



Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, October 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Alderman Harold Deckerd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, Don Rodgers, and Landon Magley answered roll call. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, Public Works & Utilities Director Matthew Rusch, Water & Sewer Dept. Foreman Aaron Kroeger, Electric Dept. Foreman Clayton Crump, Street & Sanitation Dept. Foreman Deme Towne, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Police Chief Harlan Hatton & Deputy City Clerk Beth Kable. Citizens present: Linda Bormann, Betty Gooding & Selestia Angell with the Centralia Chamber of Commerce & Chad Herwald & Dan Braik with Braik's Tree Service.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

Alderman Deckerd led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. TREE INVENTORY UPDATE - DAN BRAIK WITH BRAIK TREE CARE

Minutes:

Dan Braik & Chad Herwald from Braik's Tree Service reported on their progress with the tree inventory. They said they have tagged approximately 525 trees that are in city right of ways and 106 of those are considered critical and need to be removed soon. Alderman Deckerd expressed concern about trees that were missed in the inventory, but Dan assured the board that they knew there would be some missed and let them know their location and they will come back and evaluate them. Dan advised to look at applying for a Trim Grant to help with the expense and the city, electric department and the park can each apply for their own. City Administrator Tara Strain said that she would be sending out a RFB for tree removal soon to get the process started.

5. ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Electric Foreman Clayton Crump reported that most of their time has been spent doing line clearance and taking down trees.

6. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Street Foreman Deme Towne said that they have been working on prep for the asphalt overlay and then help with the overlay process. They have also had to replace a couple road signs that were vandalized and have been working on a ditch by their shop.

7. WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Water Foreman Aaron Kroeger said that they have been switching the registers on bigger meters in town so that they will all be ITron. They have also been working with Smico on some issues that have come up with the sewer lining process

8. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR

a. Monthly Report

Minutes:

Public Works Director Matthew Rusch complemented the street department with how smooth the paving process was this year. He also reported that the roof at city hall is completely done and he has checked it when it has rained, and it looks dry. He also said that they will start skinning the electric barn next week. Alderman Deckerd asked how close Smico was to being done with the sewer lining and Water Foreman Aaron Kroeger said they were 50% done. Alderman Deckerd also asked how much clay tile still exists in town and Aaron said about 10 miles is still out there.

b. Range Paving Update

9. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Orsini made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by Alderman Deckerd for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.