



City of Independence

Agenda

City Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Event Center - Riverview Ballroom

| | Page |
|--|------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER Continued from Budget Meeting held on April 30, 2025 | |
| 2. ROLL CALL | |
| 3. PUBLIC COMMENT | |
| 3.1. Ginger Melton-Written copy of public comment made at meeting Written copy of public comment made at meeting | 3 |
| 3.2. Vickie McCubbin Written copy of public comment made at meeting | 5 |
| 4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS | |
| 4.1. 2025-2026: Rob Moody, Finance Director/Budget Officer & Kenna West, City Manager | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations-General Funds & Other Funds• Committee questions / discussion | |
| 5. HEARINGS | |
| 5.1. State Revenue Sharing, 2025-26 | |
| 5.2. Proposed City Budget, 2025-26 | |
| 6. ACTION | |
| 6.1. Approval of Budget & Adjourn | |
| - OR - | |
| 6.2. Continue to Date/Time Certain: May 14, 2025, 6:30 PM | |
| 7. ADJOURN / RECESS | |
| NOTE: An Independence URA Budget Committee Meeting follow immediately | |

Meeting Attendance Information:

The Budget Committee will hold this meeting in-person in Riverview Ballroom in the Event Center, 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/85314520786?pwd=DqYD2Jb7v3SIXIbQOIBkGS8ek21a20.1>

- To participate in the meeting **by phone, dial US: +1-253-215-8782** and enter **Webinar ID: 853 1452 0786** and **Passcode: 193408**

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.

Thank you for this time. My name is Ginger Melton, I am representing the Independence Hotel and Territory Restaurant. *Apologies for the absence of our General Manager as she has another city obligation this evening.*

Independence Days serves as a crucial identity marker for our town, not only attracting tourism dollars to downtown businesses during the event but also acting as a catalyst for economic growth through the multiplier effect.

It generates additional revenue for ancillary businesses like grocery stores and fuel stations, functions as a powerful marketing tool for tourism throughout the year and enhances tax revenue. I'm sure you are aware that the news of this potential change to Independence Days has brought about many questions.

Included in these questions:

Have strategic measures been taken to assess the impact of transferring this event into new hands?

Has the city considered continuing the event, but with a different approach? Perhaps cut out one day of the event, alter the musical lineup or even consider partnering with a community board to continue this event, rather than shifting all costs to others. It seems that making the decision to immediately transfer the event to another organization is hasty.

What if no other organizations can carry on with the event? Does the excitement over the town of Independence just fade away like other small towns?

In a time filled with uncertainty, it is vital for our community to feel assured of its stability. Do you remember your first time attending Indy Days? For many this memory creates a sense of nostalgia and "the gold ole days." If another organization is not able to bear the load of this event, this sense of stability is lost, as evidenced in the negative feedback towards the city being conveyed online and in person. This is the message we must communicate: our city leaders believe in and are committed to the future of Independence.

Let's reframe our perspective on this event—not as a burden, but as a fundamental support in the overall health of this community.

In closing we as a community would like to see a proposal from the city regarding the take over transfer and planning of Indy Days and the details related to what the city's involvement, if any, will be in the event. ~~moving forward for the review~~ of other city organizations and partners being asked to take on the planning.

My name is Vickie McCubbin, I am the current Chair of the Museum Advisory Board and past Museum Society Board member. I have been volunteering at the Heritage Museum in both locations for 9 years under 4 directors.

Though the Advisory Board has no spending authority, it is tasked to: **“review and comment on the budget as developed by City Management.”**

In past years the Advisory Board and the Museum Society have explored the feasibility of making the old location fully ADA compliant and it just wasn't possible. And so, the museum moved.

Sitting at the front desk of the current location, welcoming guests, assisting with research, writing scripts for tours and conducting them is a joy. This space is an inspiring and welcoming place for community members, tourists, and school groups that is accessible to people in wheelchairs, parents with strollers, and those less able to climb the stairs of the old location.

Though no admission is charged, a donation tube is available and those who are able - often make generous contributions. The positive comments from young and old makes it difficult for me to know that our beautiful location will likely be sold. BUT a vote was taken by the community, and it is time to **plan for the future**. *I believe* the City Management and this budget committee is doing all it can to preserve the museum collection.

Museum Curator/acting Director Amy Christensen and Library Director Patrick Bodily have created a plan including the safeguarding of the museum's artifacts in storage, for Amy to work from the library, creating pop-ups in the community, and providing on-line services, while continuing to be a community resource.

While this is a great plan, it is intended to be a **temporary** measure. It is important that the City, the Boards, and the Community provide for a future where the Museum has an eventual permanent location whether it be in a location separate from the library or in an expanded library location.

The Museum Advisory Board and the Library Advisory Board have formed sub-committees to meet jointly to plan for finding ways to support the City in its further advocating for both the museum and the library.

In summary, our desire is that the City, along with support from the Museum Board, The Society, and the Community continue to look for an affordable location where the museum can fulfill its mission statement to: Collect and Share the Natural History and Diverse Cultural Heritage of the River Community of Independence.