

Water & Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. Chair Randy “Fritz” Conrad called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. Present were Craig Konter, Richard Warner (via phone), Tom Jensen, Jason Ekern, and Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch. Also in attendance was Mike Palkowski.

Proof of Giving Public Notice: Public notice was properly posted.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Jason Ekern, seconded by Craig Konter, to approve the agenda with Sections IX, X, and XI, all pertaining to closed session, stricken. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2026: Motion by Craig Konter, seconded by Jason Ekern, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

- A. **Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering:** No update was provided, as Water Superintendent Joe Galewski was unable to attend the meeting.
- B. **Water Pipe Survey:** No update was provided.
- C. **Water Service for 35194 & 35214 Diagonal Street:** Mike Palkowski, property owner of 35214 Diagonal Street, addressed the Commission regarding the installation and payment for a new separate meter. He stated that he believes the City should be responsible for the cost because separate meters should have been installed when the properties were originally built. The Commission asked that Mr. Palkowski attend the next meeting on June 29, 2026, when Water Superintendent Joe Galewski is expected to be present to provide input.
- D. **Water & Sewer Bills:** Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch reported that issues related to undelivered water and sewer bills still remained significantly lower this month than in previous months.

- E. **Water & Sewer Truck:** Chair Randy “Fritz” Conrad went over updated truck quotes received by Water Superintendent Joe Galewski from area dealerships. Nels Gunderson Chevrolet submitted a quote of \$54,500 for a 2024 service truck, including a strobe on the rack and aggressive new tires, with the offer ending May 31, 2026. Ford dealership submitted a quote of \$71,400 for a 2026 F-350 SD Super Cab. The Commission discussed the quotes and preferred the Chevrolet option at \$54,500. Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch reviewed the Water and Sewer equipment funds and the amount budgeted for the year to help determine affordability. The Commission agreed to bring the possibility of purchasing the truck from Nels Gunderson Chevrolet for \$54,500 to the City Council for assistance with financing.

Commission member Richard Warner arrived in person at 6:54 p.m.

Motion by Jason Ekern, seconded by Richard Warner, to present a request from the Water & Sewer Commission to the City Council for assistance in obtaining a loan for the purchase of a Water & Sewer truck in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. Roll call vote: Ayes, 5; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

New Business:

- A. **Water & Sewer Ordinance:** No update was provided, as Attorney Rick Schamberg and Water Superintendent Joe Galewski were unable to attend the meeting.
- B. **Pump Inspection:** No update was provided, as Water Superintendent Joe Galewski was unable to attend the meeting.
- C. **Sludge Transfer Pump:** No update was provided, as Water Superintendent Joe Galewski was unable to attend the meeting.

Superintendents Report:

- A. **Disconnect Update:** Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch reported that no update was available because the disconnect list would not be run until Monday, May 25, 2026.

Commissioner Report: No report.

Items for Next Agenda

- A. Water Service for 35214 Diagonal Street
- B. Water & Sewer Truck
- C. Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering
- D. Status update on Water Pipe Survey
- E. Disconnect Update

- F.** Water & Sewer Ordinance
- G.** Pump Inspection
- H.** Sludge Transfer Pump

Future Date for the next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Abby Bautch, Deputy City Clerk