



City of Independence

Minutes

City Budget Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was continued from the City Budget Meeting held on May 7, 2025. The meeting was reconvened at 6:30 pm by Chair Garrison.

Chair Garrison asked for any potential or actual conflicts of interest to be declared. BCM Christensen declared a potential conflict of interest as his wife works for the Museum.

ROLL CALL

Budget Committee Members (BCM)

City Council

Kate Schwarzler
Shannon Corr
Bill Boisvert
Evan Sorce
Marilyn Morton
Dawn Roden
Kathy Martin-Willis

Resident Members

Bradley Karkanen-Attended via Zoom until 7:33 PM
Nathan Christensen
Chair Miranda Garrison
Jessica Porter
Alex Paraskevas
Erin Seiler
Dana Sharman

Staff present:

Kenna West, Myra Russell, Rob Moody, Gerald Fisher, Shawn Irvine, Amanda Christensen, Amy Christensen, Jason Kistler, Juventino Banuelos, Patrick Bodily, Emmanuel Goicochea

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Gabby Walton, Independence resident-concerned about transparency and clarity with how information is presented to the community.

BUDGET DISCUSSION Committee had discussions based on questions and suggestions turned in by budget committee members.

- Levy or \$5 fee on water bill to save museum and current library hours. Discussion on information and education to public if trying for another levy.
- Question about fees on utility bills. Discussion of how fees could work. Research before budget meetings showed fees were not supported by residents.
- Discussion of updating fee schedule for all departments
- Discussion of voluntary contributions and how that could work. Not money that can be planned on.
- Discussion of transferring building inspections to Polk County. Would remove building position at city but would also lose revenue from building.
- Discussion of sharing IT costs with Monmouth.
- Discussion on closing the museum vs. moving the museum

BCM Karkanen had to leave the meeting at 7:33 PM

- Discussion about cutting Community Development position. Planning department is required by law but could be through contract service rather than staff. In the past, contract service cost more than onsite staff. Discussion of Central Talmadge Plan.
- Discussion of operation vs. policy.
- BCM Porter made a motion to approve budget as amended. BCM Seiler second. Discussion: BCM Christensen asked Porter to withdraw motion. Porter withdrew motion and Seiler withdrew second.
- Further discussion on fees and revenue generation.
- Budget Committee took a 7-minute break at 8:23 PM
- **Action:** BCM Sharman moved to amend the 2025-26 budget the community services fund by raising \$235,000 funding coming from a 40-cent levy. Motion died for lack of second.
- BCM Boisvert asked if budget committee meetings could be held more regularly than just at budget time, perhaps quarterly.

ACTION

- BCM Garrison moved to approve the City of Independence Budget for FY 2025-2026, as amended. BCM Porter Second. Discussion about Independence Days future-there is loan money available to whoever takes it over.
 - Aye - Garrison, Schwarzler, Porter, Martin-Willis, Christensen, Corr, Seiler, Sorce, Sharman, Boisvert, Paraskevas, Morton
 - Nay - Roden
- BCM Corr moved to approve state revenue sharing. BCM Seiler Second. Discussion: none.
 - Aye - Garrison, Schwarzler, Porter, Martin-Willis, Christensen, Corr, Seiler, Sorce, Sharman, Boisvert, Paraskevas, Morton, Roden
 - Nay - None
- BCM Garrison moved to approve the levying of the City's full tax rate of \$4.5897 per \$1,000 assessed value. BCM Porter second. Discussion: None
 - Aye - Garrison, Schwarzler, Porter, Martin-Willis, Christensen, Corr, Seiler, Sorce, Sharman, Boisvert, Paraskevas, Morton, Roden
 - Nay - None
- BCM Garrison moved to approve that the City impose taxes in the amount of \$400,341 for General Obligation Bonds. BCM Christensen Second. Discussion: None

- Aye - Garrison, Schwarzler, Porter, Martin-Willis, Christensen, Corr, Seiler, Sorce, Sharman, Boisvert, Paraskevas, Morton
- Nay - Roden

ADJOURN / RECESS

BCM Schwarzler moved to adjourn. BCM Paraskevas second. Chair Garrison adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM

Minutes submitted by:
Myra Russell, City Recorder