



General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:45 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

The General Government and Public Safety Committee Meeting will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m., immediately following the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee Meeting. This meeting could begin sooner or later, depending on the length of the other meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Chairman Robert Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:35 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

- a. Activity Report**
- b. Chief of Police Monthly Report**

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Fire Chief Denny Rusch reported that renovations on the fire station have continued.

The department participated in Fire Prevention Week at the elementary school, and school classes also visited the fire station. Decals have been placed on the ladder fire truck, and it is now ready for use.

a. Activity Report

5. OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Emergency Management

b. Protective Inspection

GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a. Chamber of Commerce Reports

Minutes:

Betty Gooding with the Chamber of Commerce reported that a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at Miss Mary Kate's Day Care on December 11. Preparations for Sweet Saturday and the Tractor Parade have continued. Raffle tickets for a VIP parking spot for the Tractor Parade are being sold. A new Welcome Center is being planned. In addition, holiday Giving Trees were placed in several locations around town, and the Chamber was able to adopt 23 families; this number is down from approximately 30 families adopted last year.

7. PARK BOARD

a. Park Board Agenda(s)

b. Park Board Minute(s)

8. LIBRARY BOARD

a. Library Board Agenda(s)

b. Library Board Minute(s)

c. Library Annual Report

Minutes:

Library Director Amy Hopkins provided the Committee with a packet of information on the services provided by the library, as well as their financial status. Hopkins noted that the library is open 7 days a week, which is rare for a smaller community library, and they do not charge any late fees on tardy returns. The library offers free notary services, passport processing, 60 hotspots, and ongoing programs and activities for all ages. Hopkins applauded her staff on their stellar performance and service to their patrons.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Tree Board

Minutes:

Minutes from the April 15, 2025 meeting were provided to the Committee. No discussion was held.

10. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- a. Balance Sheet**
- b. Budget Report**

11. OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT

12. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Wilkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Orsini seconded the motion. On a call by Chairman Hudson for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.