

Town of Independence

Town Council Meeting

08/19/2026 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Bonnie Wilson. Councilmembers, Will Duke, Jim Tolbert and Tracy Sabey.

Staff attendance: Jodi Hoffman and Cathy Bingham

Others in attendance: Chuck Richins, Kim Tolbert, Edward Axley, Grace Doerfler, Bud Remund, Marsha Remund, Dave Millheim, Lauren Bolger, Ted McManus, Taylor Leavitt, Sonya Duke, Rylee Allen, Kurt Hoffman, and Melvin McQuarrie.

1. Mayor Pro Tem Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Prayer. Councilmember Duke offered the prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Sabey offered the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Discussion and possible adoption of draft minutes for June 10, 2026.
 - Councilmember Tolbert moved to approve the draft minutes for June 10, 2026.
 - Councilmember Duke seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
5. Consideration of road construction bids and possible Bid Award – Chuck Richins (Horrocks Engineering).
 - Mr. Richins explained the bids.
 - The bid document for the Road Improvement Project 2026 was based on the LiDar system report. It is for the reconstruction, paving and chip sealing of Little Sweden Road. He also included part of Duke Lane repairs as a bid alternative. The budget for this project is \$300,000. Bennett Paving and Construction submitted the low bid of \$144,899. Mr. Richins reported that in his opinion, this is not only the lowest bid, but also the most responsible one. He suggested the Council award this bid and with the remaining budget do a change order to do bid-option repairs from Little Sweden Road to approximately the Sabey residence on Duke Lane. He noted the bid includes 4" of asphalt.
 - Council had some concerns about getting the work completed before the weather turns cold. Mr. Richins felt the reconstruction and paving work could be done now and the chip sealing being done next spring. Ms. Hoffman would like to add to the contract that all work must be completed by June 30, 2027.
 - Councilmember Duke moved to award the 2026 Road Improvement Project to Bennett Paving and Construction.
 - Councilmember Sabey seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion of filed Petition for Disincorporation.

- Ms. Hoffman reviewed the Petition for Disincorporation and the action filed with the Court. The petition has 23 signatures (only 17 were needed). The process to disincorporate requires 25% of the registered voters from the last presidential election sign the petition, the County Clerk then verifies the signatures before turning the petition over to the 4th District Court. The County Clerk certified the signatures August 4, 2026 and turned it over to the 4th District Court. The 4th District Court reviewed the petition and on August 11, 2026 notified the petitioners that they have 30 days to provide additional information to the court to prove that the petition meets the statutory criteria for an election.
- Ms. Hoffman stated that if the Judge decides the petition is valid the Court will set a special election which will be held no sooner than 60 days from the decision and no later than 90 days. Registered voters in the Town will have the opportunity to vote for or against keeping the Town.
- After discussion, the Council was unanimous about its intent to reach out to residents, both in person and by mail, to encourage them to seek out facts about the Town, and to contact the Councilmembers with any questions and concerns they have. The Council stated they would be available to answer any questions the residents have about the Town.

7. Development Update.

- Ms. Hoffman asked Ed Axley and Melvin McQuarrie to report on their developments.
 - Ed Axley (Unified Independence – Town Center Developer) reported that his team has been working on the 4 major development requirements identified in the General Plan (plans for a municipal water system, with proven and dedicated water rights, a modern sanitary sewer system, road connectivity to keep new growth from using Center Creek and Duke Lane and maintaining the Town's resort cities sales tax status to prevent the need for a property tax) before they work on specific development and rezoning plans. He appreciates the Town's General Plan which they have used as a guideline in their planning. They are working with adjoining landowners from US 40 to the Kimball property to coordinate the General Plan's requirement for an interior road system and infrastructure planning.
 - Melvin McQuarrie (property owner) reported that he is also working with surrounding property owners on the 4 major requirements.

8. Roads Update

- No other road updates in addition to the contract for Little Sweden Road and Duke Lane.

9. Interview Council Candidates.

- Mayor Pro Tem read a letter from Landon Owens withdrawing his interest for Councilmember.
 - Mr. Owens stated he fully supported Billy Hansen in his application as a new Councilmember. He thanked the Town for the opportunity to serve on the Planning Commission and is comfortable continuing to serve there.
- Ms. Rylee Allen addressed the Council.
 - Ms. Allen grew up in Center Creek and is passionate about the area. She felt like her experience in customer service at Heber Light and Power would be a great asset to the Council and she would love the opportunity to serve the residents in the Town.

10. Adjourn.

- Councilmember Tolbert moved to adjourn at 8:59 pm.
- Councilmember Duke seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

Dated this 2nd day of September 2026.


Bonnie Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem


Cathy Bingham, Town Clerk