

Town of Independence

Town Council Meeting

09/02/2026 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: Kim Tolbert, Lauren Bolger, Rylee Allen, Kurt Hoffman, Colton McQuarrie, Greg Cronin, and Billy Hansen.

1. Mayor Pro Tem Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Prayer. Councilmember Tolbert offered the prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Sabey offered the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Discussion and possible adoption of draft minutes for August 19, 2026.
 - Councilmember Tolbert moved to approve the draft minutes for August 19, 2026.
 - Councilmember Duke seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
5. Town Disincorporation Update.
 - Ms. Hoffman reported there has been no word from the 4th District Court on the Motion to Intervene nor has there been a ruling on the Disincorporation Petition.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Wilson reported that postcards with information about the Town would be sent to residents this week. The Independenceut.gov website has been updated to include the information on the postcard. All agendas, meeting minutes, and other support documents are also posted on the website.
6. Discussion of Sheriff's Department cameras installed in Independence.
 - Ms. Hoffman contacted the Sheriff's office about the "Flock" cameras that have been installed in the Town. The Sheriff's office contacted Heber Light and Power for approval to install the cameras on the Heber Light & Power poles. This type of camera is mainly used to read license plates, but the data could also be used for other things. The contact person at the Sheriff's office didn't realize the cameras that were installed were in the Town limits. The cameras are not turned on as of the date of this meeting.
 - Councilmembers had a lot of questions about why the cameras were installed in this location, what the data would be used for, and who has access to the information. The Council would like more information about the cameras. The Council directed Ms. Hoffman to contact the Sheriff's office and invite them to the next meeting to discuss details. The Council will talk to residents and get their feelings about having the cameras located in the Town.
7. Review and Possible Approval of Snow Plowing Agreement with Wasatch County.

- Ms. Hoffman explained the agreement. The agreement doesn't commit to a set hourly wages and instead provides an estimated range. In past years the hourly wage has never exceeded the estimated wage. The rates are based off the posted FEMA rates. The estimated hourly rate went down \$6.00 per hour from last year's actual billing.
 - Councilmember Tolbert asked if we should ask for a fixed hourly wage.
 - Ms. Hoffman felt like the rate was significantly less than most private companies and did not recommend a change.
- Councilmember Duke moved to approve Snow Plowing Agreement with Wasatch County.
- Councilmember Sabey seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously.

8. Roads Update.

- The agreement for the 2026 Road Improvement Project has been executed, and equipment is being moved on site.
- Resident Bud Remund is concerned about the condition of the Dugway gravel road to the Forrest line. County crews were reported to be working in the area. Ms. Hoffman contacted the County to see if they could grade the Town's portion of the road while they were in the area. She didn't receive a response. From the LiDar study, Chuck Richins (Town Engineer) estimated grading to cost around \$6,000. In prior years the Town has spent approximately \$50,000 for repairs. Ms. Hoffman will report on the road condition at the next meeting.

9. Development Update

- A building permit for Cell Tower Improvements has been completed and closed out.
- No other updates on developments since last meeting.

10. Interview Council Candidates.

- Mr. Billy Hansen addressed the council.
 - Mr. Hansen grew up in Wasatch County and now resides in the Town of Independence. He loves the rural lifestyle but also realizes that property owners have the right to develop their property within the boundaries of the local governing body. Mr. Hansen said his interest in serving on the Council came after a few residents contacted him and asked if he would represent them. He is interested in finding out facts and serving those he represents.
- Jerry Hunsaker was not present for the Council to interview.

11. Closed Session. Council went into closed session at 7:54 p.m.

- Councilmember Duke made a motion to go back into regular council meeting at 8:41 pm.
- Councilmember Tolbert seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

12. Possible appointment of new Council Member.

- The Council accepted Councilmember Tracy Sabey’s resignation, thanked him for his 18 years of service to the Town, and wished him well in his retirement/future endeavors.
- Councilmember Duke made a motion to extend an offer to Rylee Allen to fill an open council seat (Councilmember Ryan’s seat) for the remaining 15-months of the term.
- Councilmember Tolbert seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.
- Councilmember Tolbert made a motion to extend an offer to Billy Hansen to fill the other open council seat (Councilmembers Sabey’s seat) for the remaining 15-months of his term.
- Councilmember Sabey seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

13. Adjourn.

- Councilmember Sabey moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm.
- Councilmember Duke seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2026.

Bonnie Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem

Lauren Bolger, Acting Town Clerk