



City of Independence

MINUTES City Council Meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm in the council chambers by Mayor Kate Schwarzler.
 2. **ROLL CALL**
Mayor Schwarzler present

Council Present: Shannon Corr
Marilyn Morton
Kathy Martin-Willis
Bill Boisvert
Dawn Roden

Council Absent: None

City Staff Present: Kenna West, City Manager
Myra Russell, City Recorder
Fred Evander, City Planner
Shawn Irvine, Assistant City Manager
Juventino Banuelos, Police Chief
Lyle Gilbert, Police Lieutenant
 3. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the January 28, 2025, regular session were submitted in the agenda packet.

ACTION:
Councilor Corr moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2025, as submitted; Councilor Roden seconded. Roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0-0:
AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden
NAYS: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.
 4. **VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None
 5. **REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS**
5.1. Mayor Schwarzler: First town hall went well at the Museum. Weekly office hours. Mayor's notes now in the newsletter. Elected Essentials training last week, councilors Corr, Martin-Wills and Boisvert attended along with Mayor and City Manager.
5.2. City Manager West: None
 6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.** None

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1. Appointment of New Council Member Quick review of council vacancy process by Mayor Schwarzler. Council had previously narrowed field of seven candidates down to two. Top two candidates are Bradley Karkanen and Evan Sorce. Council had a special meeting prior to Council Meeting to interview both candidates. Each councilor mentioned the criteria they used to make their decision.

ACTION:

Councilor Corr moved to appoint Evan Sorce as city councilor; Councilor Morton seconded. Discussion: Councilor Roden wanted candidates with more diversity of thought and diversity of opinion but will work with whoever is selected. Councilor Martin-Willis thanked everyone that applied and the candidates that were selected for participating in the interview process. Mayor Schwarzler mentioned that we will reach out to other applicants to let them know of other board and commission vacancies.

Roll call vote. Motion passed 4-1-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert,

NAYS: Roden

ABSTENTIONS: None.

Councilor Sorce was sworn in by City Recorder Russell. Councilor Sorce took his seat at the dais.

7.2. Adopt 2025-26 Budget Calendar, Appoint Budget Officer. City Manager West presented the staff report as submitted in the agenda packet with the 2025-26 budget calendar and recommendation to appoint Finance Director Moody as the Budget Officer.

ACTION:

Councilor Martin-Willis moved that Council appoint Rob Moody, Finance Director as Budget Officer for the City's 2025-26 budget cycle and adopt the budget calendar as presented. Councilor Corr seconded. No discussion

Roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden, Sorce

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

7.3. Proposed Resolution 25-1627, Authorizing a Loan from the Special Public Works Fund Irvine presented information on loan as submitted in agenda packet. Irvine explained that the City of Independence previously received a \$4 million award from the Economic Development Administration's 2023 Disaster Supplemental which will fund upgrades to the City's wastewater treatment plant. The award requires a minimum 20% match from a local partner or other non-federal source. Business Oregon's Special Public Works Fund supports infrastructure development through a variety of programs, including one which provides matching funds for disaster response grants. Staff approached Business Oregon about using this program to match the EDA award. Business Oregon staff determined it was an eligible project and made a preliminary award of \$1 million, structured as a \$500,000 grant and a \$500,000 zero interest loan. Councilor Morton asked about

discussion of shared utility work with City of Monmouth. Irvine said yes, but not regarding the wastewater plant.

ACTION:

Councilor Corr moved to approve resolution 25-1627 authorizing a loan from the Special Public Works Fund by entering into a financing contract with the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority. Councilor Martin-Willis seconded. No discussion.

Roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden, Sorce

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None

7.4. Liquor License Application: Micheladas Antojitos El Perico LLC LT. Gilbert presented information on the liquor license application for a new business as submitted in the agenda packet. This business is in the location of the old liquor store next to Los Dos Amigos. 180 drinks offered, only 6 will have alcohol. Family friendly location. Councilor Corr asked if alcohol will be allowed off premises. Gilbert replied no, except may have a couple small tables outside of entrance. Councilor Morton asked if food offered reaches OLCC minimum requirement. Gilbert said it does.

ACTION:

Councilor Roden moved to recommend approval of the liquor license request for Micheladas Antojitos El Perico LLC. Councilor Morton seconded. Discussion

Roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden, Sorce

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None

7.5. Public Hearing Date for AX | 2025-01 Evander presented information regarding setting the public hearing date for AX | 2025-01. Evander explained the annexation process and which roads are included in this annexation. Councilor Corr asked about future annexations. Evander said no future annexations on roads. This is so put public works department has control over standards of road development.

ACTION:

Councilor Morton moved to dispense with submitting the question on the proposed annexation to the electors of the city, set a date of April 8, 2025, for the Public Hearing on AX | 2025-01, and direct staff to provide appropriate notice for the hearing. Councilor Martin-Willis seconded. No discussion

Roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden, Sorce

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None

Mayor Schwarzler announced the Councilor Roden would be leaving the meeting soon but joining by phone as her son has a senior night event at this time.

7.6. Public Hearing: Fencing Amendment to Independence Development Code
Hearing Opened at 6:54 pm by Mayor Kate Schwarzler, who then read the hearing script regarding how the meeting would be conducted.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest, Ex-Partee Contact, Bias: Councilor Roden declared a potential conflict of interest because this issue had come before the Historic Preservation Commission while she was on it, but she maintained that she could remain fair and unbiased. Councilor Sorce declared a potential conflict of interest because this issue had come before the Planning Commission when he was on it, but he maintained that he could remain fair and unbiased.

State Law Required Statements read.

Staff Report as submitted in the agenda packet was reviewed by Fred Evander, Planning Manager. If approved, the Independence Development Code would be amended regarding the fencing standards for chain link fencing. Explained previous public hearing on issue and noted that chain link would not be allowed in the historic district.

Discussion: Councilor Corr questioned adding dates when fences were permitted. Evander said answering those kinds of questions is part of application process. Councilor Martin-Willis asked about replacement of current chain link fence. Evander said replacement is allowed. Councilor Boisvert asked about historic homes. Historic homes in historic district would not be allowed to have chain link, but historic homes outside district would be able to so long as 50% of the houses on the block have chain link. Councilor Boisvert asked about back fence (not public facing) vs. public facing fence. Evander said it would not allow chain link if it didn't meet the criteria even if nonvisible.

No objections or testimony received.

Public Testimony: None.

Further questions from Council. None.

Hearing Closed at 7:04 pm by Mayor Schwarzler.

Councilor Roden left during public hearing but called into the Zoom meeting via phone.

Council deliberation and Decision.

1st MOTION: Councilor Morton moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-02 to adopt LA 2025-01 in full as the text is contained in the Council packet, for the first time read; Councilor Corr seconded. No Discussion. Motion passed 6-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden (by phone)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-02.

2nd MOTION: Councilor Martin-Willis moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-02, for the second time by title only; Councilor Corr seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden (by phone)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

City Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-02

3rd MOTION: Councilor Corr moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-02; Councilor Martin-Willis seconded. No Discussion. Motion passed 6-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Martin-Willis, Boisvert, Roden (by phone)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Russell announced the council bill passed and will be assigned ordinance number 1621.

8. **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

8.1. Councilor Corr forwarded an email to CM West and City Recorder Russell with definition of grandstanding in the context of public meetings and a response to Councilor Roden's statement last meeting. She asked that it be sent to the Council and put into public record.

8.2. Councilor Morton mentioned that 100% of the IDA hearts are up downtown.

9. **GENERAL INFORMATION.** Items submitted here in the packet are for information only; no action was required by city council.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no further business to come before the council, Mayor Schwarzler adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

Myra Russell, City Recorder