



City of Independence Minutes

**City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

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.

Present: Councilor Evan Sorce
 Councilor Bill Boisvert
 Councilor/Council President Kathy Martin-Willis
 Councilor Marilyn Morton
 Councilor Shannon Corr

Absent: Councilor Dawn Roden, excused

City Staff Kenna West, City Manager
Present: Myra Russell, City Recorder
 Rob Moody, Finance Director
 Fred Evander, City Planner
 Shawn Irvine, Assistant City Manager
 Juventino Banuelos, Police Chief

3. **Minutes. Action:**

Councilor Morton and Councilor Sorce had slight corrections to the minutes of July 8.
Councilor Corr moved to approve all three sets of minutes with corrections as noted;
Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

- 3.1. **Regular Meeting 07/08/2025.**

- 3.2. **Work Session 07/22/2025.**

- 3.3. **Special Meeting 07/28/2025.**

4. **Visitors/Public Comment.** Visitor comment via Zoom: CM Hall, Newport, OR.
Comment regarding use of event center

5. **Reports/Presentations.**

- 5.1. **Mayor.**

Mayor Schwarzler: Helped host a delegation from Taiwan at Western Oregon University. Attended National Night out, great community event, well attended. Hosted the Mayor's picnic in the park. Hot weather, small group but looking forward to more such events.

5.2. Council Liaison Reports.

5.2.1. Library Board: Councilor Boisvert.

Record-setting summer reading program ends August 15 with a pizza party.

Summer carnival on August 13. Thanks to vendors that donated prizes. The new Book bike has been a big hit, with lots of community outreach. Trolley story time in Sept, joint event with Monmouth Library. The library has found a replacement for the youth coding league, which will start in the fall.

5.2.2. Museum Board: Councilor Morton.

Internal and external exhibits throughout the community including an exhibit at the MI Chamber. Involved with Wall that Heals in September. CM West mentioned 360 camera of museum where you can go online and see all the exhibits which is nearing completion.

5.2.3. Continuum of Care: Councilor Corr.

Adult shelter in Monmouth is operating according to plan and doing great. Funding issues with CoC. Hopes we don't lose the ground we gained.

5.3. City Manager.

CM West Updates: Ms. Pierce (public speaker at July 8 meeting) was allowed to open her business at certain times to clear out the building through an agreement with the city and property owner representative. Water Treatment plant Condemnation: The stipulated judgment was submitted to the court, but not yet received notice of entry of that judgment. The City has been given authority to access the property to begin the work. Opt in funding for library, parks, museum is available on utility bill QR Code. The August 26 meeting will have a council meeting then a work session. November 11 is veterans day, no council meeting.

6. Unfinished Business. None

7. New Business.

7.1. Public Hearing on AX|2025-06-Rescheduled to August 26, 2025 6:30 PM.

Rescheduled to August 26, 2025 at 6:30 PM

7.2. Public Hearing: Requirement for a Pre-Application Conference (Evander).

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. This code change would require a pre-application conference for most new development. Planning Commission recommended

approval. Staff recommends approval.

- Discussion: Questions from council related to outreach to community and cost to applicant.
- Further questions from the Council. None.
- Objections or testimony received: None
- Public Testimony: None
- Discussion: Staff Response to testimony-None
- Hearing closed at 7:03 PM.

7.3. **Council Bill 2025-06, Requirement for a Pre-Application Conference for Most New Development (Evander).**

Action:

1st MOTION: Councilor Corr moved to move to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-06; Councilor Sorce seconded. Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

Ayes: Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-06.

2nd MOTION: Councilor Corr moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-06, for the second time by title only; Councilor Martin-Willis seconded. No discussion. Roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0-0:

Ayes: Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-06.

3rd MOTION: Councilor Morton moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-06; Councilor Sorce seconded. Discussion. Motion passed 5-0-0:

Ayes: Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Russell announced the council bill passed and will be assigned to ordinance number 1626.

7.4. **Finance Report- Q4 2024-2025 (Moody).**

Moody presented Q4 financial Report April - June 2025. Report covers Police fee, utility billing, audit findings, debt summary. Moody explained that most audit

findings have been resolved. Council asked staff to add narrative explanations to the debt summary chart for MINET, FSC, and ICC loans. The council asked about a way to explain to the community that the increase in police fee has had positive outcomes for the community. Staff will look into ways to show the outcomes of the investment.

7.5. **Authority to Proceed with Action regarding the “Old Pool Property” (Irvine)**

Irvine recapped earlier work session about pool property, and asked that council consider removing it from a list of properties the city would sell for a period of one year and allow the City Manager to sign and Memorandum of Understanding with community partners, YMCA, school district to explore other ideas for the pool and Henry Hill property.

Action:

Councilor Morton moved to remove pool property from list of properties for sale for a period of one year and authorize CM West to execute MOU; Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis seconded. Roll call vote. Motion Passed 5-0-0

Ayes: Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

7.6. **Extension of Ad Hoc Board for Independence Days (West).**

CM West asked that the council consider extending the Independence Days Ad Hoc Board for 3 more months as the board is still working with community partners to figure out a transition plan.

Action:

Councilor Corr moved that the council authorize the extension of Ad Hoc Board for Indy Days for an additional 3 months; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Roll call vote. Motion Passed 5-0-0

Ayes: Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

8. **Council Announcements.** Councilor Corr: Asked staff to consider a work session on affordable senior housing.

Councilor Martin Willis: Wall that Heals Sept 16-19. Volunteer opportunities are available on the city website.

Councilor Morton: Sept 20 noon-8PM Hop and Heritage Festival, downtown in the park. Passports for beer tastings and beer garden in park. Entertainment 4-8. Heritage stage with demonstrations. Youth entrepreneur area.

Councilor Martin Willis: Community Fiesta coming up August 22-24

Councilor Sorce: Thursday Aug 14 Rep. Wyden and Rep. Salinas town hall in Pacific Room at WOU

- 9. General Information.** Items submitted here in the packet are for information only; no action was required by city council.
- 9.1. **Management Team Notes.**
- 9.1.1. **07-09-2025.**
- 9.1.2. **07-24-2025.**
- 9.2. **Miscellaneous Correspondence.** Any communications received after publication of the agenda packet, but before 3:00 pm the date of the meeting, will be provided to Council at the meeting and will become a part of the official record.
- 9.2.1. **Correspondence Received: Trammart News.**
- 9.3. **Pending Agenda Calendar.**
- 9.3.1. **07-24-2025.**
- 10. Adjournment.** With no further business to come before the council, Mayor Schwarzler adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

Myra Russell, City Recorder