INDEPENDENCE
MISSOURI

A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

City Council Study Session Minutes

March 23, 2026 6:00 PM

20201 E. Jackson Drive
First Floor, Oregon and Santa Fe Conference Room
Independence, MO 64057

WELCOME

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. Those present: Mayor Pro Tem John Perkins, CM Fears, CM Stewart, CM McCandless, CM Wiley and CM Vaught. Absent: Mayor Rowland

PRESENTATIONS

1. 2026 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Presentation

This item was presented by Rubin Brown Auditing

We have audited the financial statements of City of Independence, Missouri (City)as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated December 18, 2025. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (Government Auditing Standards), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 28, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our a

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Honorable Mayor, Members of City Council and members of management of the City and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS Auditor Communications 4 VIEWPOINTS | WWW.RUBINBROWN.COM Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. The attached schedule (see next page) summarized uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements and communicates the impact on the financial statements of each opinion unit impacted. Uncorrected misstatements are those that management has determined are not material, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. Uncorrected misstatements or matters underlying those uncorrected misstatements could potentially cause future-period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements currently under audit. In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. We identified no misstatements that we identified as a result of our audit procedures that were brought to the attention of, and corrected by, management.

QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

- Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies.
- Significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
- No transactions entered into during the year lacked authoritative guidance or consensus.
- No transactions were recorded out of the period they occurred.
- No instances where a significant accounting practice acceptable under the applicable financial reporting framework is not appropriate.
- No significant unusual transactions noted

COMMENTS

The City implemented GASB Statement Number 101, Compensated Absences, during the year. This did not have a material impact on the financial statements. No further comments

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements are: Actuarial assumptions in the calculation of other post employment benefit costs is based on professional actuarial requirements. Estimate of the amount of compensated absences that are more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means is based on the City’s historical information. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

DISCLOSURES The disclosures to the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the users of the financial statements. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are: (2) Deposits and Investments (3) Tax Revenue (7) Long – Term Obligations

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS
Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. The attached schedule (see next page) summarized uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements and communicates the impact on the financial statements of each opinion unit impacted. Uncorrected misstatements are those that management has determined are not material, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. Uncorrected misstatements or matters underlying those uncorrected misstatements could potentially cause future-period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements currently under audit. In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. We identified no misstatements that we identified as a result of our audit procedures that were brought to the attention of, and corrected by, management.

OTHER REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS
 The independent auditors’ report contains reference to another auditor for the Cable Dahmer Arena
 No significant matters resulted in consultation outside our engagement team
 No significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing or completing our audit
 No disagreements with management related to financial accounting, reporting or auditing matters
 Management did not consult with other independent accountants
 No other audit findings or issues
 Management representation letter attached

COMMENTS No further comments

OTHER INFORMATION INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORTS Pursuant to professional standards, our responsibility as auditors for other information, whether financial or nonfinancial, included in annual reports, does not extend beyond the information identified in the audit report, and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. However, in accordance with such standards, we have read the information and considered whether such information, or the manner of its presentation, was materially inconsistent with its presentation in the financial statements. Our responsibility also includes communicating to you any information which we believe is a material misstatement of fact. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, is materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, appearing in the financial statements.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report on our consideration of the City's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters.

COMMENTS No further comments

SINGLE AUDIT During the year ended June 30, 2025, the City expended greater than $750,000 of federal awards. Accordingly, we performed a single audit pursuant to the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements For Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance).

COMMENTS The federal programs selected as major during the single audit are:
 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – ALN 21.027
 Federal Transit Cluster – ALN 20.507
 HOME Investment Partnership – ALN 14.239 The single audit is expected to be issued before March 31, 2026, consistent with OMB requirements.

2. KC2026 Transportation Update

Jason Sims, Director of Transporation KC 2026 gave the presentation for this item.

Three objectives for this event:
Deliver Kansas City Magic
Rise on the World Stage
Leave a lasting legacy

There are 4 games scheduled on the group stage, one of the round 32 and one quarterfinal.

We are hosting four team base camps; Argentina, England, Netherlands and Algeria.

They will have Stadium Direct which is match day service for Ticket holders.
• Direct service to/from FIFA Fan FestivalTM
• June 11 – July 13 (33 days)
• Begin first matchday of tournament
• End two days after last KC match
• 20-min frequencies**
• 15 regional locations

Airport Direct
Direct service to/from KCI Airport to Downtown Kansas City, MO
• June 11 – July 13 (33 days)
• Begin first matchday of tournament
• End two days after last KC match
• 15-min frequencies*

Region Direct which covers FIFA Fan Fest, Kansas City Stadium and KCI Airport.
• Direct service to/from FIFA Fan FestivalTM
• June 11 – July 13 (33 days)
• Begin first matchday of tournament
• End two days after last KC match
• 20-min frequencies**
• 15 regional locations

3. Arts Policy

This item was presented by GK Callahan of the Arts Council.

Arts Council Authority & Mission • Established by Resolution 6218 (2017) • Promote participation in the arts • Advise Mayor & Council on arts policy • Support arts as part of community and economic development Experience & Perspective • 9 members: visual arts, applied arts, business, performing arts • Serve as advisory body and review art projects • Assist in cataloging and maintenance recommendations.

Purpose & Policy Overview Build Independence's identity through art—strengthening pride, enriching lives, and supporting a creative economy. A 1% for the Arts policy allocates a small portion of existing capital project budgets to integrate public art into infrastructure. No new taxes. No impact on core services. A smarter way to build a city people are proud of.

Community Impact - People take care of places they feel connected to.
Public Health and Safety - Research shows arts improve mental health and reduce isolation, increase social connection and strengthen community resilience.
It's Good for Business - Businesses don't only locate where it's affordable. They locate where people want to be.

1% is a proven model
First adopted in 1959 (Philadelphia)
Now used in 350+ U.S. cities
This is a standard, proven policy—not an experiment.
Why it works:
• Predictable funding
• Scales with growth
• Creates permanent civic assets

Policy Scopes and Updates
Current Applies to publicly accessible art Includes City-funded or City-sited work Excludes decorative installations Key Refinements
• Clarify definitions & distinguish public art
• Align with regional best practices & IAC governance
• Remove outdated provisions
• Expand eligible projects

• Add admin & maintenance reserves
• Formalize guidelines & waiver criteria
• Focus on lasting community assets

WHAT DOES IT FUND Funds can support:
• Sculptures
• Murals
• Streetscape elements
• Parks & trails integration
• Wayfinding / placemaking

24 Hwy Complete Streets ($23,579,631)
• MoDOT Cost Share: $12,249,024 Not eligible for 1% for the Arts
• Street Sales Tax: $3,814,178 Not eligible for 1% for the Arts
• Federal Grants (STP): $3,500,000 Not eligible for 1% for the Arts
• Federal Grants (ARP Funds): $4,016,428
• Eligible for 1% for the Arts – 1% for the Arts would have earned $40,164.28

40 Hwy Complete Streets ($2,801,055)
• Street Sales Tax: $898,508 Not eligible for 1% for the Arts
• Federal Grants (STP): $1,902,547 Not eligible for 1% for the Arts 1% for the Arts would have earned $0.00

Heidelberger Bridge ($478,103)
• Street Sales Tax: $98,103 Not eligible for 1% for the Arts
• Federal Grants (ARP Funds): $380,000
• Eligible for 1% for the Arts 1% for the Arts would have earned $3,800.00

Independence Surgery Center
• Chapter 100 Tax Abatement valued at $373,452 o 1% for the Arts would have earned $3,734.52

Wallys TIF Reimbursable Project Costs of $7,605,401
• Chapter 100 Sales Tax Exemption valued at $2,300,334
o 1% for the Arts would have earned $99,057.35

Potential opportunities:
ALL of Independence…. including:
• Englewood Arts District expansion
• Trails + Parks enhancements
• Gateway corridors
• Historic district interpretation
• Neighborhood identity markers
• Artwork in the municipal commons
• More…

Planning is Happening
• November 18, 2025 Arts Council met with Council members Perkins & Wiley and Municipal Services Director Mike Jackson
• Coordination with Tree Commission —no conflicts with planting zones • Identified 9 locations for public art (4' x 4' pads along Winner Rd – Truman Connect project)
• Infrastructure is under construction Pads are included in the project budget

But There Is No Funding for Art
• $0 allocated for art in Truman Connect project
• Only $578 total generated since adoption of 1% for the Arts
• No dedicated funding stream to commission artists
• Result: → Pads installed → No artwork to place on them

Kansas City Region Public Art Funding Models
True 1% Ordinance:
• Kansas City, MO
• Overland Park, KS
• Olathe, KS
• Lenexa, KS CIP-Linked Public Art Funds:
• Gladstone
• Lee's Summit, MO
• Shawnee, KS

Developer / Project-Based Contributions
Kansas City, KS

Arts & Culture in Missouri
$1.7+ billion annual economic impact
13,000+ jobs supported statewide
Nonprofit arts audiences spend: • On dining • Parking • Retail • Local services
Locally, public art helps: • Increase foot traffic • Support small businesses • Boost tourism and events

Independence is already investing in: 1. Infrastructure 2. Neighborhood revitalization 3. Public spaces

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. **Please Note**: In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in a Closed Executive Session during or after the meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor

negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).