



City of Independence Minutes

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 26, 2025

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Schwarzler called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

2. **Roll Call.** Mayor Schwarzler present.

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

Absent:

City Staff Kenna West, City Manager
Present: Myra Russell, City Recorder
 Fred Evander, City Planner
 Juventino Banuelos, Police Chief
 Gerald Fisher, Public Works Director

3. **Minutes.**

Action:

Councilor Morton moved to approve both sets of Minutes; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None.

Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-1

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: Dawn Roden, not present at that meeting

3.1. **Regular Meeting 08-12-2025.**

3.2. **Work Session 08-12-2025.**

4. **Visitors/Public Comment.** None.

5. **Reports/Presentations.**

5.1. **Mayor.**

- Attended the Oregon Mayor's Conference in Baker City
- Attended the Good Morning Polk County event hosted by Monmouth, Independence and Dallas Chambers with Rep Evans and Scharf,

- Attended MINET customer appreciation day—good turnout,
- SEDCOR hosted happy hour at Salt Creek for Polk County wide economic Development,
- Community Fiesta—welcomed the community to the event and crowned the queen,
- Wings over Willamette event at the airpark.

5.2. **Staff Presentation: Patrick Bodily, Library Update.**

- Summer Reading: 1129 sign-ups, new record.
- 23,000 books read by adults--444 more than last year
- 894 hours by teens--186 more than last year
- 1602 hours by kids--274 more than last year, increase in all categories.
- 21 different programs were well attended. 42 prizes for signing up, and 72 more plus 1182 kid prize bags.
- Thank you to volunteers, staff for all their help and all the local businesses plus Friends of the Library that donated prizes.
- Council Reading challenge: Councilor Morton was the winner

5.3. **City Manager.**

- Striping and signage around town
- Water Treatment Plant, property is in city hands to start clearing and testing for geotechnical work.
- Water loss survey: 12-13% loss, previously at 20% loss.
- Officer Stephenson graduated from the police academy on Aug 22.
- Summer Series: 500 more people per show than last year. Downtown businesses reported near Indy days level revenue.
- September 1 Civic Center Closed in honor of Labor Day
- September 4-6 Shakespeare in the Park by Struts and Frets at Riverview Park, free event.
- HB 3145 preliminary review. will monitor and reach out to others in this round to see if it's something city would like to do.
- Councilor Sorce mentioned special session at State and asked if CM West has been involved. Hoping to maintain what city is currently getting.

6. **Unfinished Business.** None.

7. **New Business.** Councilor Corr mentioned that she would like to add new business item 7.3 to be discussed at that time

7.1. **Public Hearing: AX|2025-02 To Annex Portion of the Old Inman-Poulsen Rail Right of Way into the City of Independence. Designate the property as Residential in the Independence Comprehensive Plan and Mixed-Density Residential (MX) on the Independence Zoning Map.**

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 6:49 pm by Mayor Schwarzler.
- Staff Report as submitted in the agenda packet was reviewed by Fred Evander, Planning Manager. This is to consider the annexation of a portion of the Old Inman-Poulsen Rail Right of Way into the City of Independence and the designation of the property as Residential in the Independence Comprehensive Plan and Mixed-Density Residential (MX) on the Independence Zoning Map. Part of our comprehensive plan, part of the Transportation System Plan. Staff recommends approval.
- Discussion: Discussion of potential walking trail and testimony submitted by the City of Monmouth noted.
- Further questions from the Council. None.
- Objections or testimony received: None.
- Public Testimony: Written Comment received from Carter Craig from the City of Monmouth.
- Discussion: Staff Response to testimony—None
- Hearing closed at 6:54 PM.

7.2. **Council Bill #2025-07 for AX | 2025-02, Annexation and Rezone of Portion of Old Inman-Poulsen Timber Company Right-of-Way.**

Action:

1st Motion: Councilor Morton moved to read the proposed ordinance, Council Bill #2025-07 in full as the text is contained in the Council packet, for the first time; Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis seconded. Discussion: None. Roll call vote. Motion 6-0-0

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance.

Action:

2nd Motion: Councilor Roden moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-07 or the second time by title only; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None. Roll call vote. Motion 6-0-0

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

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance.

Action:

3rd Motion: Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-07; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None. Roll call vote. Motion 6-0-0

Ayes: Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, 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 1627.

7.3. Censure of a Councilor.

Action:

Councilor Corr moved to censure Councilor Roden for violating confidentiality rules by disclosing details from an executive session; Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis seconded. Discussion: Mayor Schwarzler made a statement before discussion between councilors. Councilor Roden objected to the agenda item added during the meeting and did not have time to prepare a defense. Other councilors expressed concern about the importance of maintaining confidentiality in executive session as required by state law. Councilor Martin-Willis asked for clarity on the consequences of censure, which CM West provided; verbal reprimand, written reprimand or additional investigation.

Roll call vote. Motion 4-1-1

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

Nays: Dawn Roden

Abstentions: Bill Boisvert, was not present at time of executive session mentioned

Mayor Schwarzler read the verbal censure statement onto record.

8. Council Announcements.

8.1. Councilor Roden: announced release of the last ethics complaint with a letter of education. Mentioned personal news items and exited the meeting prior to adjournment without being formally excused at 7:13 PM.

8.2. Councilor Corr: explained the ethics complaint was made regarding unreported income, not child support.

8.3. Mayor Schwarzler: reminded councilors of multiple forms of education about ethics training, statements of economic interest, etc. Please reach out for more information.

8.4. Councilor Sorce: attended the Chamber tasting event and thanked the community for putting on these events. Thanked staff for new agenda document system, easy to navigate and use.

8.5. Councilor Corr: thanked city staff and all who participated in multiple meetings this week.

8.6. Councilor Morton: Wall thanks those working on The Wall that Heals is coming September 16 and open to the public from September 17-21. Also, Hop & Heritage Festival September 20 12-8PM. Posters are up around town.

8.7. Councilor Martin-Willis: Still looking for volunteers for the Wall that Heals. Training on Sept 17 at 6PM.

8.7. Mayor Schwarzler: Last Movie in the park this Friday and Shakespeare in the park September 4-6

8.8. Councilor Boisvert: mentioned council rules approved earlier this year.

8.9. Councilor Sorce WOU football with SOU September 6

8.10. CM West: Reminder from PW Director that school is starting soon! Watch out in school zones!

- 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. **08-13-2025.**

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.

9.3. **Pending Agenda Calendar.**

9.3.1. **08-13-2025.**

- 10. Adjournment.** With no other business before the council, Mayor Schwarzler adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

Myra Russell, City Recorder