



General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, March 9, 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 Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, Harold Deckerd, and Landon Magley answered roll call. Aldermen David Wilkins and Don Rodgers were absent. 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, Police Chief Harlan Hatton, Fire Chief Denny Rusch & Deputy City Clerk Beth Kable. Citizens present: Linda Bormann.

PUBLIC SAFETY

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Police Chief Harlan Hatton said that the officer that is in the academy is doing well and should be done in April. He has also bought ammo for the new guns, and the officers will soon start to certify for the different guns. They are a Glock 9 like they have had in the past, but with a new type of sight.

b. Take Home Car Policy Sample

Minutes:

Police Chief Harlan Hatton said that he provided a sample policy that was the combination of several other towns and counties take home car policies. The cars could be used within a thirty-mile radius of the city. Alderman Deckerd thought this was too far, but Alderman Hudson thought we should not limit the area potential officers could come from. Police Chief Hatton said that we are one officer short now and if you do not count the officer in the academy, we are two short. This issue will be voted on at next Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT**a. Activity Report****Minutes:**

Fire Chief Denny Rusch reported that the firemen have been doing more intense training lately and will be taking the ladder truck out on the street more so that everyone can get practice driving it.

5. OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY**a. Emergency Management****b. Protective Inspection****GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE****6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****a. Chamber of Commerce Reports****Minutes:**

Public Works Director Matthew Rusch reported that Ashley Cameron will be taking over the Anchor Festival this year for the Chamber of Commerce. He has talked to her about finding a place for Tinsley's to park their campers since Friendship Place will no longer let them park there.

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 Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by Alderman Hudson for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Contact: Tara Strain, City Administrator (tara@centraliamogov (573) 682-2139) | Minutes published on 03/11/2026, adopted on 03/16/2026