



City of Independence Minutes

City Council Work Session
Tuesday, October 28, 2025

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Schwarzler called the work session to order at 6:30 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 Present: Kenna West, City Manager
Myra Russell, City Recorder
Rob Moody, Finance Director
Chelsea Gardner, Accountant I
Amanda Carey, Finance Director
Juventino Banuelos, Police Chief

3. **Reports/Presentations.**

3.1. **Presentation of Draft Fee Study (Moody).**

Finance Director Moody presented a proposed fee schedule to the City Council, with Chelsea Gardner leading the research and calculations. The meeting focused on streamlining and standardizing the city's fee schedule. The finance team used cost recovery as a starting point and proposed increases based on comparables. Staff recommended simplifying the business licensing system by eliminating the multi-tier approach and replacing it with a single fee for all businesses operating within the city limits, including home-based businesses and short-term rentals. They also proposed treating marijuana-based businesses like any other businesses, and discussed the need to redefine the term "business" in the city code. Moody noted that there are currently 622 identified businesses in Independence. Staff explained that business licensing fees would be implemented for compliance, regulation, and revenue purposes, though concerns were raised about the lack of clear benefits to businesses. Questions were raised about penalties for unlicensed businesses and the need for clear benefits to justify new fees, potentially through services like newsletters and outreach. Council also discussed dog licensing fees, copies at the library and other administrative fees. Mayor Schwarzler and the Council members were encouraged to provide feedback through Kenna, who

would relay it to the finance team for potential adjustments before the final vote. A deadline of November 13th was set for staff to provide a revised fee schedule for review before the next council meeting on November 25th.

4. **Adjournment.** Mayor Schwarzler adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

Myra Russell, City Recorder