



General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026 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 6:45 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:

Alderman Robert Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:49 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, Mayor Chris Cox, Street & Sanitation Dept. Foreman Deme Towne, Police Chief Harlan Hatton, Fire Chief Denny Rusch & Deputy City Clerk Beth Kable. Citizens present: Betty Gooding with Centralia Chamber of Commerce, Jim Lee, Andrew Power & Linda Bormann.

PUBLIC SAFETY

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Police Chief Harlan Hatton reported that they have hired a new police officer recruit, Andrew Power and he is currently attending the police academy. Mayor Chris Cox asked that since Andrew is already a firefighter, if there is a fire call while he is working as a police officer, will he be compensated as a fire fighter. Chief Hatton said that he will be paid as a police officer only if he is on shift not as a firefighter. Chief also reported that one of the police cars recently caught fire and suffered damage, so he has contacted the Highway Patrol about

purchasing a car from them.

b. Chief of Police Monthly Report

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Fire Chief Denny Rusch thanked everyone for their help filling the sacks of candy for Christmas and thought everything went very well while handing them out.

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 announced that they met with Karisa Mowdy about the Farmer's Market. It was very successful this year and they hope to form a committee to organize events around it and expand it. The sweet Saturday was a big success due to several businesses holding sales and events at the same time. The holiday home tour was a bit disappointing this year, they will reevaluate it for next year and potentially make a few changes. The tractor parade was a big success also and they are thinking of charging the food trucks to come next year and donate the proceeds to the Young Farmer Scholarship Fund. They thought the parking spot raffle was a little disappointing and they will look at again next year. They had a ribbon cutting at Domino's and they held tours, it was a lot of fun.

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)

9. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

a. Balance Sheet

b. Budget Report

c. Accounts Payable Over \$1250

10. OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT

11. 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 Hudson for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Vote results:

Ayes: 5 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0