



General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, April 13, 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 6:42 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, and Don Rodgers answered roll call. Alderman Landon Magley was absent. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, Public Works & Utilities Director Matthew Rusch, Police Chief Harlan Hatton & Deputy City Clerk Beth Kable. Citizens present: Betty Gooding with the Centralia Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLIC SAFETY

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Police Chief Harlan Hatton said that Andrew Power will graduate from the police academy at the end of April and will join the force at that time. He also reported that he has hired a new part time officer that they are getting set up and will start soon. He also reported that they have their new optic pistols going and training will be completed within the week. Alderman Rodgers asked if the take home car program has started and how it is going. Chief Hatton said that it is going well so far.

b. Chief of Police Monthly Report

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Public Works Director Matthew Rusch was filling in for Fire Chief Denny Rusch and reported that they have had mostly medical calls with a couple of shed fires in the backyard of homes. The department handled the fires very well and they were put out quickly. They are still working on the ladder truck and are trying to get it outfitted so it can be used more often. The weather has been good, so the department has done several trainings outside which helps develop the new recruits. He also reported that the final paperwork for the city medical director will be on the agenda for next Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting.

5. OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Emergency Management

b. Protective Inspection

GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a. Chamber of Commerce Reports

Minutes:

Chamber of Commerce member Betty Gooding said that things were going well in preparation for the Anchor Fest. They also have 3 positions opening up for the Chamber, but they have 3 people interested in filling those positions. She also reported that this past Saturday was opening day for the Farmer's Market and it was well attended. They also purchased a banner with the times for the Market on it and hung it from the gazabo in the square. City Administrator Tara Strain expressed concern for hanging the banner in the park that if we allow this banner, we will have to allow any other group to hang their banners and signs. Alderman Orsini suggested the city be a sponsor the farmer's market since we provide electric for them, then we would be hanging a banner for our own event. Tara said that she will speak with City Attorney Cydney Mayfield to get her opinion.

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

- a. Local Government Week Proclamation - April 12th - 18th
- b. Lineman Appreciation Week Proclamation - April 13th - 19th
- c. National Park Week Proclamation - April 18th - 26th
- d. National Library Week Proclamation - April 19th - 25th
- e. Arbor Day Proclamation - April 24th
- f. National Drinking Water Week Proclamation - May 3rd - 9th
- g. National Municipal Clerks Week - May 3rd - 9th

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 6:53 p.m.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0