Independence Police Monthly Report; City Council Meeting Recap

River City Briefs

November 6, 2026

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

Para La Versión En Español

Community Services & Parks Fee Election Update



The city of Independence thanks the residents who participated in this election and helped shape the future of our community.

The city of Independence thanks everyone who participated in the Community Services and Parks Fee election. Preliminary election results show support for the fee, which would provide a path forward for preserving the parks, facilities, and services that are important to our community. While results are not yet final, the city will continue to monitor the election process and await confirmation of the official results.

Although the fee is expected to pass, the city cannot collect that revenue until February 2027 due to the timing of the certification

process. In the coming weeks, city staff will prepare a thoughtful plan for restoring services and resuming normal parks operations. We will keep residents informed as those plans take shape.

This is a positive step forward for Independence and for the places and experiences that bring neighbors together, connect generations, and contribute to the character of our community. We look forward to moving ahead together.

60-Second Council - October 27, 2026 Meeting



City Council Meeting Recap

At the October 27 city council meeting, council discussed parking, reviewed legal services savings, and took action on two liquor license and property matters.

- During a work session, staff shared results from a parking study identifying problem areas and potential solutions. Staff will continue reviewing options and bring recommendations back to council.

- Council learned that the city's in-house attorney has provided more than 350 hours of legal services for approximately $41,600. The same number of hours would have cost nearly $107,000 through outside counsel, saving the city more than $65,000, or about 61%.

- Council approved a liquor license for Pioneer Beverage, which operates the Independence Liquor Store.

- Council declared the Sports Park property surplus and held a public hearing on its potential sale. Council then unanimously approved selling the property to Capital Futbol Club for $275,000. The club plans to develop the property into a sports complex. Revenue from the sale will be added to the city's General Fund contingency, which is currently critically low. This reserve helps the city respond to unexpected expenses, including major maintenance needs, emergencies, and natural disasters.

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

Watch Video Here

Protect Our Storm Drains This Fall



Leaves and other debris can clog storm drains, preventing rainwater from flowing properly and increasing the risk of localized flooding. Keeping our streets and storm drains clear helps protect our roads, neighborhoods, and local waterways.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- Keep leaves out of the street. Rake leaves from your property into your yard debris bin rather than blowing or sweeping them into the roadway.
- Give storm drains some breathing room. If you notice leaves collecting around a nearby drain, safely clear them away when possible. Never enter the street or attempt to remove a drain grate.
- Put those leaves to good use. Consider composting or mulching leaves to create nutrient-rich material for your garden.

A little leaf cleanup goes a long way toward keeping our stormwater system flowing and our community prepared for rainy weather.

Read Full Report Here

Independence Police Monthly Report



Have you been wondering what our officers have been up to this month? The Independence Police Department shares a sample of monthly calls for service to inform and educate community members about the work we do.

In October 2026, officers responded to 813 calls for service. These included 33 arrests (adults and juveniles), 15 welfare checks, 20 domestic disturbances, 2 hit-and-run crashes, 11 emotional health calls, and 63 suspicious activity/person/vehicle calls. The activities listed above represent only a portion of the calls officers respond to. Other incidents may include resident contact calls, tows, attempts to locate, assistance to other agencies, crashes, and other service requests.

Read Full Report Here

Have a Say in Your Community



Want to help shape the future of Independence?

Several city boards and commissions have terms expiring at the end of the year, creating opportunities for community members to get involved, share their perspectives, and guide decisions that affect our community. Upcoming positions include:

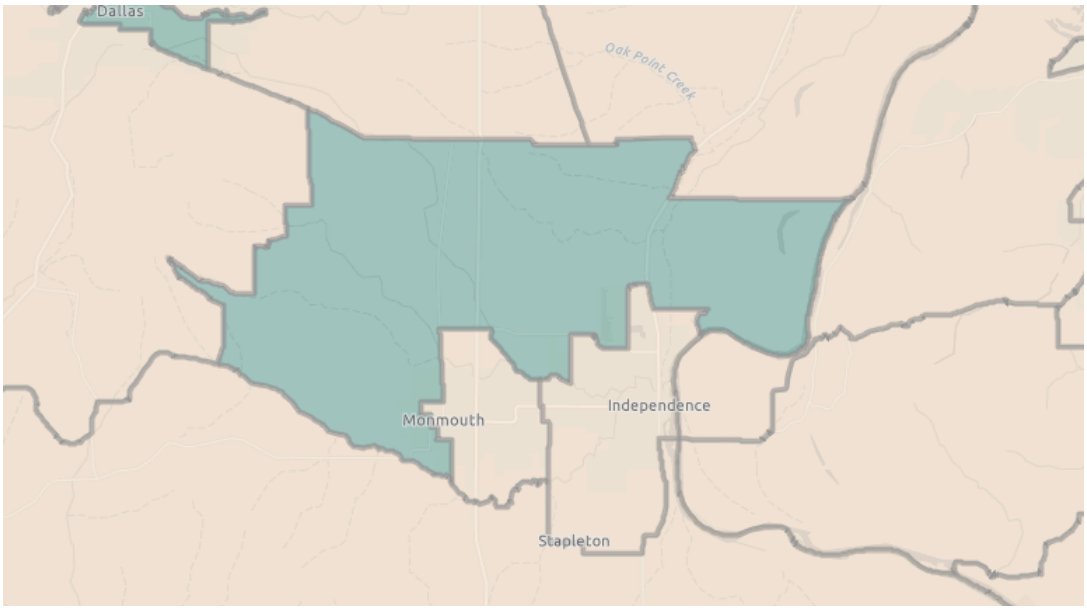
- **Budget Committee: 2 positions**
- **Museum Advisory Board: 2 positions**
- **Historic Preservation Commission: 2 positions**
- **Parks Board: 2 positions**
- **Planning Commission: 2 positions**
- **Traffic Safety Commission: 2 resident member positions**

Whether you're interested in preserving local history, supporting our parks, helping shape the city budget or planning for Independence's future, there's an opportunity to make a difference.

Interested in serving your community? We encourage you to apply and become part of the process!

Learn More Here

Independence and Monmouth Secure Federal Opportunity Zone Designation to Attract Investment and Create Jobs



Through the collaborative efforts of the cities of Independence and Monmouth, a joint Independence/Monmouth census tract has been designated as a federal Opportunity Zone. The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the designation on November 5, 2026, with an effective date of January 1, 2027. This designation, under the newly permanent federal Opportunity Zone program, represents a significant opportunity to attract private investment, support business development, create new employment opportunities, and encourage long-term economic growth.

Opportunity Zones are a federal economic development program designed to encourage investment in designated areas through significant federal tax incentives. Investors who make qualifying investments may benefit from capital gains tax deferrals, reductions in taxable gains, and favorable tax treatment of long-term investment appreciation.

For Independence this designation represents a positive economic development opportunity. It can help attract new employers, support the expansion of existing businesses, and encourage redevelopment of underutilized properties. These investments have the potential to create new jobs for residents, expand employment opportunities within the communities, stimulate economic activity, and strengthen the communities' long-term tax bases.

An additional benefit is that the program does not require direct city funding or subsidies. Instead, it provides federal tax incentives that make qualifying investments within the designated area more financially attractive to private investors.

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