



Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Chairman Harold Deckerd called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen present were Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, Don Rodgers, and Landon Magley. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, City Attorney Cydney Mayfield, Mayor Chris Cox, Police Chief Harlan Hatton, Public Works Director Matthew Rusch, Water Foreman Aaron Kroeger, Electric Foreman Clayton Crump, Street Foreman Deme Towne, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Library Director Amy Hopkins. Citizens present: James Smith with the Centralia Fireside Guard, Betty Gooding with the Centralia Chamber of Commerce, Linda Bormann, Don Bormann, Deborah Berndt, Brian Troxel, Eric Fierge, and Kevin Schweikert.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

Chairman Deckerd led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC WORKS

Minutes:

Street Foreman Deme Towne reported that his department has recently replaced the culvert behind the high school, and replaced numerous stop signs that had been vandalized. They have also done a significant amount of brush trimming and removal, and ditch maintenance.

a. Activity Report

5. WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Water Foreman Aaron Kroeger advised that the water department has set two new services on Bias Lane. They completed winterizing the swimming pool and park concessions stands. The water crew did the last mowing of the year around the lagoons.

a. Activity Report

6. ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Electric Foreman Clayton Crump reported that numerous street lights have been replaced, and tree trimming work has continued. In addition, electric poles were replaced since they were leaning or badly damaged. Also, the electric shop reskinning was completed.

a. Activity Report

7. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Minutes:

Public Works Director Matthew Rusch reported he has been working with the electric department on their building upgrades, which are nearly completed. Fire barriers were recently installed. The Smico sewer main lining project is approximately 99% finished, also. Rusch advised that the electric line behind the police department was repaired; he commended all the departments on their collaboration with that project, saying the crews all worked together well. Rusch has also been working with several farmers on their irrigation contracts with the city.

a. Monthly Report

8. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Hudson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by Chairman Deckerd for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.