



General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, May 11, 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 6:50 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, Harold Deckerd, and Landon Magley answered roll call. Aldermen Don Rodgers & David Wilkins were absent. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, Public Works & Utilities Director Matthew Rusch, Mayor Chris Cox, 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: Betty Gooding with the Centralia Chamber of Commerce, and Linda Bormann.

PUBLIC SAFETY

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Police Chief Harlan Hatton said they are still working on getting the MDTs set up, and they didn't actually cost anything, the only expense is the set-up cost. They are also busy getting things ready for Anchor Fest. Alderman Deckerd asked about the use of E bikes on the road and sidewalks and what Chief Hatton is doing to stop them. He is concerned that they do not follow traffic laws and are traveling at a high speed. Chief Hatton said that they are stopping

them as they see them and telling them they cannot operate them in the city but is reluctant to do anything further because they would be assigned a juvenile officer if they are ticketed. Alderman Deckerd recommended picking the kids up and escorting them home to talk to the parents. Alderman Landon Magley said that the Gibson house that is being demolished on Switzler is burning materials in the back yard every evening and neighbors are complaining. Fire Chief Denny Rusch said he had talked to lady tearing down a house on Stone Street that was doing the same thing and she said she would tell the person tearing down the other house to stop burning. Chief Hatton said he would keep an eye on it and ticket them if they do it again.

b. Chief of Police Monthly Report

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Fire Chief Denny Rusch reported that all of the trucks passed the pump test, so all the trucks are good for the year.

b. Proposed Resolution on Call-outs

Minutes:

Fire Chief Denny Rusch asked the board if they had read the proposed resolution and they all agreed that it looked good.

5. OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Emergency Management

Minutes:

City Administrator Tara Strain said that she and Fire Chief Denny Rusch are working with the county on new radios for emergency personnel.

b. Protective Inspection

Minutes:

Alderman Orsini asked how the house abatements are going and City Administrator Tara Strain said that the earlier houses are almost resolved and she is about to send out a new set of letters for a few more houses.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a. Chamber of Commerce Reports

Minutes:

Chamber of Commerce representative Betty Gooding reported that there are 3 new members on the Chamber, and they are finishing preparations for the Anchor Festival. She asked about hanging the banner for the Farmer's Market and City Administrator Tara Strain said that City Attorney Cydney Mayfield was not comfortable with displaying the banner due to the president it will set for

the future.

7. PARK BOARD

a. Park Board Minute(s)

8. LIBRARY BOARD

a. Library Board Minute(s)

9. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

a. Balance Sheet

Minutes:

City Administrator Tara Strain said that the yearly audit will start next week.

b. Budget Report

c. Accounts Payable Over \$1250

Minutes:

Alderman Deckerd asked about the asbestos removal on the property on Railroad Street and Public Works Director Matthew Rusch said that the property will be used for firefighter training and then demolished as soon as it can be scheduled.

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 7:03 p.m.

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0