Board of Aldermen - Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Minutes:
Mayor Pro Tem Robert Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Minutes:
Aldermen Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, and Don Rodgers answered roll call. Alderman Landon Magley was absent. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, City Attorney Cydney Mayfield, Police Chief Harlan Hatton. Public Works Director Matthew Rusch, Mayor Chris Cox, and Electric Foreman Clayton Crump attended via Teams Meeting. Citizens present: James Smith with the Centralia Fireside Guard, Linda Bormann, Don Bormann, Amanda Shultz and Darby Christian with Williams Keepers Auditing Firm, Bob Horswood and Mary Piertyk with Nextera Energy, Brenda Moss, Tammy Purvis, Theresa Houmes, Nada Gibson, Nancy Wheeler, Phil Heller, and Betty Gooding.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Minutes:
Mayor Pro Tem Hudson led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
    a. **NexEra Energy - Bob Horswood**

Minutes:
Bob Horswood and Mary Pietruk with NextEra Energy Marketing presented the Board with a packet of information regarding their services. NextEra has been the wholesale provider of electricity for City of Centralia since 2017. Due to many factors- including rising natural gas prices, coal retirements, massive demand growths for data centers, electrification, and on-shoring of manufacturing-significant price increases for electricity are forecasted within the next few years. The City's current NextEra contract will expire in 2030; Horswood stated that at least a 100% increase in cost is expected at that time.

Horswood will continue to work with city administration to formulate a plan to soften the burden of these increases. The Board will also work with NextEra to investigate options for alternative energy sources to supplement the electricity purchases.

b. **Williams Keepers - Annual Audit Report**

Minutes:
Amanda Schultz with auditing firm Williams Keepers LLC presented the Board with the FY25 annual final audit report. Reports reviewed included the summary report, single audit report, audited financial statements, auditors communication letter, and the management letter. Williams Keepers issued the city an unmodified, clean opinion on the financial statements. Hearing no concerns or questions from the Board, Schultz left the meeting at 7:02 pm.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

a. **Public Hearing - 2025 Tax Rate Notice**

Minutes:
Mayor Pro Tem Hudson opened the public hearing for the 2025 Tax Rate at 7:02 pm. Linda Bormann asked how much the rates had increased. City Administrator Strain replied that all rates had remained the same, or were slightly lower than 2024 rates. Hearing no further comments Mayor Pro Tem Hudson closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

6. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Minutes:
Mayor Pro Tem Hudson opened the floor for Comments from Citizens at 7:03 pm. Resident Theresa Houmes provided the Board with a sketch drawing of her property and the nearby streetlight. Houmes stated that she sleeps in her screened porch area, and the streetlight shines too brightly on her property. The streetlight bulb was recently replaced, and Houmes requested that the streetlight be lowered, replaced with a dimmer bulb, or a hooded fixture. Mayor Pro Tem Hudson replied that the situation would be discussed with Public Works Director Matthew Rusch, to determine possible options.
Alderman Jessica Orsini then spoke as a citizen, and stated that an increase in electric rates of at least 100% would be dire and detrimental to many residents. Orsini advised the Board that alternative methods of power need to be investigated soon, with the possibility of a bond proposal. Alderman Robert Hudson said he had received complaints from 3 residents regarding a property on Jefferson Street that is reportedly housing 7 dogs. City Administrator Strain replied that Code Enforcement is investigating the situation. Hearing no further comments, the section was closed at 7:11 pm.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved as a group unless separated by request of one or more Aldermen. (Motion)

Minutes:
Alderman Wilkins made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published. Alderman Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by Mayor Pro Tem Hudson for ayes

and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

a. **Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes**
b. **Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes**
c. **General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**
d. **Collector's Report**
e. **Activity Reports**

8. **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE OVER $1,250**

Minutes:
Alderman Orsini made a motion to approve the accounts payable over $1250, for a total of $226,370.47. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by Mayor Pro Tem Hudson for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

ACTION AGENDA

9. **FINANCE**

a. **Finance - Authorizing Depository Contract Central Bank - ORD**
Bill No. 2585 Ordinance No. 3216

Minutes:
Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2585 to create an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI TO EXECUTE A DEPOSITORY CONTRACT AND PLEDGE AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL BANK OF BOONE COUNTY." Alderman Orsini moved that it be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Orsini moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor Pro Tem then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Orsini moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The Mayor Pro Tem called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Deckerd, Rodgers, and Wilkins. Voting AGAINST: none, Absent: Magley. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as Ordinance 3216.

b. **Finance - Authorizing Electronic Services Agreement Central Bank - ORD**
Bill No. 2586 Ordinance No. 3217

Minutes:
Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2586 to create an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING

THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI TO EXECUTE AN ELECTRONIC BUSINESS SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL BANK OF BOONE COUNTY." Alderman Orsini moved that it be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Orsini moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor Pro Tem then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Orsini moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The Mayor Pro Tem called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Deckerd, Rodgers, and Wilkins. Voting AGAINST: none, Absent: Magley. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as Ordinance 3217.

c. **Finance - Authorizing Safekeeping Agreement Central Trust Bank - ORD**

Bill No. 2587 Ordinance No. 3218

Minutes:

Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2587 to create an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI TO EXECUTE A SAFEKEEPING AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL TRUST BANK AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE AND EITHER THE CITY CLERK OR THE DEPUTY CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI TO ESTABLISH, OPEN AND MAINTAIN ONE OR MORE SAFEKEEPING ACCOUNTS FOR THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI A. B. CHANCE MEMORIAL FUND AND CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND WITH THE CENTRAL TRUST BANK, A MISSOURI TRUST COMPANY, LOCATED IN JEFFERSON CITY, TO PURCHASE GOVERNMENT SECURITIES." Alderman Deckerd moved that it be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Deckerd moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor Pro Tem then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Deckerd moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The Mayor Pro Tem called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Deckerd, Rodgers, and Wilkins. Voting AGAINST: none, Absent: Magley. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as

Ordinance 3218.

10. LEGAL

a. Legal - Setting Property Tax Rates 2025 - ORD

Bill No. 2588 Ordinance No. 3219

Minutes:

Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2588 to create an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL RATE OF TAXATION IN THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI, FOR THE YEAR 2025 FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES, FOR MAINTENANCE AND THE SUPPORT OF THE LIBRARY, AND FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING FREE PUBLIC PARKS.” Alderman Orsini moved that it be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Orsini moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor Pro Tem then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Orsini moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The Mayor Pro Tem called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Deckerd, Rodgers, and Wilkins. Voting AGAINST: none, Absent: Magley. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as Ordinance 3219.

b. Legal-Re-adopting Sections of the Centralia City Code Concerning Procedure Disclosure of Certain Financial Information - ORD

Bill No. 2589 Ordinance No. 3220

Minutes:

Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2589 to create an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO RE-ADOPT SECTION 2-7 AND SECTION 2-8 OF THE CENTRALIA CITY CODE CONCERNING PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN FINANCIAL AND OTHER INTERESTS IN MATTERS AFFECTING THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI.” Alderman Deckerd moved that it be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Deckerd moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Orsini and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor Pro Tem then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Deckerd moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The Mayor Pro Tem called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Deckerd, Rodgers, and Wilkins. Voting AGAINST: none, Absent: Magley. The Mayor Pro Tem declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as Ordinance 3220.

c. **Motion To Allow 4 Hour's Time for Benefited Employees to Obtain Health & Wellness Check**

(MOTION)

Minutes:
Alderman Orsini made a motion to approve 4 hours extra vacation time for eligible benefited employees who participate in the health & wellness screening sponsored by Mirma Health. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by Mayor Pro Tem Hudson for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

OLD BUSINESS

11. **REVIEW DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITORS, CANVASSERS AND PEDDLERS ORDINANCE**

Minutes:
City Attorney Mayfield provided the Board with a draft copy of proposed changes to the city's ordinance regarding solicitors, canvassers, and peddlers. The Board requested the time allowed for peddlers be changed to 7:00pm, and the wording "City Marshal" be amended to "Police Chief." Mayfield will draft an ordinance to be presented at the September Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

12. **MOTION TO MOVE THE SEPTEMBER BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING TO SEPTEMBER 22 AT 6:30 P.M.**

(MOTION)

Minutes:
Alderman Orsini made a motion to move the September Board of Aldermen meeting to September 22, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by Mayor Pro Tem Hudson for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

13. **MAYOR**

a. **Appointments - Appoint Jon Smith to a 5 year term on the Planning & Zoning Commission**

Minutes:
City Attorney Mayfield advised that the appointment title contained a typographical error, as the Planning & Zoning Commission term is 4 years, not 5 years as listed. Alderman Orsini then made a motion to approve the Mayor's

appointments of Jon Smith to a 4 year term on Planning & Zoning, Dan Hamilton to the Board of Adjustment for a 5 year term, Ethan Massey and Paul Million to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority for 6 year terms. Alderman Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by Mayor Pro Tem Hudson for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

b. **Appointments - Appoint Dan Hamilton to the Board of Adjustment for a 5 - year term**

c. **Appointments - Appoint Ethan Massey & Paul Million to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority for 6 - year terms**

14. CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Minutes:
City Administrator Strain reported that she recently attended the Mirma Annual Conference and PIO Meeting, and received pertinent training at both. The FIFA World Cup will be held in Kansas City in 2026, and could increase tourism in our area. In addition, July 2026 will be the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. She will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and Parks Department soon to discuss these events.

a. **Monthly Report**

CLOSED SESSION*

*During the meeting, the Board of Aldermen may elect to go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be:
1. As provided for under Section 610.021 (1) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys;
9. Preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups;

15. CLOSED SESSION
(MOTION)

Minutes:
Alderman Deckerd moved the Board of Aldermen of the City of Centralia, Missouri hold a closed meeting and a closed vote, and the specific reason for closing the meeting and having a closed vote was: 1. As provided for under Section 610.021 (1) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys; 9. Preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups. Alderman Deckerd asked that this motion be adopted by roll call vote. The motion was seconded by Alderman Orsini. The motion passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Wilkins, Deckerd, and Rodgers. Voting AGAINST: None. Absent: Magley. The meeting went into closed session at 7:36 p.m.

16. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

(MOTION)

Minutes:

During closed session, only legal and employee groups matters were discussed, and no vote was taken. Alderman Orsini made a motion to return to open session. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Wilkins, Deckerd, and Rodgers. Voting AGAINST: None. Absent: Magley. The meeting returned to open session at 8:50 pm.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

17. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Orsini made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by Mayor Pro Tem Hudson for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.