

Independence Police Monthly Report;
Latest City Council Decisions

River City Briefs

December 19, 2025

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

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2025 | A Year in Review



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2025, the city of Independence took important steps to strengthen its foundation for the future. Through infrastructure improvements, community-focused public safety, and honest conversations about finances, the city remained committed to serving residents today while planning responsibly for what comes next.

2025 Highlights

Strengthening Core Infrastructure

The city is updating its Parks Master Plan to shape future park improvements. Separately, the city is advancing on-the-ground upgrades to critical utility infrastructure, including work on a future water treatment

plant, pump stations, and biosolids removal to strengthen reliability and meet future needs.

Public Safety Leadership and Community Policing

Under the leadership of Police Chief Juventino “Tino” Banuelos, the Independence Police Department focused on community-centered policing, transparency, and engagement. Events like Coffee with a Cop provided residents with opportunities to connect directly with officers, ask questions, and build relationships outside of emergency situations.

Strategic Annexations and Land Use Decisions

Council approved annexations and rezonings to support future infrastructure projects and managed growth. These actions position the city to efficiently deliver services while planning responsibly for the future.

Financial Planning and Transparency

Facing rising costs and limited revenues, the city took a transparent approach to financial challenges by hosting town halls and community Q&A sessions focused on the budget. These conversations helped residents better understand financial constraints while providing valuable input on priorities. The city also combined the library and museum into the Community Services Department to improve efficiency and service coordination.

Community Events and Connection

Signature events such as the River’s Edge Summer Series continued to bring residents and visitors together. These events supported local businesses, activated public spaces, and reinforced Independence’s strong sense of community.

Thank you to our residents, businesses, volunteers, and partners for your continued engagement and support. As we look ahead, the city of Independence remains committed to thoughtful planning, strong services, and a future shaped in partnership with the community — because

Oregon’s story begins here.

60-Second Council - December 9, 2025



On Tuesday December 9, the Independence City Council worked through a full agenda and covered several key items:

- The meeting opened with the Mayor's report, followed by updates from the Traffic Safety Commission and Historic Preservation Commission liaisons.

- The council held a public hearing on the annexation and rezoning of 6675 Corvallis Road, the future site of the city's new water treatment plant. After closing the hearing, the council unanimously adopted the ordinance.

- The council scheduled February 10, 2026, as the public hearing date for the proposed annexation of 46.7 acres along South 13th Street.

- The council received an update on first-quarter financials and approved several budget adjustments, including an insurance refund, police grant awards, and cost allocations for grant-writing services.

- The council approved banking signature updates as the city transitions from the outgoing to the incoming Finance Director.

- The second-Thursday Work Session has been canceled, and city offices will be closed on December 25 for the Christmas holiday. Police services will continue 24/7.

For more details, visit the city of Independence website.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Officers Participate in Shop with a Cop



On Saturday, December 5, the Independence Police Department joined the Polk County Sheriff's Office for the annual Shop with a Cop event. Students from the Central School District were bussed to and from the Dallas Walmart, where we shopped, wrapped gifts, and sent everyone home with smiles.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's event a success. We can't wait to do it again next year!

Independence Police Release Monthly Report



Have you been curious about what our officers have been up to all month? The Independence Police Department is sharing a sample of the calls for service each month to inform and educate community members on the work we do.

In November 2025, officers engaged in 660 activities, including 16 Arrests (Adults and Juveniles), 21 check welfares, 14 domestic disturbances, 7 hit-and-run crashes, 9 emotional health calls, and 57 Suspicious Activity / Person / Vehicle calls.

[Read Full Report Here](#)

Upcoming Public Hearings



The city of Independence encourages residents to stay informed and take part in upcoming public hearings that help guide local impacts:

January 5, 2025 - Consideration of Revised Change to Fence Standards

The Commission will hold a public hearing on a potential change to the fence standards in the city of Independence to better accommodate fences that are six feet with barbed wire.

January 13, 2025 - Consideration of Changes to Standards for Single Room Occupancies and Other Requirements to address recent State Legislation - City Council - 6:30 pm

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Winter Book Sale

**FRIENDS OF THE
INDEPENDENCE LIBRARY**

WINTER *Book Sale*

Old Library - 311 S Monmouth Street

JAN. 3RD: 10-3 PM



For more info: Call 503-838-1811

Walk of Hearts Fundraiser Returns



Express your sentiment with a personal message on a bright red heart.

Your message of love will hang on a lamp post in downtown Independence during the month of February.

Scan QR to order your heart TODAY!

Order forms at www.downtownindependence.com

Order DEADLINE: **January 9th, 2026**



FUNDRAISER

All proceeds go towards funding multiple IDA events throughout the year including:
Summer Flower Baskets, Last Day of School, Hop & Heritage Festival, Halloween, Lighted Holiday Wreaths, and more.

Buy Heart Here

Honor MLK with Day of Service



Sign up by January 12



2026 MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Help make a difference in Monmouth. Join the City of Monmouth and volunteer and give back on this national day of service. Volunteers will help do basic yard work and cleaning for community members who need assistance. We will gather at 9:00am at the Monmouth Senior Community Center at 180 Warren St. and volunteer activities will take place until 12:00pm.



If you have any questions, please reach out to Suzanne Dufner at 503-751-0147
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January 19, 2026

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