



City of Independence Minutes

**Budget Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

2. **Roll Call.**

Present: Budget Committee Member Evan Sorce
Budget Committee Member Bill Boisvert
Budget Committee Member Kathy Martin-Willis
Budget Committee Member Kate Schwarzler
Budget Committee Member Marilyn Morton
Budget Committee Member Shannon Corr
Budget Committee Member Bradley Karkanen
Budget Committee Member Miranda Garrison
Budget Committee Member Erin Seiler
Budget Committee Member Alex Paraskevas
Budget Committee Member Nathan Christensen
Budget Committee Member Dawn Roden, via Zoom

Absent: Budget Committee Member Jesica Porter, Absent
Budget Committee Member Dana Sharman, Excused

City Staff Present: Kenna West, City Manager
Myra Russell, City Recorder
Rob Moody, Finance Director
Amanda Carey, Finance Director

3. **Presentations/Discussion.**

3.1. **City Fiscal Strategy Discussion (Moody).**

Finance Director Moody spoke about the current fiscal year's budget status and projections for the next fiscal year. The general fund is tracking close to the budgeted amount, with a projected ending balance of around \$750,000. For the next fiscal year, revenues are expected to increase by 3–5%, while expenses are projected to rise by 6–7%. The group explored the possibility of implementing a biennial budget, which would align with the state's biennium and reduce staff workload. Discussion around the logistics of transitioning to a biennial budget, including the need for a work session with the Council and potential collaboration with a consultant.

The group also discussed the fate of two special funds: the Economic Development Loan Fund and the Tourism and Events Commission fund. Budget Committee members expressed concerns about cutting these funds, noting they serve important purposes and could be affected by tough decisions. The

Economic Development Fund was established decades ago to support downtown improvements and facade loans, while the Tourism and Events Commission fund was created to manage large events like the Hop Festival. The council agreed that economic development is a long-term investment and should not be completely cut, suggesting they need to find a balance between funding and efficiency in the next budget cycle. They explored the challenges of balancing essential services with community programs like GLOW, the museum, and downtown revitalization efforts, acknowledging that tough choices would need to be made in the future due to limited budget resources.

3.2. **Discussion re: Report to Community: Plan for Fiscal Recovery (Moody).**
The Report to the Community was referred to throughout the work session.

3.3. **Discussion re: Community Services and Parks Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee (West).**

The Community Services and Parks Sustainability Advisory Committee held its first meeting to discuss short-term solutions for maintaining current service levels, focusing on fees and levies as potential revenue sources. The group explored options for a fully fee-funded system, combining it with existing public safety fees, and discussed the need for a long-term conversation about economic development opportunities.

Board members and staff addressed financial challenges in the past. They emphasized the need to move past blame and divisiveness, highlighting the importance of working together to develop viable solutions. They discussed the city's marketing efforts, economic development strategies, and the role of government in supporting the community. The group also addressed communication channels and the need for transparency. The conversation ended with departing Finance Director Moody expressing gratitude for the support received and encouragement for the challenging work ahead.

4. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 6: 44 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Myra Russell, City Recorder