



Board of Aldermen - Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Minutes:

Aldermen Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, Don Rodgers, and Landon Magley answered roll call. Alderman Jessica Orsini was absent. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, Mayor Chris Cox, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, City Attorney Cydney Mayfield, Police Chief Harlan Hatton. Citizens present: James Smith with the Centralia Fireside Guard, Don Bormann, Linda Bormann, Theresa Houmes, Coach Luke Gramke, numerous members and supporters of the Centralia High School Wrestling Team.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

Mayor Cox led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Centralia High School Wrestling Team Proclamation

Minutes:

Mayor Cox presented a Proclamation to the Centralia High School Boys Wrestling Team, to congratulate them on their 2026 Class 1 MSHSAA State Wrestling Team Championship. The Proclamation was accepted by Coach Luke Gramke and numerous members of the team.

5. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Minutes:

Mayor Cox opened the floor for Comments from Citizens at 6:36 pm. Theresa Houmes addressed the Board and stated she has appeared at the Council meetings the past 8

months. She stated she initially requested the street light near her residence be hooded, to alleviate the amount of light shining into her porch; Houmes advised she received a letter that this request was denied. Houmes stated she is now asking for the street light to be lowered. City Administrator Strain advised Houmes that the City was recently informed that the city's agreement to share the poles with communications providers prohibits the city from lowering the light; instead, in order to comply with regulations, the light may actually need to be raised approximately 6 inches. Alderman Hudson made a motion to amend the agenda to remove the closed session. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Cox closed the section at 6:40 pm.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved as a group unless separated by request of one or more Aldermen. (Motion)

Minutes:

Alderman Wilkins made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published. Alderman Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

- a. **Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes**
- c. **General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**
- d. **Planning & Zoning Minutes**
- e. **Collector's Report**
- f. **Activity Reports**

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE OVER \$1,250

Minutes:

Alderman Hudson made a motion to approve the accounts payable over \$1250, for a total of \$567,531.43. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

ACTION AGENDA

8. FINANCE

a. Discussion - 2026-2027 City of Centralia Draft Budget

Minutes:

City Administrator Strain had presented a copy of the draft budget for the Board to review. Alderman Deckerd questioned if the budget included any funds for tree removals. Administrator Strain replied that \$175,000 has been budgeted in the general fund for tree pruning and removal. The Board will continue to review the draft budget, and meet to approve a final budget on March 26.

9. LEGAL

a. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI, ADOPTING A

TAKE-HOME PATROL VEHICLE POLICY FOR THE CENTRALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT; APPROVING SAID POLICY AS A RULE AND REGULATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Bill No. 2609 Ordinance No. 3236

Minutes:

Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2609 to create an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI, ADOPTING A TAKE-HOME PATROL VEHICLE POLICY FOR THE CENTRALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT; APPROVING SAID POLICY AS A RULE AND REGULATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.” Alderman Deckerd made a motion to amend the ordinance to reduce the mileage radius to 20 miles, and exempt current staff from the maximum radius. Mayor Cox called twice for a second to the motion. Hearing no second, the motion to amend the ordinance failed. Alderman Hudson moved that the original bill be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Hudson moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Hudson moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Magley, Rodgers, and Wilkins. Voting AGAINST: Deckerd. Absent: Orsini. The Mayor declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as Ordinance 3236.

b. Legal - Water Line Easement - ORD

Bill No. 2610 Ordinance No. Postponed

Minutes:

Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2610 to create an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION OF UTILITY EASEMENTS TO THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI.” Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Citizen Don Bormann expressed that the easement contracts should first be signed by the property owners before being adopted by the Board. Alderman Hudson made a motion to postpone discussion and possible approval of bill 2610 until the April 2026 Board of Aldermen meeting. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

c. Legal - Sanitary Sewer Easement - ORD

Bill No. 2611 Ordinance No. Postponed

Minutes:

Administrator Strain presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2611 to create an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION OF UTILITY EASEMENTS TO THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI." Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Citizen Don Bormann expressed that the easement contracts should first be signed by the property owners before being adopted by the Board. Alderman Hudson made a motion to postpone discussion and possible approval of bill 2611 until the April 2026 Board of Aldermen meeting. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

OLD BUSINESS**10. Setting a Date for a Special Board of Alderman Meeting****Minutes:**

Alderman Wilkins made a motion to set a special Board of Aldermen meeting for March 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm. Alderman Hudson seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

NEW BUSINESS**11. MAYOR****a. Appointments - Appoint Ian Natsch to the Centralia Fire Department****Minutes:**

Alderman Hudson made a motion to approve the appointment of Ian Natsch to the Centralia Fire Department, contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and screenings. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

b. Appointment - Appoint Mariah Littrell to Library Board to Fill Remainder of Larry Dorman's Term**Minutes:**

Alderman Hudson made a motion to approve the appointment of Mariah Littrell to the Centralia Library Board, to fulfill the remainder of Larry Dorman's term. Alderman Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR**Minutes:**

City Administrator Strain reported that a significant amount of time has recently been spent on drafting the FY27 budget. Many meetings and trainings have also been held to facilitate the new software transition.

a. Monthly Report

13. CITY ATTORNEY

Minutes:

City Attorney Mayfield asked the Board for clarification on how they wished to proceed with nuisance violations. Letters will be sent to violators this week, and an administrative hearing will need to be scheduled. The Board agreed that the hearings should tentatively be scheduled for May 11, following the committee meetings. Mayfield will work to secure a hearing officer and court reporter for that date.

14. CITY CLERK

Minutes:

City Clerk Marilyn Dick reminded the Board that elections will be held on April 7. She also provided the Board with information on an upcoming city official's seminar held by Lauber Municipal Law on May 1; Board members will advise Dick if they wish to register. Dick also reported that numerous policies and procedures were updated or implemented this year; as a result, the recent Mirma annual assessment score increased from 89% to 97%.

15. DISCUSSION REGARDING MISSOURI INCOME TAX BILL 2026

Minutes:

City Attorney Mayfield led discussion regarding the proposed legislative action that would reduce or eliminate the state individual income tax. The proposal includes a mandate that local municipalities must adjust a tax source to reduce revenue by an amount substantially equal to the additional revenue generated from the expanded sales tax base; this would ensure local revenue neutrality, not a revenue growth for the city. Mayfield cautioned the Board that this would cause budget adjustments for the city. Mayfield will continue to monitor the legislative actions.

CLOSED SESSION*

*During the meeting, the Board of Aldermen may elect to go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be:

1. As provided for under Section 610.021 (1) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys;
9. Preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups.

16. CLOSED SESSION

(MOTION)

Minutes:

The agenda was previously amended to remove the closed session. No closed session was held.

17. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

(MOTION)

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

18. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Wilkins made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Hudson seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Contact: Tara Strain, City Administrator (tara@centraliamogov 573-682-2139) | Minutes published on 03/18/2026,
adopted on 04/20/2026