



City of Independence

Minutes

City Council Meeting Tuesday, May 27, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm in the council chambers by Mayor Kate Schwarzler.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Schwarzler present

Council Present: Shannon Corr
Marilyn Morton
Bill Boisvert
Evan Sorce

Council Absent: Dawn Roden, Kathy Martin-Willis

City Staff Present: Kenna West, City Manager
Shawn Irvine, Asst. City Manager
Myra Russell, City Recorder
Fred Evander, City Planner
Lyle Gilbert, Lieutenant

3. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the May 13, 2025, regular session were submitted in the agenda packet.

ACTION:

Councilor Corr moved to approve May 13, 2025; regular session minutes as received. Second by Councilor Morton. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion passed 4-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

4. **VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None

5. **REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS.**

5.1. Mayor Schwarzler: Hosted SEDCOR board, excited to hear announcements about Library bookmobile, July 4th schedule released.

5.2. Asst. City Manager Irvine: 2 movies this year for Summer Series, will swap out Wicked for a shorter movie. Visited with HUD regional administrator. Councilor Sorce asked if councilors could ride bookmobile. Staff looking into this. Premiere for bike will be June 13 for last day of school/Summer Reading.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

6.1. Council Bill 2025-03, to Annex Certain Rights-of-Way into the City of Independence The first reading of the bill was done on May 13. Bill comes back for second and third reading tonight. Evander presented information as submitted in the staff report and summed up two part public hearing. No questions from council.

2nd MOTION: Councilor Corr moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-03, for the second time by title only; Councilor Boisvert seconded. No discussion. Roll Call vote. Motion passed 4-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-03.

3rd MOTION: Councilor Morton moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-03; Councilor Corr seconded. Discussion. None. Roll call vote. Motion passed 4-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Russell announced the council bill passed and will be assigned to ordinance number 1623.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

Mayor added an agenda item that she forgot to mention during her mayor report. Councilor Rodin declined to serve on ad hoc Independence Days Board so another councilor needs to be appointed to that board. Mayor Schwarzler proposed appointing Councilor Corr.

ACTION:

Councilor Sorce moved to appoint Councilor Corr to ad hoc Independence Days board. Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: none Roll call vote. Motion passed 4-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

7.1. Public Hearing LA | 2025-02. Change to zoning map While Oak Circle and Gun Club Road. Mayor Kate Schwarzler read the hearing script regarding how the meeting would be conducted. State Law Required Statements read.

- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest, Ex-Parte Contact, Bias: None
- Public Hearing opened at 6:42 pm by Mayor Schwarzler.
- Staff Report as submitted in the agenda packet was reviewed by Fred Evander, Planning Manager. The change would rezone four properties

totaling 19.39 acres along Gun Club Road from Medium-Density Residential (RM) to High-Density Residential (RH). Consistent with comprehensive plan and development code. Planning commission unanimously recommended approval. Staff recommends approval.

- Discussion: Councilor Corr asked about designating senior housing. Irvine said Polk CDC builds affordable housing for everyone but can discuss.
- Further questions from the Council. None.
- Objections or testimony received:
 - Letter from Fair Housing Council (positive)
- Public Testimony: None
- Discussion: Response to testimony-None
- Hearing closed at 6:53 PM.

7.2. Council Bill 2025-05, Change to zoning map White Oak Circle and Gun Club Road. Evander let council know that this bill is related to the previous public hearing. No discussion.

1st MOTION: Councilor Corr moved to approve Council Bill 2025-05 to adopt LA | 2025-02, the text of which is contained in the Council packet and read the proposed Ordinance for the first time; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: none

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

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-05.

2nd MOTION: Councilor Corr moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-05, for the second time by title only; Councilor Morton seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion passed 4-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-05.

3rd MOTION: Councilor Morton moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-05; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion. Motion passed 4-0-0:

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Russell announced the council bill passed and will be assigned to ordinance number 1625.

7.3. Liquor License Application: Costa de Oro. Lt. Gilbert presented information as submitted in the agenda packet. No concerns by police department. Staff recommends approval.

ACTION:

Councilor Boisvert moved to recommend approval of the above liquor license request. Councilor Sorce seconded. Discussion:

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

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None

7.4. Proposed Resolution 25-1632, Requesting Polk County to Surrender Jurisdiction to City over certain county roadways. Asst. CM Irvine presented information as submitted in the agenda packet. Transfer Jurisdiction from County to City for Corvallis Rd. and 6th St. City will request Hoffman Rd. after County finishes work on that road. Councilor Corr asked when that work will be done. Irvine wasn't sure but thought within this year.

ACTION:

Councilor Morton moved to approve Proposed Resolution 25-1632 requesting Polk County to surrender jurisdiction to City over certain county roadways. Councilor Corr seconded. Discussion: None

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

AYES: Corr, Morton, Boisvert, Sorce

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None

8. **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

8.1. Councilor Morton: June 13 Summer reading starts and last day of school celebration. Lots of free giveaways. Councilor Corr challenged other councilors to summer reading challenge.

8.2. Councilor Sorce: Attended MINET budget meeting. MINET is willing to come speak to the council about changes they've made toward their ability to pay back debt. Attended a book conversation at Heritage Museum on Saturday. Hop plant sales this weekend for Heritage museum society. Councilor Morton mentioned that the museum challenged people to buy a hop start and then bring it to decorate downtown in September for Hop & Heritage.

8.3. Councilor Corr attended Mid Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance (continuum of care) budget meeting, they are struggling. Lack of grants and chaos at federal level.

8.4. Mayor Schwarzler: Week of July 14 - Young innovators camp in conjunction with OSU.

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 7:04 pm.

MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

Myra Russell, City Recorder