



City of Independence

Agenda

Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

Civic Center - Council Chambers

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER - SPECIAL MEETING (Council Chambers)
Note: This is a Special Meeting of the City Council. The general public is invited to attend and view the meeting; typically, no public input or comment will be received.
2. PRE-COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
 - 2.1. Council Vacancy Interviews
[Application: Karkanen](#)
[Application: Sorce](#)
3. ADJOURN

3 - 12

Meeting Attendance Information:

The City Council will hold this meeting in-person in City Hall Council Chambers, via video conference (Zoom) or by phone. Meetings are also live-streamed on the City's YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofIndependenceOR>.

- **To attend in person**, the City Hall address is 555 S. Main St.
- **For Zoom login** visit:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85440812246?pwd=43uxTDjsIPWvATR5XD168oDVa8Syul.1>
- To participate in the meeting **by phone**, dial **US: +1-253-215-8782** and enter **Webinar ID: 854 4081 2246** and **Passcode: 350786**

Written comments are also welcome and may be delivered to City Hall or emailed to CouncilComments@ci.independence.or.us no later than 4:00 pm the day of the meeting.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities, should be made at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to Myra Russell, City Recorder, 503-838-1212/TTY: 800-735-2900.

NAME Bradley Karkanen

DATE: 1/17/25

Present employment: Appen - IT Solutions Engineer, 2020 - Present

May we contact you at work? ☐ No ☒ Yes /

Occupational Background *previous employment – paid or unpaid:*
Western Oregon University - Student Desktop Support Technician/System Administrator 2016-2020

Educational Background *schools attended:*

School name (no acronyms)	Last grade level completed	Diploma/degree/certificate	Course of study (optional)
Western Oregon Uni	Junior	N/A	Information Systems
Lebanon High School	12	Diploma	

Prior governmental experience *elected or appointed*
Independence Library Board June 2024 - Present

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**CITY OF
INDEPENDENCE**

By signing this document, I hereby state:

- That I will accept the nomination for office indicated;
- That I will qualify for said office if appointed;
- That all information provided by me on this form, including my occupation, educational and occupational background, and prior governmental experience is true to the best of my knowledge.

Bradley Karkanen

Applicant's signature

1/17/25

Date signed

This information is a matter of public record, and may be published or reproduced.

Please answer the following questions, attaching additional sheets as may be necessary.

1. Experience serving on an elected board:

I have no experience serving on an elected board, but I currently serve in a board elected capacity with the Friends of the Library. I am the Vice Chair.

2. Experience volunteering with the City of Independence:

In addition to my service with the Friends of the Library, I was a dedicated volunteer for the city's local operating levy in support of the Heritage Museum, public library, and city parks. I canvassed residents, participated in rallies, sign waving opportunities, and postcard events, and donated my time and expertise to

3. Describe your community involvement experience:

For the past year, I've attended city council meetings to gain an understanding of the issues facing the city and how they could impact residents. As stated above, I serve on the Friends of the Library board and volunteered to support the recent local operating levy.

4. Describe your vision for the future of Independence:

I'd like to ensure younger voices are heard by the city regarding affordable housing, technology jobs (to support Central High School and Western Oregon University graduates), and continued transportation efforts to support lower income residents, students, and seniors.

5. Describe your experience with budgeting and public finance:

While I don't have specific budgeting and public finance experience, I watched last year's budget committee meetings. This is one reason I chose to personally and professionally support the local operating levy.

6. Describe the time commitment you are able to make to the council position:

Although I have a full-time job, it is flexible enough to allow me to commit to the prescribed two meetings a month (plus possible work sessions), council training, and council liaison responsibilities.

7. Your reason(s) for applying for the council position:

I believe council needs more age diversity. According to the city's website, the median age of Independence residents is 29. I am 27 and believe I could provide a voice for this group. Also, having attended WOU, I understand the kinds of struggles graduates face when looking for local full-time employment.

Please attach a resume or CV and any other relevant information to this application.

Applications must be submitted to the Office of the City Recorder, Independence City Hall, 555 S. Main Street, PO Box 7, Independence, OR 97351, no later than Noon, January 28, 2025 to be considered.

Bradley Karkanen

Summary

Dedicated and community-oriented IT professional with a proven track record of leadership, problem-solving, and project management. Skilled in building consensus, communicating effectively, and implementing solutions to complex challenges. Seeking to leverage my experience and expertise to serve the Independence community as a City Council member.

Work Experience

IT Solutions Engineer

Appen | July 2020 - Current

- Collaborates with cross-functional teams and leadership to assess needs, identify priorities, and implement IT solutions that support organizational goals.
- Spearheaded multiple successful projects, including planning and migrating to the Microsoft Defender platform, deploying Intune for PC management.
- Demonstrated expertise in cloud infrastructure design and migration, network architecture and management, and cybersecurity.
- Provided training and support to IT staff, ensuring smooth transitions and effective adoption of new technologies and processes.

Desktop Support Technician, System Administrator

Western Oregon University | November 2016 - July 2020

- Provided comprehensive technical support to end users, resolving issues efficiently and effectively.
- Played a key role in major IT initiatives, including deploying Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager, managing Windows updates, and implementing Azure AD hybrid.
- Proactively identified and addressed system vulnerabilities, ensuring data security and compliance.

Education

Western Oregon University

Information Systems, Computer Science

Skills

- **Leadership & Teamwork:** Proven ability to lead and collaborate effectively within diverse teams.
- **Problem Solving:** Adept at analyzing complex issues and developing creative, effective solutions.
- **Communication:** Excellent written and verbal communication skills, capable of explaining technical concepts clearly and concisely.
- **Technical Expertise:** Proficient in a wide range of technologies, including Microsoft Windows Server, PowerShell, Linux, and cloud infrastructure (AWS, Azure).

Key Qualifications for City Council

- **Community-Focused:** Deeply invested in the well-being of Independence and its residents.
- **Collaborative Approach:** Committed to working effectively with fellow council members and city staff to achieve common goals.
- **Technology Advocate:** Understands the importance of technology in modern governance and service delivery.
- **Problem Solver:** Eager to tackle the challenges facing our city and find innovative solutions that benefit the entire community.

I am excited by the opportunity to serve my community and contribute my skills and experience to the betterment of Independence. I am confident that I have the qualifications and commitment to be an effective member of the City Council.



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE APPLICATION FOR VACANT COUNCIL POSITION

An open Council position occurs upon the incumbent's resignation or other circumstance specified under Section 30 of the Independence City Charter. A majority of the remaining council shall appoint a successor to the position, who will then serve the remaining term of that position.

Length of Appointment: Remaining term of vacated position:

Expected time commitment:

- Attendance at two Council meetings per month; and
- One monthly committee meeting as Council Liaison; and
- Attendance at Special Meetings, including work sessions, as needed; and
- Multiple annual Budget Committee meetings in the Spring; and
- Meeting preparation for each of the above meetings which will include, at a minimum, review of the agenda packet.

Meeting days/times:

- **City Council Meetings:**
 - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
 - 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
- **Committee Liaison Meetings:**
 - Schedule depends on assignment

Qualifications for office:

- Registered Oregon voter; and
- City of Independence resident for 12 months prior to taking office.

City Councilor responsibilities:

- Develop knowledge of diverse issues affecting the City
- Consider differing perspectives to make decisions in the best interest of the community as a whole
- Understand the City's operations, including the City Charter and Council functions
- Understand the relationship between the City, the State of Oregon, and the Federal Government.

Background / Experience Which Will Be Useful:

- Decision making skills and acceptance of majority decisions by fellow Councilors
- Strong communication abilities
- Prior experience in a private or public organization or committee
- Capacity to accept public criticism
- A sense of humor

Prior to making a decision to submit this application, you are encouraged to contact the Mayor, a City Councilor or the City Manager to ask any questions you may have.

NAME Evan Sorce

DATE: 1/20/2025

Present employment: Western Oregon University

May we contact you at work? ☐ No ☒ Yes / Work phone #:

Occupational Background *previous employment – paid or unpaid:*

Secretary to the Board of Trustees and Special Assistant to the President - Western Oregon University - March 2023- Present

Chief of Staff - Office of State Representative Paul Evans, House District 20. January 2015 - March 2023

Educational Background *schools attended:*

School name (no acronyms)	Last grade level completed	Diploma/degree/certificate	Course of study (optional)
West Linn High	12th	High School Diploma	
Western Oregon Univ	16	Bachelor of Science	Political Science
Oregon State Univ	18	MPP	

Prior governmental experience *elected or appointed*

Commissioner - Independence Planning Commission (September 2023 - Present)
Commissioner - Salem Budget Commission (October 2021-June 2022)
Co-Chair of the West Salem Neighborhood Association (October 2015-October 2017)
Corvallis Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (October 2011-October 2012)

By signing this document, I hereby state:

- That I will accept the nomination for office indicated;
- That I will qualify for said office if appointed;
- That all information provided by me on this form, including my occupation, educational and occupational background, and prior governmental experience is true to the best of my knowledge.


Applicant's signature

1/27/25
Date signed

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Please answer the following questions, attaching additional sheets as may be necessary.

1. Experience serving on an elected board:

Please see additional pages.

2. Experience volunteering with the City of Independence:

I have volunteered with the City of Independence as a member of the Independence Planning Commission as well as a member of the Heritage Museum Society, which is the fundraising arm of the Independence Heritage Museum Society.

3. Describe your community involvement experience:

Please see additional pages.

4. Describe your vision for the future of Independence:

Please see additional pages.

5. Describe your experience with budgeting and public finance:

Please see additional pages.

6. Describe the time commitment you are able to make to the council position:

I am willing to invest as much time as necessary to be successful in this position. This includes ensuring that I have read the council packets and am prepared for the meetings, as well as dedicating time to constituent outreach and research.

7. Your reason(s) for applying for the council position:

Please see additional pages.

Please attach a resume or CV and any other relevant information to this application.

Applications must be submitted to the Office of the City Recorder, Independence City Hall, 555 S. Main Street, PO Box 7, Independence, OR 97351, no later than Noon, January 28, 2025 to be considered.

1. Experience serving on an elected board:

My loan experience served as a member of a public elected board from October 2015 to October 2017, when I served as the co-chair of the West Salem Neighborhood Association. This Neighborhood Association followed a townhall model, which meant that everyone who lived, worked, or owned property in West Salem had the right to vote in the election. As the Co-Chair of the Neighborhood Association, I worked with my fellow board members to set the agenda, met with City of Salem leadership, did constituent outreach, served as the liaison for the people of West Salem with their City Government, discussed proposed development in the community, and attended City Council meetings.

3. Describe your community involvement experience:

In addition to my service to the community by serving as a member of the Independence Planning Commission and a member of the Independence Heritage Society, I also am a member of the Monmouth/Independence Rotary, a member of the Independence Elks Club, and a longtime volunteer for the Independence Ghost Walk.

4. Describe your vision for the future of Independence:

My vision for the future of Independence is that it becomes a community that makes it a priority to center community voices in our decisions. Our community faces several serious challenges, including a projected budget shortfall, additional critical infrastructure upgrades (sewer, water, roads), critical services (parks, library, museum), and affordable housing. To meet these challenges head-on, we need to do much more to engage our community fully, explain why we are facing these challenges, what we plan to do about it, and why, and then listen to their feedback. If appointed to this position, it will be a priority of mine to hold constituent outreach events in our community, talking to constituents, hearing their concerns, and working together to identify creative solutions to the challenges our community is facing. Additionally, we need to do more to promote opportunities to participate in our boards and Commissions and engage voices that have not historically been present in the conversations happening at City Hall.

Through community outreach and engagement, we can restore public trust and secure the investments needed from the community to meet these challenges and move our community forward.

5. Describe your experience with budgeting and public finance:

I have extensive experience with budgeting and public finance in both professional and volunteer capacities. As the Secretary to the Board of Trustees at Western Oregon University, I participate in numerous meetings each year in which the Board discusses and makes decisions on the budget. Additionally, during my eight years working in the Legislature for Representative Paul Evans, I spent a significant amount of time working to get policies and projects funded within the State Budget, including 3 years when Rep.

Evans was serving on Ways and Means Committees. Lastly, I served a Budget cycle as a member of the Salem Budget Commission. Through these experiences I learned a lot about the budget process, including how budget priorities are vetted through the process, the need to develop solid key performance measures, and the importance of public feedback throughout the budget process. It is important to keep in mind that budgeting is about prioritizing competing interests and values, and I have learned how to examine and propose a budget.

7. Your reason(s) for applying for the council position

I am interested in applying for the open City Council position because the City of Independence is at a crossroads with new leadership and is dealing with several difficult decisions that will impact the kind of community we live in. I believe that my 13-plus years of experience working for the public interest, in the legislature, at Western Oregon University, and serving on various boards and commissions, give me the experience, passion, skills, and temperate to not to serve on the Independence City Council and help our community not just survive but thrive in the challenging reality we find ourselves navigating.

Evan Sorce

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Secretary, Board of Trustees & Special Assistant to the President | Western Oregon University (Mar 2023-Present)

Summary of Position: Serve as the primary liaison between the Board of Trustees and University officers, facilitating communication, information, and engagement, including:

- Working with Board leadership, Senior Leadership and the President to develop long-term and annual work plans for the Board and its Committees by developing meeting agendas and preparing dockets.
- Supporting the Board and its Committee in complying with applicable laws including public meeting laws, public records laws, ethics laws, and the filing of proper reports.
- Representing and supporting the President in meetings, committees, and phone calls, and assisting the President with special projects and university-wide initiatives.
- Shepherding the university's policy development and management process.

Chief of Staff | Oregon House of Representatives, Office of Paul Evans (House District 20) (Jan 2015-Mar 2023)

Summary of Position: Provided direct support to the Representative, including by

- Worked with Legislative Leadership to assist in securing nearly \$50 million in funding for Monmouth, Independence, and Salem communities, including \$42.9 million for Western Oregon University.
- Coordinated with the Monmouth, Independence, and Salem communities, legislative leadership, and stakeholders to successfully enact legislative priorities.
- Assisted with research and development of dozens of legislative concepts.
- Managed all office communications, oversaw all office tasks, and managed constituent casework.
- Acted as the Representative's liaison at community events and constituent meetings.

Quality Project Facilitator | Catholic Community Services (Feb 2013-Jan 2015)

Summary of Position: Provided day-to-day leadership for multiple program services, while collecting, compiling, and analyzing complex impacts and risks of project plans, including:

- Served as team facilitator for the Cavazos Center At-Risk Youth Home, the Treatment Foster Care Program, and Adult Disability Services Program (Paragon).
- Implemented program changes that increased utilization (increased services provided) and amended program reports to reflect data-driven decision making.
- Performed regularly scheduled program evaluation and billed review audits and special reviews as needed.

EDUCATION

Master of Public Policy | Oregon State University (June 2012)

- Earned full tuition scholarship; served on the Corvallis Transit Commission (2011-2012); and served as Transportation Coordinator for the Student Sustainability Initiative (2011-2012).

Bachelor of Science: Political Science | Western Oregon University (June 2010)

- ASWOU Student Body President (2009-2010); Plus Team Member (2009); Peer Mentor (2007-2009).

SERVICE & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- **City of Independence Planning Commission** (September 2023 – Present)
- **Heritage Museum Society** (June 2024 – Present)
- **Member of the Monmouth/Independence Rotary** (Sep 2024-Present)
- **Independence, OR Elks Lodge 1950** (Aug 2018-Present)
- **Western Oregon University Alumni Association Board of Directors** (2015-Present)
- **Salem Budget Committee** (October 2021 – June 2022)
- **President of Salem Sunrise Rotary** (July 2018-July 2021)
- **Co-Chair West Salem Neighborhood Association** (October 2015-October 2017)