

*Live, work, play and raise a family  
in our progressive Heartland community!*



# CITY ENGINEER / DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

City of Independence,



# THE COMMUNITY



Located in southeast Kansas, Independence, with a population of about 9,000, is the county seat of Montgomery County and a premier location between Kansas City and Tulsa. Settled in 1869, Independence has a unique history, being home to Academy Award-winning screenwriter William Inge; the first professional outdoor baseball game under lights; and at one point the residence of Mickey Mantle.

In the early 1900's, an unexpected oil boom sparked the rapid growth of Independence, catapulting it into the spotlight of success and helping to grow the community into one centered on industry. In recent decades following the prosperity of oil money, many businesses have continued to thrive here. Renowned companies such as Cessna/Textron Aviation and John Deere conduct operations in the area. In addition, we have a healthy diversity of business driving the local economy - from sizeable manufacturing plants to large farming operations to multiple and eclectic entrepreneurial ventures.

During a period when many small cities and towns have seen a deterioration of "Main Street," Independence has found a way to buck that trend. There is a beautifully restored 1930's era cinema and numerous stores and restaurants thriving in an



attractive landscape of trees, flags, statues and historic architecture that comprise the city's downtown business district. Truly, our town demonstrates community pride through our commercial offerings and an impressive lineup of festivals and special events.

Today, Independence remains an idyllic town in middle-America. Our community is home to the Riverside Park and Zoo, the premier park and zoo of southeast Kansas. In addition, Independence hosts the annual Neewollah celebration, the largest fall festival in the state.

We also enjoy an excellent public school system, a community college, excellent health care services, an awarded public library and tremendous outdoor recreation opportunities.

By far, the primary reason for Independence's continued success is our dedicated community residents. The people here care deeply about the city's well-being and want Independence to be seen in the way they see it – a fascinating place full of history; small, safe and comfortable, friendly and accommodating – but most of all, *home*.

More information on our vibrant community can be found at [www.independekks.gov](http://www.independekks.gov).



## Governance and Organization

The City of Independence is a full-service, home rule city operating under a commission-manager form of government. The Independence City Commission is comprised of three Commission members, all elected at large, and the Commission appoints a Mayor each year from among its members. The Commission also is responsible for appointment and oversight of a professional City Manager who leads and directs the daily operations of the organization. The Commission also appoints the Planning Commission and other City Boards.

The City of Independence has a staff of 126 full-time employees, as well as 15 part-time and 14 seasonal employees and a total adopted budget of \$22,033,946.

We are proud of our organization's culture. We champion an inter-departmental and interpersonal team approach to providing exceptional customer service.

Learn more about us in the latest edition of our newsletter "City Hall News": <http://www.independenceks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2134/Fall-Newsletter-2020>

## About the Position

Under administrative direction of the Assistant City Manager, the City Engineer is responsible for the overall direction and administration of all Public Works and Utility departments. Specific duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Direct, develop, plan, manage and coordinate the design and implementation of public improvements and maintenance projects, including streets, alleys, sidewalks, street lights, traffic signals, storm and sanitary sewers and water lines.
- ◆ Supervise the operations of the water plant, wastewater plant, sanitation and municipal airport as well as street and water/sewer crews.
- ◆ Develop and implement short- and long-term planning, goals and objectives and policies.
- ◆ Manage the City GIS system, including updates to infrastructure.
- ◆ Assist with strategic planning.
- ◆ Hire and supervise Public Works and Utility staff.
- ◆ Oversee construction and engineering functions.
- ◆ Represent the City in dealings with outside organizations and regulatory agencies.
- ◆ Communicate with citizens, formally and informally, including managing questions and complaints.



## *Ideal Candidate*

The City of Independence is seeking an experienced professional, with a solid work ethic who will continue to support outstanding customer service, a transparent organizational culture and on-going cost-effective municipal operations. The ideal candidate will have sound knowledge of the principles and practices of civil engineering, including, but not limited to, potable water provision, stormwater protection/environmental, wastewater treatment and collection, geotechnical, drainage and transportation/traffic engineering. Knowledge of construction and maintenance methods, materials and equipment as utilized in public infrastructure projects also is required. Knowledge of applicable federal, state and local laws, codes, regulations, occupational hazards and standard safety practices also is a must.

The successful candidate must have good supervisory, organization, budgetary and planning skills, as well as computer proficiency and the ability to operate and complex software applications, prepare and analyze technical plans and reports.

**Note:** Successful candidate must reside in Kansas (Independence city limits preferred) within a 30-minute response time within six months of employment. (Extension considered at discretion of City Manager.)

## *Education, Professional Licensing and Experience*

**Education** — Bachelor's Degree in Engineering required. Supplemental college coursework in public or business administration, environmental health or related field is preferred.

**Licensing** — Professional Engineering License recognized by the Kansas Board of Technical Professionals is preferred.

**Experience** — Five years of progressively responsible civil engineering experience preferred. Five years of progressively responsible management experience preferred. Three years of public sector experience is preferred.

The City Manager and Assistant City Manager will have full discretion to consider the best combination of education, experience, professional accomplishments, and career history that best fits the City's needs.

## *Compensation and Benefits*

The salary range for this position is \$66,154-\$95,924, plus benefits. The starting salary will depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate. We offer a highly competitive compensation and benefit package including health, dental, life and short-term disability insurance, deferred compensation, vacation, sick leave, holidays and a stellar retirement program that includes options for continued health insurance benefits. The City participates in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System. (KPERs).



## Application Process

To be considered for this career opportunity, please select "Apply Online" at this link:

<http://www.independencesks.gov/Jobs.aspx>

Complete the application and attach your resume.

Questions or for more information contact [David Cowan](#), Assistant City Manager, City of Independence, 620-332-2528.

This position is open until filled. For best consideration, apply immediately.

The City of Independence is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Offers of employment are conditional upon successful completion of a drug screen and a comprehensive background check.

## Resources

City of Independence  
[www.independencesks.gov](http://www.independencesks.gov)



Independence  
Chamber of Commerce  
<http://indkschamber.org/>

Independence Library  
<http://iplks.org/>

Independence Main Street  
[www.independencemainstreet.com](http://www.independencemainstreet.com)

Independence Community College  
[www.indycc.edu/](http://www.indycc.edu/)