



# City of Independence Minutes

City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

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1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Schwarzler called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

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

Present: Councilor Evan Sorce  
Councilor Dawn Roden  
Councilor Bill Boisvert  
Councilor Marilyn Morton  
Councilor Shannon Corr

Absent: Councilor Kathy Martin-Willis, Excused

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

3. **Minutes.**

3.1. **Regular Meeting 11/25/2025.**

**Action:**

Councilor Corr moved to approve minutes from the regular meeting 11/25/2025 as submitted; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Marilyn Morton,  
Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

4. **Visitors/Public Comment.** Vickie McCubbin: honored the late Kathy Pomeroy and Ken Feters, who were both strong supporters of the Independence Heritage Museum. She highlighted their contributions to the museum, including fundraising efforts, planning activities, and ensuring accessibility . Full comments were uploaded to the agenda page.

## **5. Reports/Presentations.**

### **5.1. Mayor.**

- Attended Glow light event in Riverview Park last Sunday
- Attended and spoke at tree lighting at WOU last Friday with Monmouth Mayor. The winner of a poetry contest got to light up the tree.
- Santa Train on Saturday downtown. Very busy event
- In Portland for the Annual Oregon Leadership Summit on Monday. Good information and things to follow up on.

### **5.2. Council Liaison.**

#### **5.2.1. Traffic Safety Commission: Councilor Roden.**

- The October 15 meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission had no quorum, so no official meeting was held, just brief discussion of traffic stats provided.
- The Commission met on November 19. They discussed vehicular incidents and ways to improve safety.
- Suggestion for speed monitors to be set out, but they aren't waterproof, so aren't able useful in this weather.

#### **5.2.2. Historic Preservation Commission: Councilor Morton.**

- There has been just one Historic Preservation Commission meeting since my last report.
- I continue to be impressed by the excellent job City Planner Fred Evander does to enlighten members of the commission – and me – on the commercial and residential structures in Independence, both in and out of the historic district.
- Through this continuing education, Mr. Evander positions the Commission members well to make thoughtful and informed decisions.

#### **5.2.3. Planning Commission: Councilor Martin-Willis.**

Excused from meeting, no report.

### **5.3. City Manager.**

- Question from Councilor Sorce: questioned how the Historic Homes Roadshow videos by the city are funded. All the cost to produce the videos comes from a CLG Historic Preservation grant, including staff time.

## **6. Unfinished Business. None**

## **7. New Business.**

7.1. **Public Hearing: Annex, Redesignate and Rezone 12.65 Acres at 6675 Corvallis Road along with the portion of the Southern Pacific Railroad adjacent to the property (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 regarding the annexation and rezoning of 12.65 acres at 6675 Corvallis Road, along with a portion of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The annexation was reviewed by Planner Evander, who explained that the property would be brought into the city for future development and to accommodate a surface water treatment plant.
- Discussion: Council discussed the notification process, with Evander noting that beyond the required notifications, Communications Director Goicochea also posted the public hearing information on social media. Question about working with the railroad. Staff said it would not fundamentally change the relationship with the railway company.
- Further questions from the Council. None.
- Objections or testimony received: None
- Public Testimony: None
- Discussion: Staff Response to testimony—None
- Hearing closed at 6:46 PM.

7.2. **Council Bill 2025-09: An Ordinance to Annex, Redesignate and Rezone 12.65 Acres at 6675 Corvallis Road along with the portion of the Southern Pacific Railroad adjacent to the property (Evander).**

Evander let council know that this council bill will adopt the annexation and rezone that was discussed in the public hearing.

**Action:**

**1st Motion:** Councilor Corr moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-09 to adopt AX | 2025-03, the text of which is contained in the Council packet, for the first time; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance.

**Action:**

**2nd Motion:** Councilor Morton moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-09 for the second time by title only.; Councilor Corr seconded. Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance.

**Action:**

**3rd Motion:** Councilor Roden moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2025-09.; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None  
Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

Russell announced the council bill passed and will be assigned to ordinance number 1629.

7.3. **Resolution #25-1643 To Set a Public Hearing Date for AX | 2026-01, Annexation of 46.7 acres Along S. 13th Street (Evander)**

Evander presented information on a resolution to set February 10th, 2026, as the date for a public hearing on the annexation and rezoning of 46.7 acres along South 13th Street. No discussion.

**Action:**

Councilor Morton moved to approve Resolution 25-1643, a resolution to set a date for a Public Hearing on the annexation and rezone of 46.7 acres along S. 13th Street for February 10, 2026, and direct staff to provide proper notice for the hearing; Councilor Roden seconded. Discussion: None  
Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

7.4. **Q1 Financials (Moody).**

FD Moody presented Q1 Financials 2025-26. Moody focused on financial updates, including a review of the 6-month receivables chart, which showed a seasonal pattern similar to the previous year but slightly higher due to rate impacts. The independent audit for fiscal year 2024-2025 is in its final stages, with financial statements expected to be presented on January 13th at the Council Meeting. The city's debt summary was discussed, highlighting the remaining payments on various loans, including the Chase water rights loan and the museum property loan, as well as the expected payoff of the 2017 MINET issue in 2026-2027. The Urban Renewal Agency loan payments to the city were also reviewed, with nine interfund loans expected to be paid off over the next three years, which should improve cash flows and allow for acceleration of payments back to the General Fund. Discussion of MINET's financial obligations to the city, with a reported receivable of approximately \$8 million as of June 30, 2025. Suggestion for renegotiating the payment schedule to help offset the city's financial difficulties, but the mayor and others emphasized the need to balance MINET's financial position with the city's interests. Moody also touched on the master fee schedule and the upcoming budget preparation for fiscal years 2026-2027.

Council had questions for Public Works Director Fisher which were interjected between agenda items 7.4 and 7.5. Discussion of the placement of barbed wire on a fence around city property. Request for a presentation about the potential impacts of the Center Street Bridge project on the community.

7.5. **FY 2025-26 Budget Adjustments (Carey).**

Finance Director Carey presented information on budget adjustments, including the purchase of mobile phones for City Council and Mayor, which will require \$3,600 from contingency funds. The grant writer's salary allocation was overlooked and will also be offset by contingency funds. An unexpected refund of \$3,448 from SAIF will be used for HR training. The police department received grant funds for bulletproof vests and related safety initiatives. Councilors expressed frustration about the cell phone purchases, questioning the need.

**Action:**

Councilor Morton moved that Council approve Resolution No. 25-1641 to amend the fiscal year 2025-26 Adopted Budget in accordance with the above noted recommendations; Councilor Corr seconded. Discussion: Councilor Roden noted that she would vote against because of the cell phone costs and grant writer expense.

Roll call vote. Motion 4-1-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** Dawn Roden

**Abstentions:** None

7.6. **Adoption of Resolution 25-1640, Authorizing Banking Signatures and Repealing Resolution No. 25-1626 (Carey).**

Discussion that resolution noted Umpqua bank, but the bank has changed name to Columbia bank. A resolution can be passed with a motion noting change.

**Action:**

**1st Motion:** Councilor Roden moved to adopt Resolution 25-1640 Authorizing Banking Signatures and Repealing Resolution No. 25-1626 with change in bank name from Umpqua to Columbia.; Councilor Boisvert seconded.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 5-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

The bank name was fixed before the Mayor signed the resolution.

8. **Council Announcements.**

- Mayor Schwarzler: Walk of Hearts will be on sale soon through IDA. The money made from the sales is used to purchase the summer flower baskets in downtown.

- Councilor Sorce: Reminder MI YMCA event on Friday, December 12 at 5:30 pm. He also mentioned a situation on WOU campus where people came on campus to stir up fear. The students and staff were able to stand together and support each other.
- Councilor Boisvert: Coat Drive is going on for Ella Curan Food Bank. Drop off box at City Hall, Grocery Outlet and the Boisvert office.
- Councilor Morton: Mentioned IDA Walk of Hearts. Posters will be distributed tomorrow. It's the same cost as last year but you need to submit a form. \$35 per side, \$60 for both. If you buy both sides, you get to keep the heart. IDA is taking over the Love Local scratch it campaign for February. Monmouth is running a similar promotion to benefit Monmouth businesses. No crossover between campaigns in the two towns.

**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.**

9.2. **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.**

**10. Adjournment.** Mayor Schwarzler adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

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MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

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Myra Russell, City Recorder