



City of Independence Minutes

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2026

1. Call to Order. Mayor Schwarzler called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

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

Absent:

City Staff Present: Kenna West, City Manager
Myra Russell, City Recorderr
Fred Evander, City Planner

2. Pre Council Special Meeting.

2.1. Planning Commission Interviews.

1. Planning Commission Candidate Corby Chappell. Councilors asked 8 predetermined questions to the candidate. Chappell has served on the Commission for many years. He discussed his connection to Independence and his interest in continuing to serve the community. He emphasized his commitment to following established criteria and maintaining respectful discussions, even when opinions differ. Chappell also shared his vision for Independence in the future, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a small-town feel while accommodating growth. Chappell affirmed that he can meet the time commitments of this position and that he prefers in-person meetings.
2. Planning Commission Candidate John Southgate: Councilors asked 8 predetermined questions to the candidate. Southgate, who has a background in urban planning, expressed interest in serving on the Commission due to his passion for place-making and creating livable, walkable cities. He discussed his approach to making decisions based on established criteria and his experience in handling diverse perspectives in planning decisions. Southgate affirmed that he can meet the time commitments of this position and that he also prefers in-person meetings.

3. **Adjournment.** Mayor Schwarzler adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm. In recess until the regular council meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

Myra Russell, City Recorder