

River City Briefs

June 23, 2023

The City of Independence, Oregon | 555 S Main St, Independence, OR 97351 | 503 838-1212

Para La Versión En Español

Independence City Council Adopt Budget Fiscal Year
2023-24

CITY OF INDEPENDENCE BUDGET FY 2023-24



The city of Independence presents the adopted budget for fiscal year 2023-24 for community viewing.

To successfully balance a city budget, it takes a team to prepare the particulars, including city staff, the city council, and the budget committee. We extend a great deal of gratitude for your service and dedication to our community.

Find out about the city's procedures, priorities, and projects by clicking the button below.

[Read the Budget Here](#)

Independence Days Wristbands Now on Sale



Independence Days wristbands are now on sale at six different locations, including the Independence Civic Center, the Independence Public Library, the Independence Heritage Museum, the Independence Hotel, Polk County Fire District No. 1, and the parking lot of Central Plaza every Saturday until the event. Each wristband is \$5 for persons ages six and up.

All locations are CASH ONLY, except the Independence Civic Center and the Independence Hotel, which accept cash, debit, and credit card. All sales are final.

Stay up-to-date with all the latest Independence Days information by clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Utility Rate Adjustment to Take Effect July 1, 2023

On February 28, 2023, the Independence city council approved the following rate adjustments, which are effective July 1, 2023:

- An increase of 3.5% in sewer rates each year for the next five years (\$1.90/month for the first year).



- An increase of 7.07% in stormwater base fee (10 cents/month) and no increase in the ERU charge.

Why are my utility bills going up?

In March 2022, the city completed a new wastewater master plan, including a 20-year sewer capital improvement plan, and in February 2023 the city completed a sewer rate study which recommended user charge updates to build the infrastructure rehabilitation and upgrade projects for existing users and anticipated population growth. The rate study identified sanitary sewer system costs, rate structure alternatives, debt, and equitable cost recovery methods for a five (5) year period. This rate adjustment reflects the actual cost to operate, maintain and improve the city's sanitary system.

- The city has not updated its stormwater fee structure since April 2005 and has not consistently raised its fees based on the recommendation of that plan. The city is adjusting its base fee only this year at the rate of inflation based upon the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI West Region; Series ID CUURN400SA0, as published, revised, and amended by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Future years will include inflation adjustments for both the base fee and ERU charge until an update master plan and fee study can be completed. This rate adjustment allows the city to maintain the existing level of service in the public stormwater facilities.

To learn more about how this process was conducted, click the button below.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Independence Opera House Awarded Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant

The Independence Opera House was recently awarded a \$200,000 Oregon Main Street Revitalization grant to renovate and rehabilitate the upstairs of the historic building into 4 unit apartments. Theodore "Ted" Baker owns the opera house and envisions a new future for the space.



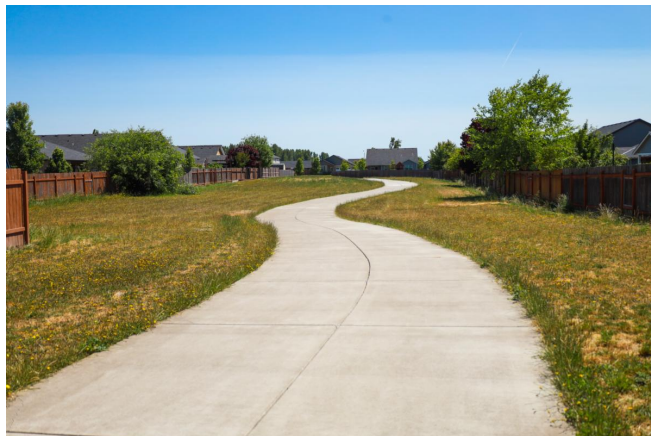
"I think it could really be a model for mixed-use historic buildings," said Ted. "In an 11,000-square-foot building, there are lots of uses."

With over 50 percent of the building in need of renovation, this project will adhere to historic building standards while refreshing the first floor into office/retail space.

The first floor is approximately 2,700 square ft, and the 2nd-floor apartment space is approximately 5,200 square ft which will configure into 4 units with 5 bedrooms, 16 ft high ceilings, and an additional multi-use loft space. Renovation and improvements will also be made to the historic façade, improving the aesthetics of the block. Local cornerstone restaurant Silk Thai Cuisine, which currently resides in the other half of the opera house building, will remain unaffected by the improvements.

[Read More Here](#)

Sunset Meadows Park Receives an Update



The City of Independence has begun design work for the Sunset Meadows Park improvement project located between Maple Street and Chestnut Street. The city intends to advertise for construction at the beginning of 2024

and complete construction by the summer of 2024.

To stay up-to-date on all our current Public Works projects, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Independence Participates in AARP Senior Community Listening Session

Earlier this month, a community listening session was held at the **Monmouth Senior Community Center** to help capture the voices of our senior-age residents about the livability of Independence and Monmouth. This is part of an initiative to pursue an AARP Age-Friendly Community designation for Monmouth and Independence, which would help create opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in community life. This first session in a three-part series was about Communication & Information, and Access to Healthcare.



Attendees admitted they receive most of their information from both city's respective newsletters and social media, prompting conversations about accessibility. Additionally, the need for transportation to and from medical appointments was discussed, with many residents stating that their specialists reside outside of Polk County.

The cities of Independence and Monmouth look forward to hosting more senior community forums in the future and making our community more welcoming for everyone.

Now Hiring Utility 1 Position

NOW HIRING

Utility 1

This entry level position performs a wide variety of duties in the Public Works Department, under the general guidance and direction of the Operations Manager. Work such as vehicle, sewer, storm and street work are performed somewhat independently. Training and direction provided by Utility II and Utility III's.

Learn more and apply at:
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/independenceor/>



Want to join a collaborative team and perform diverse work that matters?

This entry-level position performs a wide variety of duties in the Public Works Department, under the general guidance and direction of the Operations Manager. Work such as vehicle, sewer, storm, and street work are performed somewhat independently. Training and direction are provided by Utility II and Utility III's.

Learn more and apply by clicking the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

Heritage Museum Participates in Multi-Stop History Tour

Exploring History and Feeding the Mind



Join us for a multi-stop history tour. We will begin the day at the Independence Heritage Museum to view the traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine, *Fire & Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America*. From there, travel to the Corvallis Museum to explore the exhibit *Letitia Carson: An Enduring Spirit of Hope & Freedom*. This exhibit was created by Oregon Black Pioneers, as part of the Letitia Carson Legacy Project. Participants will have time to explore both exhibits and have time to visit other parts of each museum.

After visiting the museum, attendees will head to the Reciprocity Garden for a meal and a facilitated conversation about Black foodways and food sovereignty/justice, hosted by Oregon Black Pioneers' Executive Director Zachary Stocks and Co-Creator of the Reciprocity Garden, Charlotte Epps.

To learn more about the event and purchase tickets, please visit:
www.orheritage.org/history-tour



Saturday, July 8th, 2023 | 3PM

\$55 per person

Fee is nonrefundable and transportation not provided.



3PM Independence Heritage Museum
3:45PM Depart

4:15PM Corvallis Museum
5:15PM Depart

5:30PM Reciprocity Garden

Four organizations have come together to bring the Willamette Valley an extraordinary event! The Independence Heritage Museum, the Corvallis Museum, Oregon Black Pioneers, and OSU's Reciprocity Garden have

created a multi-stop history tour called *Exploring History and Feeding the Mind* which will occur on **July 8, 2023**.

First, visitors will go to the Independence Heritage Museum to view *Fire and Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America*. This exhibit, along with the companion website, was produced by the National Library of Medicine with guest curator, historian, author, and educator Psyche Williams-Forsen, Ph.D. (University of Maryland, College Park).

The traveling exhibition explores ways in which meals can tell us how power is exchanged between and among different peoples, races, genders, and classes. In the Chesapeake region during the colonial era, European settlers relied upon indentured servants, Native Americans, and enslaved Africans for labor, life-saving knowledge of farming, and food acquisition, to gain economic prosperity. *Fire and Freedom* details life at George Washington's Mount Vernon plantation and the labor of enslaved workers to learn about the ways that meals transcend taste and sustenance.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

Indy Idea Hub Offers Free Photo Shoot for Small Businesses

 **Idea Hub**

SMALL BIZ PHOTO DAY

Polk County businesses, we want to help you elevate your brand presence! Join us for a "photo shoot" day to get free, professional quality photos and tips for creating your own material. We can help you:

- ➔ Photograph a product
- ➔ Get a new headshot
- ➔ Take a team photo
- ➔ And more!

 **Tuesday, June 27**

 **Noon to 6 p.m.**

 **Indy Commons**
154 S Main ST, Independence

SIGN UP TO RESERVE A SPOT

 www.indyideahub.org
hello@indyideahub.org



MI Rotary Presents 4th of July Kids Parade



4TH *Of* JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY
Kids Parade

Free Entry | No Registration Necessary
***** Meet at the corner of Monmouth Ave
and Jackson at 11:40 am on July 4th! *****

The illustration at the bottom shows a cat, an elephant, and a cow wearing patriotic sunglasses and scarves, standing on a red carpet with fireworks in the background.

Recycling Reminders from Brandt's

Thank you
for recycling!

Brandt's
Sanitary Service, Inc
503-838-0464

RECYCLE RIGHT

MIXED RECYCLING



Only plastics marked with a 1 or a 2 can be recycled



Metal Metal
Steel (tin) cans | Latas de acero (estaño)
Aluminum cans | Latas de aluminio

Paper & Cardboard

Junk Mail
Greeting Cards (no foil or glitter)
Magazines
Newspaper
Phone Books
Paperback Books
Paper Bags

Papel y Cartón

Correo no Deseado
Tarjetas de felicitación (sin aluminio o glitter)
Revistas
Periódicos
Libros telefónicos
Libros de tapa blanda
Bolsas de papel



Plastics Plásticos
Bottles | Botellas
Jugs | Gallones
12 ounces or larger ONLY

**EMPTY CLEAN & DRY
VACIO LIMPIO SECO**



Glass Bottles & Jars ONLY
(rinse clean and remove lids)



Household batteries ONLY
(must be in sealed bag)

Motor Oil Only
(2 gallon Max)

TRASH IT

These materials are now considered contaminants.

EVERYTHING MARKED WITH A 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 CAN NOT BE RECYCLED!



Scrap Metal
Chatterras de metal



Egg Cartons
Cartones de huevos



Shredded Paper
Papel triturado



Plastic Cups
Vasos de Plástico



Plastic Tubs
Contenedores de plástico



Aerosol Cans
Latas de aerosol



Aluminum Foil
Papel de Aluminio



Plastic Jars
Frascos de plástico



Clamshells & Take Out Trays
No canastas de plástico o
contenedores de comida para llevar

NO Plastic Bags or Styrofoam in blue bin

[Learn More Here](#)

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INDEPENDENCE
Oregon's Story Begins Here



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