



# City of Independence Minutes

City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Schwarzler called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

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

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

Absent:

City Staff            Kenna West, City Manager  
Present:            Myra Russell, City Recorder  
                         Amanda Carey, Finance Director  
                         Lyle Gilbert, Police Lieutenant  
                         Gerald Fisher, Public Works Director

3. **Minutes.**

3.1. **Regular Meeting 03/10/2026.**

**Action:**

Councilor Corr moved to approve the minutes as submitted; Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis seconded. Discussion: None  
Roll call vote. Motion 6-0-0

**Ayes:**     Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis,  
                 Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:**     None

**Abstentions:**     None

4. **Visitors/Public Comment.**

- Erin McIntosh, Independence, OR. Appreciates the thoughtful amendment to the Park System Master Plan to add the pool as a priority, taking into account public wishes.
- Susan Graham, Independence, OR. Representative from Friends of Community Parks. Announced that Independence Days will take place on July 3rd and 4th in 2026, with plans for various events including fireworks, a talent show, and a

duck derby. A group of volunteers, from previous Indy Days events and new volunteers, is working hard to put this together for the community. Discounted tickets for Monmouth and Independence residents will be available again this year as well as online ticket pre-sales. Lots of opportunities to volunteer. Go to their website for more information. They will be celebrating the 250-year anniversary of the signing of the declaration of Independence in partnership with MI Rotary and the Heritage Museum. The Moothart family approached the group to create the Jack and Laura Moothart Hometown Fireworks Fund as a way to honor their historic connection to early fireworks shows in independence. Donations to this fund can be made through the website

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

### **5.1. Mayor.**

- Reported on a successful lobby trip to Washington D.C. with CM West, Councilor Carey of Monmouth and Commissioner Gordon in March. The group met with Senator Merkley, Representative Salinas and Senator Wyden's staff. They secured a place on the list for potential \$5 million in CIP funding for Phase 1 construction of the new regional water treatment plant, though the exact amount is not guaranteed. This helps to reduce the cost of the project to rate payers.
- Held a Pub Talk on expenses in March, with plans for a follow-up meeting in June after the budget process.
- Attended the IDA meeting and was thankful for the update from the Friends of Community parks regarding Independence Days.
- Attended the Ella Curran food bank event. Their funding is getting closer.
- Shout out to Miranda Garrison who won the entrepreneurship award at WOU alumni Awards event.

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

#### **5.2.1. MINET Board: Councilor Sorce.**

- Last meeting was March 18. Update on MINET's financial status: the company is making additional debt payments to the city and maintains confidence in meeting their scheduled payment plan.
- Budget meeting April 29 5:00pm at the MINET office

#### **5.2.2. Parks Board: Councilor Roden.**

- No report to make. The February meeting was canceled
- Next meeting April 16, 2026

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

- Trolley Update: From March 2025 to March 2026 they had 133,936 riders
- Orientation meeting for the Budget tomorrow, April 15, at 6:30 pm. The budget committee will get a copy of the budget at the end of the meeting.
- The next budget meeting is Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 pm. Hopes the community will be involved.
- Touch a Truck is coming up, thanks to SEDCOR on Saturday, May 9 at Riverview Park.
- The Osprey camera is up and running with audio this year. Thanks to the community that donated towards this upgrade. Ospreys are back on the nest.
- City Hall is a collection site for a diaper drive hosted by Les Schwab to support Family Building Blocks. Drop them off in the lobby.
- Councilor Roden asked about the cost of the Washington DC trip. CM West said it would take approximately 60 days to compile expenses as they get processed. The trip and lobbyist were budgeted for through the water fund.

## 6. Unfinished Business.

### 6.1. **2nd Reading: Council Bill 2026-07, Potential Change to the Requirements for Fences Associated with Governmental Uses (Evander).**

Planner Evander is out, so this was presented by PW Director Fisher. This is coming back for a second reading. The first reading was at the March 10, 2026, council meeting.

#### **Action:**

**1st Motion:** Councilor Morton moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2026-07 for the second time by title only.; Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis seconded. Discussion: Councilor Roden noted she was going to oppose.

Roll call vote. Motion 5-1-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** Dawn Roden

**Abstentions:** None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance. An Ordinance Amending Independence Development Code, Section 74.020, Specific Standards for Accessory Uses, To Establish Standards for Fences associated with Governmental Facilities; and Declaring an Effective Date

#### **Action:**

**2nd Motion:** Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2026-07.; Councilor Corr seconded.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 5-1-0

**Ayes:** Shannon Corr, Marilyn Morton, Kathy Martin-Willis, Bill Boisvert, Evan Sorce

**Nays:** Dawn Roden  
**Abstentions:** None

Recorder Russell announced that it had been assigned Ordinance # 1630

6.2. **2nd Reading: Council Bill 2026-6, Adopt Parks System Master Plan (Evander).**

Planner Evander is out, so this was presented by PW Director Fisher. This is coming back for a second reading. The first reading was at the March 10, 2026, council meeting. Director Fisher noted the change on page 160 of the packet, on priority project number 2. This was updated per council's request with the \$75,000 recreation plan for the pool property. Council questioned where the money would come from. Director Fisher stated from the SDC funds. All plans and studies are paid for with system development charges. Question about priority list. Fisher said projects will be completed in full, not piecemeal, but can skip down on the list if funds become available through grants for other projects on the list.

**Action:**

**1st Motion:** Councilor Corr moved to read the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2026-06 for the second time by title only.; Councilor/Council President Martin-Willis seconded. Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 5-1-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** Dawn Roden

**Abstentions:** None

Recorder Russell read the title of the proposed ordinance. Adoption of Park System Master Plan Update and Related Amendments to the Independence Comprehensive Plan

**Action:**

**2nd Motion:** Councilor Corr moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance, Council Bill #2026-06; Councilor Morton seconded. Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 5-1-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** Dawn Roden

**Abstentions:** None

Recorder Russell announced that it had been assigned Ordinance 1634

7. **New Business.**

7.1. **Solid Waste Rate Adjustment Request (West).**

CM West introduced the topic and turned it over to Dr. Estle Harlan and Josh Brandt to explain the request to adjust rates. Brandt's Sanitary is requesting a 3.5% rate increase effective May 1, 2026. Rates are comparable to rates in the area. Some costs are out of their control. Councilor Boisvert asked if they plan to come back every year. Dr. Harlan explained rates had stayed the same for several years and Brandt's is trying to catch up with small increases to keep up with disposal costs. Several councilors thanked Brandt's for their good service.

Councilor Sorce asked about the timing of the fee increase to customers. Dr. Harlan explained that this was the normal process. Council asked for updates on potential landfill changes. CM West said once things are decided regarding this, council will get an update. Councilor Roden thanked him for transparency and appreciated the incremental increases. Councilor Martin Willis asked about how our residents are doing with recycling correctly. Brandt said the community does pretty good. Brandt will provide the city with a diagram of what's recyclable and how, for inclusion in the community newsletter and distribution to councilors.

**Action:**

Councilor Roden moved to approve Resolution # 26-1649, A Resolution Granting a Rate Adjustment to Brandt's Sanitary Service; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None

Roll call vote. Motion 6-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

7.2. **Liquor License Application, Change of Ownership: Golden Hop (Gilbert).**

Lieutenant Gilbert presented an application for change of ownership for the OLCC liquor license at Golden Hop Saloon. He recommends approval.

Councilor Boisvert asked about the street seating Golden Hop has done in the past for Indy Days. LT. Gilbert said that's a special event liquor license that the new owners would have to obtain for that specific event if they wish to continue it. Special event liquor licenses are approved by the police department, not council.

**Action:**

Councilor Roden moved to recommend approval of the above liquor license request; Councilor Boisvert seconded. Discussion: None.

Roll call vote. Motion 6-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis, Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

7.3. **Proposed Resolution 26-1650, Authorizing a Budget Adjustment (Carey).**

Finance Director Carey brought forth a resolution to complete a budget adjustment due to the cost of elevator repairs and line of credit expense.

**Action:**

Councilor Morton moved to approve Resolution No. 26-1650 to amend the fiscal year 2025-26 Adopted Budget in accordance with the above-noted recommendations; Councilor Corr seconded. Discussion: Councilor Boisvert asked if the initial draw of the line of credit was required. FD Carey confirmed

this was true.

Roll call vote. Motion 6-0-0

**Ayes:** Evan Sorce, Dawn Roden, Bill Boisvert, Kathy Martin-Willis,  
Marilyn Morton, Shannon Corr

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

7.4. **Q2 2026 Board/Committee/Commission Appointment (West).**

CM West reviewed the process for the mayor to appoint members to boards and commissions. One application was turned in to the Museum board. Councilor Roden asked about vacancies on the parks board. There are 2 vacancies currently. A person had applied but was ineligible according to the board rules. Discussion between council about how this appointment process works.

The Mayor appointed Christine Primrose to a mid-term vacancy in Position 4 on the Heritage Museum Board with a term expiration of December 31, 2026.

8. **Council Announcements.**

- Councilor Morton is pleased to see the Moothart Fireworks Fund has been established to help with Independence Days. This Sunday at 3PM at Valkyrie, an Oddities Auction will be held in support of the Heritage Museum Society.
- Councilor Corr announced a luncheon at 11:30 tomorrow at the Gate as an annual fundraiser for Family Building Blocks.
- Councilor Martin Willis mentioned if you can't make the luncheon, drop off some diapers for the diaper drive in the lobby.
- Councilor Boisvert announced that the play "Mean Girls" will be performed at Central at 7PM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week and Thursday, Friday and Saturday next week. With a matinee at 2PM on the Saturdays.
- Councilor Roden mentioned that the Heritage Museum is accepting quilt blocks to represent our community for the 250th anniversary. Stop by the museum to pick up the information. Also, happy to hear about the Moothart Fireworks Fund to honor such a giving family.
- Councilor Sorce said that yesterday was Yom HaShoah, a remembrance day for the Holocaust. Flags were placed on the WOU campus. One flag signifies 500 victims. The flags will be up until Friday evening, along with a display in Werner center. On Friday, folks from all over the state are attending a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) summit at Western. 9am-4pm free, funded by the Oregon Foundation. Councilor Corr asked if Councilor Sorce could send that information to staff to be sent out to councilors.
- Mayor Schwarzler mentioned free tech training for community members who can earn certificates from Google, Cisco, Fiero. Youth coding league and adult coding leagues are available through Fiero at the library. A summer camp for young people, 6–8th grade students, who are interested in STEM has some limited spots available. This free one-week summer program was due to the Ford Family Foundations Grow in Rural Oregon program.

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 7:45 pm.

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MAYOR KATE SCHWARZLER

ATTEST:

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Myra Russell, City Recorder