Salem. Statesman Journal will include also.
- More information will be included in future posts.
- Review of other cities that will be having fireworks

5.11. Records/Secretary. Nothing to report.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS.**

6.1. Other Discussion/Information Items.

6.2. Other Events

6.2.1 Parade. Karin reported: MI Rotary obtained all parade/road closure permits. Rotary also obtained Air National Guard flyover.

6.2.2 Mini Marathon. Reported last meeting; Emmanuel will get information for the website.

7. **ADJOURNMENT.** Meeting declared adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next meeting: June 26<sup>th</sup>. Will meet at park, weather permitting, at 6:00 pm in the lower parking lot.