



# City of Independence Minutes

Independence Days Commission Meeting  
Thursday, August 7, 2025

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1. **Call to Order.** Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

2. **Roll Call.**

Present: Commissioner Myra Russell  
Commissioner Courtney Williams  
Commissioner Karin Johnson  
Commissioner Aaron Wimer  
Commissioner Lyle Gilbert  
Commissioner Nathan Junior arrived 5:07 PM  
Commissioner Vidal Pena arrived at 5:02 PM  
Commissioner Andrea Van Heeswyk arrived at 5:14 PM

Absent: Commissioner/Chair Gabby Walton, Absent  
Commissioner Emmanuel Goicochea, Excused  
Commissioner Lisa Cox, Excused

City Staff Present: None

3. **Minutes.**

3.1. **Regular Meeting 06/12/2025.**

**Action:**

Commissioner Russell moved to approve minutes as submitted; Commissioner Wimer seconded.

Voice vote. Motion 6-0-0

**Ayes:** Myra Russell, Courtney Williams, Karin Johnson, Aaron Wimer, Lyle Gilbert, Vidal Pena

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

4. **After-Action Review.** 4.1. Draft budget was presented to commissioners by Commissioner Russell, but numbers are not final. Not all revenue is accounted for yet and more invoices have to be paid, staff time to be calculated for expenses. Discussion of unexpected income from the carnival and expenses are still to be paid. Overall, there is more revenue than expense.  
4.2. Commissioner Pena talked about the Duck Derby, which sold out this year. Good interaction at the event this year due to increased publicity from Commissioner Goicochea. It's a good tradition, hope to continue it next year. The talent show went

really well with the judges this year. Most of the participants were local or had ties to the community. Variety show went well. A good addition for the time frame before the band started. Could be done again if needed for filler.

4.3. Commissioner Gilbert talked about security for the event. There were no issues this year. Good ratio of security to event goers. Traffic control was well executed this year. Everything ran smoothly this year. Discussion of directing traffic out at the dog park after the event. Discussion of fencing layout.

4.4. Commissioner VanHeeswyk: YMCA kids zone went well. Discussion of that being a free zone, but inside a paid event.

4.5. Commissioner Nathan Junior said the bands did well and expenses were low. Used local headliners. Discussion of band parking and loading gear. The sound system was good this year.

4.6. Commissioner Wimer talked about gators and power, both good this year. Could use more porta potties, but may have to find another vendor as we are maxing out the amount from the current vendor. Long lines at certain times. Duck Derby, may have lost a few, but some were turned in. The fireworks went well. Discussion of cost if one day of fireworks was removed. Good help from volunteers. Cleanup on Saturday, called in reinforcements and got it done. The carnival was easy to work with. Chair Williams said the carnival was happy with the event and would like to come back. Commission received 15% of their revenue on rides.

4.7. Chair Williams talked about volunteers as Commissioner Walton was absent. Miscommunication and many volunteers canceled, which was why they were short of help during cleanup. Something to work out better for next year. Aaron and Dusty finished the last cleanup on Sunday by themselves.

4.8. Chair Williams talked about sponsorship. Sponsors met the goal.

4.9. Chair Williams talked about vendors in Commissioner Cox's absence. Vendors went well, no negative issues. Some power issues but Aaron worked with them.

4.10. Chair Williams mentioned the media worked well as created by Commissioner Goicochea. They worked together on a timeline spreadsheet to keep things organized. Great content this year with new videos.

4.11. Chair Williams explained that the merchandise sold well. The duck hats were a big seller.

**5. Adjournment.** Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.