



MAYOR'S MEMO

Community Updates, Directly From Your Mayor

Welcome To The 14th Edition!

TOPICS: Dedicated City Workforce,
EV Charging Coming Soon &
Coffee With The Mayor Highlights



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I hope you all had time to spend with family and friends during the holiday season. As we move into 2026, I believe we should carry that spirit forward by showing grace, civility and compassion in our daily lives and throughout our community. That is not always easy, but it is something we can all continue to work toward.

A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR CITY LEADERSHIP

The year 2025 brought significant challenges for City leaders and staff. With a new mayor, a new city manager, a new community and economic development director, a new police chief and a new public works director, human resources had an especially busy year.

Change on that scale can be difficult for any organization. I cannot say enough about the strength and dedication of our staff. Most residents likely noticed little to no change in how the City conducted business or in their day-to-day lives. That stability is a direct result of staff stepping up in major ways to fill gaps and keep operations running smoothly.

However, the time and effort required to do so can only go so far. It is critical that City leaders recognize the sacrifices staff made and work to avoid placing additional strain on the lean team that we have.

DOWNTOWN FAÇADE GRANT ADDS VALUE

As I mentioned in the last Mayor's Memo, the Indianola City Council gave final approval in December to the Downtown Façade Program. I want to clarify the value

this grant brings to the community, both aesthetically and financially. Indianola Main Street received a Community Development Block Grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to fund façade improvements on eight buildings around the Indianola Downtown Square. Data from previous City-supported building improvement programs show double-digit returns for both the City and individual property owners.

With this grant, as well as contributions from both owners and the City, we expect similar returns in the future, where more than \$1.1 million in improvements are planned.

CITY COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Council held its first meeting of the new year on Monday, January 5. We welcomed our newest Council member, Tiffany Davis, who represents the 4th Ward. She has already jumped into the role by attending training sessions and asking thoughtful questions. I am confident she will do an excellent job representing her ward and our community as a whole.

EV CHARGING GRANT APPROVED

The Council approved a recommendation from staff and the Sustainability Committee to accept a grant for two charging stations, each with two ports, to be installed in the south and west parking lots off the Square.

The grant, administered by the Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance, covers full service and maintenance for all four charging ports for five years. City staff will continue coordinating the project and related work and will serve as the primary point of contact with the vendor for ongoing maintenance and support. During the five-year grant period, the City will evaluate usage, costs and revenue options with the goal of establishing a self-sustaining model that can support continued operation beyond the grant term.

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FIRST COFFEE WITH MAYOR DRAWS STRONG TURNOUT

I hosted the first Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, January 7, at Crouse Café. One goal of these monthly sessions is to give residents an opportunity to visit directly with their mayor and, at times, other City staff. Another goal is to rotate locations each month so residents can experience different local businesses, which may also benefit from additional foot traffic. I was unsure how many people would attend the first event, but nearly two dozen residents joined us, which I considered a strong turnout.

Police Chief Rob Hawkins joined me for the discussion, and I appreciate his time and participation. He fielded several questions and shared his goals for the Indianola Police Department, its officers and staff. Attendees asked questions about the Indianola Wellness Campus, road construction options - such as concrete vs. asphalt - and potential legislative changes to taxes and how those could affect Indianola and the City budget. They also offered suggestions for future Coffee with the Mayor topics.

The next event will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday, February 4, at Uncommon Grounds. Find more details online on the City's website: www.indianolaiowa.gov.



SIP, SHARE, CONNECT.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

INDIANOLA MAYOR STEVE RICHARDSON

Ask questions, offer insights and stay engaged with your city.

9 AM • FEBRUARY 4, 2026 • UNCOMMON GROUNDS

