



City Council Study Session Minutes

July 28, 2025 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Update from IPD on the Issuance of Body Worn Cameras

Deputy Chief presented this item.

In 2023, the Independence Police Department was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Justice, which assisted in the purchase of Axon Body Worn Cameras.

- The “Axon Body 4” is the body-worn camera issued to Independence Police Officers.
- Axon is the leading provider of bodyworn camera technology in the United States.

What are bodywork cameras?

- Body-worn cameras are devices that law enforcement officers wear on their uniforms to record video and audio during their interactions with the public.
- The use of a body-worn camera increases transparency and accountability. It helps create a clearer record of interactions between police and the public, which can be beneficial for investigations, legal proceedings, and improving community trust.
- The Axon Body 4 in use by the Independence Police Department records audio and video in high-definition quality. Evidentiary footage is wirelessly uploaded to Axon’s cloud-based storage system where it is securely stored.

Use in Policing

- The use of the body-worn camera provides clear, real-time video evidence of incidents, which can be crucial in investigations and court proceedings.
- Recorded footage can be used for training purposes, helping Officers learn from real life scenarios.
- Body-worn cameras improve trust in law enforcement by demonstrating a commitment to

accountability and transparency.

- Footage can showcase positive engagements between officers and the community, reinforcing trust and showing that officers are dedicated to serving the public.
- The Axon Body 4 utilizes Axon's "Evidence.com" for efficient and secure storage, retrieval, and management of video footage.
- Independence Police Department policy states that utilization of a body-worn camera will be mandated for Officers working in on-duty and/or off-duty capacity.

Reduction in Citizen Complaints

- Studies have indicated that departments using body-worn cameras often see a decrease in complaints against officers. The presence of a camera can deter aggressive behavior.
- When complaints do arise, body camera footage can be quickly reviewed by an Officer's supervisor or Internal Affairs Officers to assess their validity, allowing for faster resolution and reducing prolonged disputes.

Automatic Activation Features

Axon's smart technology automatically begins recording when the following actions are taken by an Officer:

- When an Officer activates their emergency lights, Axon's "Fleet" in-car dash camera and the Officer's bodyworn camera will simultaneously begin recording.
- When an Officer deploys their Taser. This ensures key moments are captured and reduces reliance on Officers to manually activate their cameras during an incident.

Axon Fleet 3-in car cameras

- Independence Police Vehicles are equipped with the latest in-car camera technology, capturing high-quality footage for accurate documentation of events.

Pre-event Buffering

- Axon body-worn cameras and in-car cameras are equipped with a "pre-event buffering" feature. The camera continuously records and overwrites footage, typically in segments of 30 seconds, so that it captures events leading up to an incident without filling up storage. Officers may not remember to manually activate their cameras during rapidly evolving and high stress situations. Pre-event buffering assists with ensuring that key moments during the incident are not missed.

Evidence Management

- Evidence.com is a cloud-based digital evidence management system developed by Axon. Officers utilizing Evidence.com can review body-worn camera footage, add evidence to cases, and securely share evidence to Prosecutors and other Law Enforcement agencies.
- The use of Evidence.com streamlines the storage, organization, and retrieval of digital evidence collected from body cameras and other sources. It also assists agencies in managing large volumes of data efficiently, while ensuring compliance with legal standards. All uploaded footage is encrypted to protect sensitive information.
- Captured footage will wirelessly begin uploading to Evidence.com once the Officer enters their patrol vehicle or places their camera on an Axon Docking Station.

Privacy Considerations

- Body-worn cameras may capture footage of individuals in sensitive situations or traumatic events. This footage may be subject to public records requests or court proceedings.
- To protect the privacy of these individuals, audio and video redactions will be made in compliance with Missouri law.
- Examples of footage that will be redacted includes juvenile subjects, names and addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, and incidents that are graphic in nature.

Summary

- Technological advancements can foster a safer environment for both law enforcement and the community by promoting efficiency, transparency, and enhanced communication. As technology continues to evolve, ongoing collaboration between police and the public will be essential to maximize its benefits while addressing potential challenges.

Have had a couple of cameras that have had to be replaced but that is built into the contract.

Videos are not yet stored with reports but they are working on this.

2. Sewer Rate Updates

This topic is to discuss and review the current sewer rates. The last time a rate increase occurred was in 2016. They approved a four-year increase at that time. No increases since 2020.

Presented by Alex Craven
Burns and McDonnell - 1898

Agenda

- Industry trends & background
- Rate study process & findings
- Questions / Answers

National Trends in Household Sewer Costs

Water and Sewer Index, BLS	2000-2023	4.7%
NACWA Cost of Clean Water	1986-2023	4.6%
AWWA Rate Survey - Sewer	1996-2018	5.6%
CPI-U-General Inflation	2000-2023	2.5%

- Since 2000, household water and sewer costs have increased nearly 2x household inflation• Since 2000, household water and sewer costs have increased nearly 2x household inflation

Common Factors Contributing to Utility Rate Increases

- General trend in lower use per account can pressure variable revenue streams
- Inflation on operating and capital/construction costs
- More stringent water quality regulations
- Aging infrastructure requires renewal and replacement

Regional Residential Bill Comparison (6 CCF/month) - Independence falls along the average bill comparison at \$57.56

Study Process and Findings

Rate Study Process

Financial Planning - are current system revenues adequate?

Rate Design - How should services be priced?

Financial Planning Guiding Principles

- Mitigate rate shock through levelized increases
- Achieve target cash reserve policy by end of the forecast period
- Cash fund capital improvements
- Used scenario analysis to evaluate outcomes

Key Financial Planning Assumptions

- Stable customer and usage characteristics
- Operating cost inflation of ~ 5% per year
- Inflated sewer capital projects estimated to cost \$25M (2026 through 2030)

Options for existing and proposed Sewer Rates (Inside City) shows a steady increase from 2025 to 2030. The chart showing this information is available in the presentation attached to the agenda.

Summary

- Revenue increases are necessary for the utility to:
 - Achieve target ending cash balance
 - Cash finance needed capital improvements
- Options for how to achieve key targets
 - Propose adoption of Option 1
 - Fully funds CIP
 - Brings utility into compliance with ending target sooner
 - Creates more financial resiliency for unknown future costs
- Propose a CPI based rate adjustment starting in 2031

INFORMATION ONLY

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