

City Council Meeting Recap; Boards and Commissions Openings

River City Briefs

September 25, 2026

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

Para La Versión En Español

60-Second Council - September 22, 2026 Meeting



City Council Meeting Recap

Tuesday night, the city council began with a work session on serial meetings, including a presentation from the city's in-house attorney. The council then moved into its regular meeting, which included several actions related to the museum property:

- Council declared the museum building surplus property, making it eligible for sale.

-Council then held a public hearing to receive comments on the potential sale.

-Following the hearing, council approved a resolution authorizing the city manager to sign the documents necessary to complete the sale. The sale will provide one-time revenue, not ongoing funding for city operations, while giving the city additional financial capacity to prepare for unexpected needs. Over the next several months, museum staff will continue caring for the collection. Some artifacts will be returned to their original donors, while others will be moved to a temperature-controlled environment for safekeeping.

For more information on these and other city council actions, visit the city of Independence website.

[Watch Video Here](#)

Heritage Museum Building Sale Approved

MUSEUM BUILDING SALE APPROVED



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At Tuesday's meeting, the city council approved the sale of the Heritage Museum building for \$750,000. The sale follows the building's November 2025 listing and a public process that included a public hearing on the proposed sale. The Community Services and Parks fee, adopted in this year's budget, did not include the museum building as part of its funding calculation; therefore, the sale has no impact on the fee.

After the city pays off the remaining \$280,665 loan and applicable transaction and closing costs, it will add about \$424,000 of one-time revenue to the city's General Fund contingency. That reserve is currently critically low and helps the city respond to unexpected expenses, including major maintenance needs, emergencies, and natural disasters. The sale of the museum building brings the city's General Fund contingency to less than half of what the Government Finance Officers Association recommends.

Over the next several months, museum staff will continue caring for the collection, returning some artifacts to their original donors and moving other items to a temperature-controlled storage environment for

safekeeping. According to the terms of the sale, the city will fully vacate the building within 120 days.

The Heritage Museum is more than a building. It is the collection that tells the story of Independence and the people who shaped our community, and we will continue our commitment to preserving and sharing that history.

Connect with Your Local Police



Grab a coffee and enjoy a relaxed conversation with Independence PD.

Coffee with a Cop is all about breaking down barriers between police officers and the community—no agendas, just a chance to ask questions, share concerns, and get to know the officers who serve your neighborhood.

Wednesday | Oct 7, 2026

9am - 11am at Brew Coffee & Tap House

www.ci.independence.or.us/police/



Independence Library Director Joins National Conversation on Libraries



While attending the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Annual Conference in Montgomery, Library Director Patrick Bodily was invited to participate in the conference's closing keynote talk, where renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma led a special celebration of libraries, library professionals and the power of narrative. Travel to the conference was covered by the Rural Institute at the University of Montana through Bodily's participation in the CARE project, or Collaborative Access for Rural Empowerment.

The grant-funded CARE project brings together representatives from rural libraries and rural centers for independent living to create a resource center designed to strengthen connections between rural libraries and centers for independent living. Bodily, a past president of ARSL, participated in the conference as part of that broader work supporting rural libraries and their communities.

During the closing keynote, Bodily joined a conversation exploring the role libraries play in strengthening communities, creating meaning and bringing people together. He shared the stage with Bree Drapa of South Burlington Public Library in Vermont, Linda Johnson of Brooklyn Public Library, Tony Marx of New York Public Library, Louise Richardson of the Carnegie Foundation and Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative.

Together, the panel explored big-picture questions about the future of libraries, including how Carnegie's vision for libraries can be carried forward today and how rural and urban libraries can learn from and support one another.

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

National Preparedness Month

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September is National Preparedness Month, a good time to make sure you're ready to receive important information when an emergency affects our community.

Marion-Polk Alerts provides emergency notifications by text message, phone call, or email. Alerts may include severe weather, public safety emergencies, evacuation and shelter information, road closures, utility disruptions, and other situations that may affect you.

During an emergency, alerts may also include important instructions about where to shelter, when to evacuate, or what areas to avoid.

Take one simple step toward being prepared: sign up for Marion-Polk Alerts today!

[Sign Up Here](#)

Get Involved in Your City

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

We are looking for passionate individuals like you to join our boards and commissions and make a positive impact on our community.

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Want to help shape the future of Independence?

The city has openings on two community boards, and we're looking for residents who want to get involved and help guide decisions that affect our community.

Budget Committee: 1 position

Parks Board: 2 positions

The Budget Committee plays an important role in reviewing the city's proposed budget, while the Parks Board helps advise our community's parks system.

The deadline to apply for this quarter is September 30, 2026.

If you're interested in serving your community, we'd love to hear from you.

[Apply Here](#)

Community Services & Parks Closure Information



In August, the city of Independence began service and facility closures following changes to the funding available for Parks, Library and Museum services.

The city's adopted FY 2026–27 budget included revenue from a Community Services & Parks Fee to support the continued operation of these services. A referendum petition regarding the ordinance establishing the fee has qualified for the November election. While the referendum process is underway, the city cannot collect the fee.

Because the adopted budget relies on this fee revenue and the city does not have sufficient reserves to bridge the resulting funding gap until the election, temporary closures and service reductions became necessary.

Service reductions include:

- **All city parks, besides Riverview Park, Independence Landing, Inspiration Garden are closed to the public.**
- **The Independence Heritage Museum is closed.**

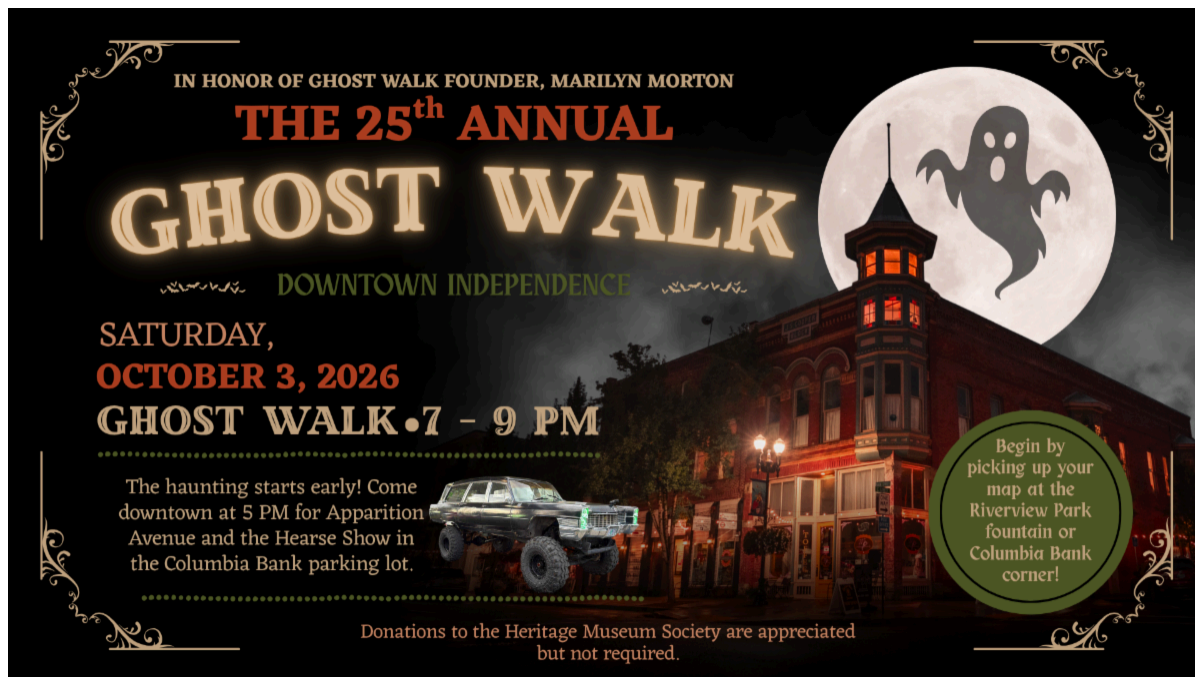
The city is continuing to evaluate available funding and operational options. The temporary closures are expected to remain in place while the funding situation is addressed and through the November election process.

The page below is intended to provide factual information about current closures, affected services, and what residents can expect in the coming

months. It is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to advocate for or against any ballot measure.

[Learn More Here](#)

25 Years of Ghosts in Downtown Independence



Spirits are returning to downtown Independence... some of them never left.

Join the Heritage Museum Society on Saturday, October 3, 2026, for the 25th anniversary of the Independence Ghost Walk, a free evening of ghostly stories, local history, and maybe a few spirits of another kind.

At 5 p.m., explore downtown with Apparition Avenue, followed at 6 p.m. by Imbibing the Spirits, a \$20 haunted pub crawl featuring sample pours and spooky stories at Arena, Gilgamesh, and Valkyrie. Space is limited to 30 people, so click the link in our bio to reserve your spot.

Then at 7 p.m., join us at Riverview Park for the **free** Ghost Walk, celebrating the legacy of Marilyn Morton, who created and loved this Independence tradition.

Come for one event or join us for the whole evening. You never know who you might meet.

[Learn More Here](#)

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