Regular Council Meeting
October 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Tom Kloss.

Roll Call: Jason Ekern-Present, Elaine Conrad-Present, Wayne Palkowski-Present, Cleo Skroch-Present, Pat "Shorty" Kotlarz-Present, and Randy "Bushy" Symicek- Present. 6 Present.

Others Present: Mayor Tom Kloss, Kayla Mathson, Street Superintendent Eric Theisen, Chief Jim Waniorek, Billie Kuzik, James Kuzik, Sandy Baecker, Linda Midleton, Sheri Lederer, Sandi Brandt, Mary Foss, Allan Foss, Shawn Williams, James Werlien, Jolene Werlien, Sheri Zilla, Rite Boland and City Clerk Dawn Smieja.

Proof of Public Notice: Mayor Kloss verified proof that public notice was given.

Approval of Agenda: Symicek motioned to approve agenda, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Minutes –September 14th, 2026
Motion to approve minutes from September 14th, 2026 meeting by Conrad, seconded by Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Public Comments/Correspondence:
Jim Kuzik had a concern on taxes. Sheri Lederer also questioned on taxes. Sheri Zilla brought up concerns of buildings and health codes. Linda Middelton brought up the culvert in the back of her yard. Sandra Baecker brought up concerns on fireworks.

Licenses and Permits

Operator License:
Indee Market and Fuel (Liquor License)- Motioned by Ekern to approve, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Indee Market and Fuel (Cigarette License)- Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Palkowski. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Street Superintendent Report: Worked on the walking trail and Island park curb has been completed.
Sidewalk & Driveway for City Lot(Across from City Hall)- Mayor Kloss provided an update needing an access point for the lot due to o easement from an adjoining landowner. Eric advised got a bid for concrete for about $811.82. Motioned by Skroch to approve, seconded by Palkowski. Roll Call Vote- Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes. 6-0 Yes, motioned carried.

Police Department Report:
Hired a Part-Time Officer-Brecken Young. Lexipol is almost completed. Jim explained the gun raffle to raise money for the K-9 and anything the K-9 may need. Motioned to purchase the Bergara Ridge Carbon Wilderness 6.5 Creedmoor 4+1 Bolt Action Rifle for $1,000 by Symicek, seconded by Palkowski. Roll Call Vote: Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-No. 5-1 Yes, motioned carried.

New Business

Mary Foss (Running for Clerk of Courts)- Mary Foss introduced herself and provided a background.

Ehlers- Peter from Ehlers came and explained the balloon payment for $1,370,766 coming due in December 31, 2026 for the 2021 General Obligation Promissory Note. The city will also check with our local bank.

City of Independence Trick or Treat Hour- Discussion was had over different hours. Motioned by Ekern to have the hours be 3pm to 6pm, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

City Health insurance and which Committee- Mayor provided and updated on previously this was with Purchasing, Real Estate & Personal Property. Mayor advise this will now go to Law Enforcement & Personnel committee, and the property insurance will go with Purchasing, Real Estate & Personal Property.

Time Capsule- Mayor advised the time capsule is on display at the Independence Library and will close at the end of December 2026.

Old Business

Mailbox Options- Discussed different options and City is looking into it more.

Library Update-Kayla provided an update.

Four Seasons Park Wi-Fi- Discussed the option to possible extend Library Wi-Fi to the park, council consensuses was to discuss at a late time.

New Library Tenant- Mayor Kloss advised this is just a reminder to keep thinking.

City Hanging Banners & Flower Hanging Baskets- Motioned by Skroch to approve to go with 26-20" Baskets for the same price as last year for $50 each totaling $1,300, seconded by Conrad. Roll Call Vote: Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes. 6-0 Yes, motion carried. Motioned by Skroch to go with the Clock and Snowman banners, seconded by Conrad. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

C**ommittee Reports:**
Ordinance-Swimming pool ordinance will be on for next month for Ordinance to review prior to meeting.

Ambulance- Skroch advised ambulance budget was increased significantly. Motioned by Ekern to reject the ambulance budget, seconded by Symicek. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

LEP- Motioned by Symicek to have the same plan Quartz: S305 Silver HMO as last year, Employees to pay 10% of the premium and employees to cover a portion of the HRA along with all employees receiving $1.00 raise, seconded by Kotlarz. Roll Call Vote: Skroch-Yes, Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes. 6-0 Yes, motion carried.

Approval of Invoices and Payments:
Motioned by Symicek to approve; seconded by Kotlarz. Roll Call vote: Kotlarz-Yes, Symicek-Yes, Ekern-Yes, Conrad-Yes, Palkowski-Yes, Skroch-Yes. 6-0 yes, motion Carried.

Future Agenda:

- Sidewalk & Driveway for City Lot (across from City Hall)
- Ehlers
- Time Capsule
- New Tenant in Library Space
- Ordinance-Swimming pool

Future Meeting Dates:
Council Meeting November 3rd, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

After having completed all matters before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

Dawn Smieja, City Clerk