

City Council Updates;
New Water Rate Structure Coming January 2025

River City Briefs

November 22, 2024

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

Para La Versión En Español

60-Second Council - November 12, 2024 Meeting



Feeling out of the loop? Welcome to 60-Second Council—your quick, easy way to stay informed about the important work shaping our community. In just one minute, get the key takeaways from city council meetings, so you can stay connected and engaged as we work together to build a better, stronger, and kinder city.

For more details about city council discussions, visit:

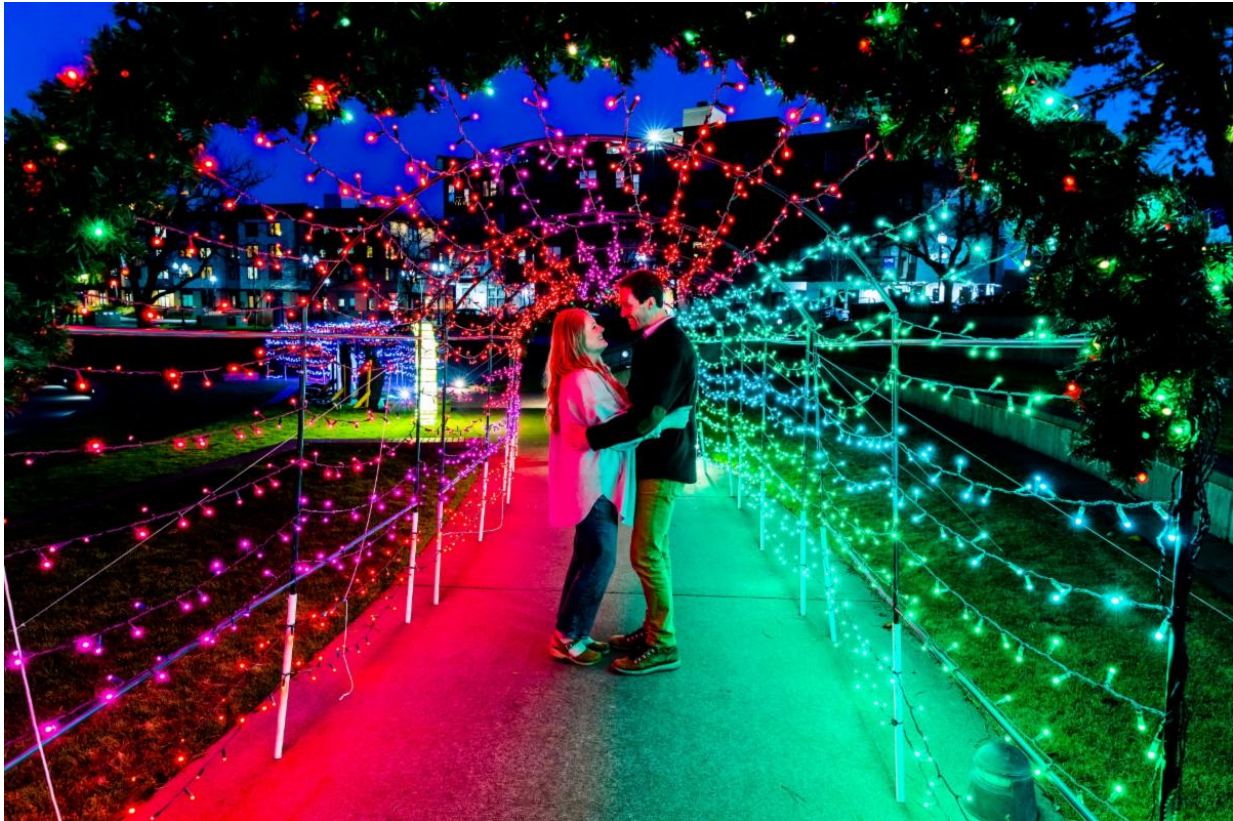
<https://www.ci.independence.or.us/agenda-minutes/>

Want to stay even more in the know? Subscribe for email updates on public meetings here:

<https://ciindependenceor.civicweb.net/Portal/Subscribe.aspx>

Watch Video Here

Holiday Light Display Kick-off Event Coming Soon



Get ready to light up your holiday season at our Glow Holiday Light Display kickoff event! Join us on **Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 5:30 PM** in **Riverview Park** for an evening filled with carols, cheer, and holiday spirit.

Our brilliant light displays will shine every night in Riverview Park through January 12, 2025—and the best part? They're free to walk through, so you can jingle all the way through the park and enjoy the holiday magic!

Don't miss this sparkling experience that's sure to be a seasonal treat for the whole family!

Shape the Future of Independence's Park System



Last week, we held a Parks Master Plan open house at the Independence Civic Center. It was a fantastic opportunity for community members to share ideas and feedback about the future of our parks facilities. We were joined by our consulting team, who helped guide discussions and answer questions about this important process.

This plan will guide the development of our parks for the next 20 years, so your input is vital! If you missed the in-person meeting, you can share your thoughts and help shape the long-term vision for our parks by taking our survey below.

[Take the Survey](#)

New Water Rate Structure Coming January 2025

Beginning January 1, 2025, the City of Independence will implement a new block pricing structure for water rates. For most residents, this change means you'll remain in the Base Block with water usage charged at the base rate of \$3.70 per unit.

For customers who use more than 14 units of water per billing cycle, the following tiered rates will apply:

- Base Block (up to 14 units): \$3.70 per unit
- Block 1 (15 to 30 units): \$4.29 per unit
- Block 2 (over 30 units): \$4.63 per unit

•
Note: One unit equals approximately 750 gallons, and the typical single-family home uses about 5 to 6 units of water each month.

In addition to the rate adjustment, we're undertaking a multi-year project to replace the city's aging water meters. Upgrading these meters ensures accurate readings, as older meters may not fully reflect actual water use. Public Works Operations is working closely with contractors to make this transition seamless, and we expect the project to be completed within the next four years.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during the meter replacement process. As always, we encourage everyone to conserve water whenever possible to protect our precious resources and keep your water bills as low as possible.

For more information about the new rates or the meter replacement project, click the button below.

[Learn More Here](#)

THE WALL THAT HEALS is Coming to Independence in 2025



*Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center
spreads healing legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the
Vietnam War*

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Independence, Oregon on September 18 through 21, 2025 at the Independence Sports Complex and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. *The Wall That Heals* honors the more than three million

Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

“It is healing to welcome the Wall that Heals to Independence,” said Billy Whisenant, Commander of the American Legion Post 33. “Having served as a Marine in Vietnam 67-68 it is deeply personal for me, and I am honored to be a part of the support and effort of the city of Independence and fellow citizens who have contributed to hosting the Wall that Heals. We all look forward to welcoming you and appreciate this opportunity to remember, remind, and pay our respects to our countrymen and women who served, fought, and died in Vietnam and to the families who lost their loved ones and helped us with our personal wars after Vietnam.”

“We are honored and thrilled to welcome *The Wall That Heals* to Independence,” said Independence Mayor John McArdle. “This moving tribute provides our community with a profound opportunity to reflect, honor, and connect with the sacrifices made by those who served. We look forward to sharing in this powerful experience together.”

[Read More Here](#)

Myra Russell Appointed as the Next City Recorder

The city of Independence is pleased to announce the appointment of Myra Russell as the new City Recorder. Russell, a resident of Independence, has been with the city for over six years, starting her journey in 2018 as an accountant/payroll specialist. Since then, she has expanded her role, adding court administration to her duties and becoming an integral part of the city’s operations.

Russell’s decision to work for the city of Independence was driven by her desire to serve the local community. “I wanted to work closer to home and contribute to the community,” she explained. Her family’s deep roots in the area, including her grandparents who farmed the fields, further fueled her



commitment to serving her hometown.

In her new role as City Recorder, Russell looks forward to embracing new challenges and expanding her skill set. “I’ve always enjoyed learning new things, and I’m excited about the variety of tasks the City Recorder position offers,” she said. She aims to bring the same dedication and adaptability to this role that has defined her work with payroll and court administration.

As she steps into this new role, Russell is eager to engage with residents and ensure their needs are met. “If I don’t know the answer, I’ll find it,” she said, emphasizing her dedication to transparency and service.

Russell holds a degree in Elementary Education from Western Oregon University and has a wealth of experience, having worked her way up from a bagger to a position in the corporate finance department at Roth’s. Outside of her professional life, Russell enjoys building with Legos and creating stained glass art.

The city of Independence is excited to welcome Myra Russell into this important position and looks forward to her continued contributions to the community.

4 Easy Steps to Save Water this Winter

4 Easy Steps

to Save Water in Your Home



For more helpful tips on saving water, visit our website: www.ci.independence.or.us/water/

The City of Independence is here to help you conserve water and lower your water bill. Follow these four simple steps to reduce water usage in your home this winter.



1 Use Washing Machines and Dishwashers Efficiently

Use washing machines and dishwashers only when full, or use water-efficient settings if available. Avoid washing clothes or dishes by letting water flow continuously



2 Turn Off Water Taps When Not In Use

Be sure to turn off taps when not in use, such as when brushing teeth, washing hands, or doing dishes.



3 Install Water-Efficient Showerheads

Consider installing showerheads with limited water flow or equipped with aerator features to reduce water usage during showers.



4 Shorten Your Shower

Keeping the shower time to less than 5 minutes can save the average household up to 1,000 gallons per month.

4 Pasos sencillos

para Ahorrar Agua en Su Casa

Para obtener más consejos útiles sobre cómo ahorrar agua, visite nuestro sitio web: www.ci.independence.or.us/water/

La Ciudad de Independence está aquí para ayudarlo a conservar el agua y reducir su factura de agua. Siga estos cuatro sencillos pasos para reducir el uso de agua en su casa este invierno.



1 Utilice lavadoras y lavavajillas de manera eficiente

Use lavadoras y lavavajillas solo cuando estén llenas, o use configuraciones de uso eficiente del agua si están disponibles. Evite lavar ropa o platos dejando correr agua continuamente



2 Cierre los grifos de agua cuando no estén en uso

Asegúrese de cerrar los grifos cuando no estén en uso, como al cepillarse los dientes, lavarse las manos o lavar los platos.



3 Instale cabezales de ducha que ahorren agua

Considere instalar cabezales de ducha con flujo de agua limitado o equipados con aireadores para reducir el uso de agua durante las duchas.



4 Acorta tu ducha

Mantener el tiempo de ducha en menos de 5 minutos puede ahorrarle a un hogar promedio hasta 1,000 galones por mes.

Did you know there are simple ways to conserve water at home and lower your utility bills? The City of Independence is here to help with 4 easy steps:

1. Use washing machines and dishwashers efficiently.
2. Turn off taps when not in use.
3. Install water-efficient showerheads.
4. Shorten your shower to less than 5 minutes.

Make every drop count this winter! For more water-saving tips, click the button below.

Learn More Here

Shop Local this Holiday Season

**Welcome to the
Downtown Holiday
Market!**
Celebrating shopping local.

Let your festive spirit come alive as you visit over 40 vendors showcasing their amazing creations! While you walk from one location to the next make sure to explore our charming downtown shops, brimming with delightful gifts available all year round. It's a perfect way to celebrate the season and find something special for everyone on your list!

Downtown Shops to Visit for Special Gifts:

Bramble Boutique
The Collection on Main
The Dandy Lion
Heartfelt Hideaway
Maganda Glassworks
Melting Pot Candy
River Gallery
Rockin Rad Relics
Rose Cottage Gifts // T.S.G.
Second Chance Books
Valkyrie Wine Tavern
Witches Vine

Downtown Holiday Market
Nov. 30, 2024 | 12PM - 5PM

Heritage Museum
281 S C St.
Mrs. K's Creations Crafts
Constellation Cravings
Aces High Beading
CraftyRealtor24
Art by Mari Jo

Jubilee
296 S Main St.
Small Batch Baubles
Vickie's Custom Card
Crunchy Mamas
Natural Skin & Body

Parallel 45 Brewing
240 Monmouth St.
Falls City High School MakerSpace
Forever Linked Permanent Jewelry
Krislynn's Cakelicious Desserts
Mariposa Beautiful Creations
Whiskey Wild Boutique
T and T Crafting Magic
North Star Soapworks
CamitheCrafter
Purple Paisley
Robixy, LLC

Manuia Care
155 C St.
PNW Ultra 3D Printing & Hobbies
Olga V. Walmisley-Santiago
Just One More Bite Bakery
Ash Creek Arts Center
Lottie's Pet Bandanas
Stella Marie Crochet
Bunny Rose Crafts
Karsyn's Kitchen
A Doe, My Dears
Troop 9038

Indy Commons
154 S Main St.
Dancing Muse Costume Shop
Blissful Moments by Sharon
Baobab Southern Kitchen
Bracelets by Josselyn
Ai Dias by ITZAIZU

Brew
211 S Main St.
Tim's Flint Knapping
UnFettered Iron
Whitcher Made
IDA: Wreaths

Independence Hotel
201 Osprey Ln.
Lil Chicks Handmade Designs
This and That by Becca
Boss Ladys Treasures
Alondra's Artesanias
J's Dreadful Designs
JGDesign by Jenny
Poppy&Pepper Co.
Sweet Indulgence
Templetons Best
GCH Creations

Join the Independence Downtown Association and the Heritage Museum in downtown Independence for a magical holiday shopping experience! The Downtown Holiday Market will showcase the best local artisans and small businesses, offering one-of-a-kind gifts that you won't find anywhere else. Whether you're looking for handcrafted jewelry, cozy knitwear, unique home décor, or delicious homemade treats, there's something special for everyone on your list.

You will be able to pick up a map of vendor locations from the Heritage Museum or find it online: www.downtownindependence.com/dhm
Shop local, support your community, and find the perfect gift!

November 30th from 12PM - 5PM in downtown Independence.

Visit their Website

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Oregon's Story Begins Here



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