



General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, June 8, 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 Harold Deckerd called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen Jessica Orsini, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, Don Rodgers, and Landon Magley were present. Alderman Robert Hudson was absent. Others present: Mayor Chris Cox, City Administrator Tara Strain, City Attorney Cydney Mayfield, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, Police Chief Harlan Hatton, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Public Works Director Matthew Rusch, Electric Foreman Clayton Crump, Street Foreman Deme Towne, Water Foreman Aaron Kroeger. Citizens present: Ashley Cameron with the Centralia Chamber of Commerce, James Smith with the Centralia Fireside Guard, Linda Bormann.

PUBLIC SAFETY

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Police Chief Harlan Hatton reported that Anchor Fest caused no problems for the police department. Alderman Deckerd questioned if there has been an increase in theft of credit card information; Chief Hatton replied there has not been a problem in Centralia, but some companies have been advertising the sale of RFI sleeves to protect the credit card from scanners. Alderman Deckerd stated he continues to be concerned about the safety of E-Bikes, and asked if bike safety classes should be conducted for the public.

Alderman Orsini suggested that the E-Bikes are unlicensed motorized vehicles and should be impounded. City Administrator Strain advised that E-Bikes are not specifically addressed by the City's current ordinance. Alderman Orsini requested that more information be collected on E-Bike regulations, and the topic will be addressed by the Board at a future meeting.

a. Activity Report

b. Chief of Police Monthly Report

4. CODE ENFORCEMENT

Minutes:

Public Works Director Matthew Rusch reported that the current ordinance regarding weed control states that weeds and grass exceeding 12 inches in height are in violation. Due to a cumbersome nuisance process, the weeds can often reach 15-20 inches in height before city abatement can begin. Weeds of this height can cause damage to the mower and put city workers at risk of injury. In addition, current fees for the administrative process and mowing are low. Rusch suggested that the height limit of the weeds be lowered, and the fees increased. City Attorney Mayfield advised that a height limit of 7 inches is desirable. Alderman Orsini stated that a notice should be placed on the door of the violator, to eliminate postal delays. Alderman Magley stated that the city property should also be held to the same 7 inch standard if the city is to impose this restriction on the residents. City Attorney Mayfield will propose ordinance changes to the Board at a future meeting.

a. Weed Ordinance

5. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Fire Chief Denny Rusch reported that Anchor Fest was uneventful for the Fire Department. The firefighters have recently participated in numerous public relations events sponsored by the City and area schools.

a. Activity Report

6. OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Emergency Management

b. Protective Inspection

GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Minutes:

Ashley Cameron with the Centralia Chamber of Commerce reported that Anchor Fest went well, and thanked the city crews for their assistance. Per Cameron, attendance numbers and sales were down approximately 15-24% from last year, due to the rainy weather and tighter economy. Next year will be the 40th anniversary of Anchor Fest, so special activities will be planned. City Attorney Mayfield stated there were two possible instances of improper alcohol sales during this year's Anchor Fest; as such, new policies and procedures will be implemented in 2027. Cameron also advised that

planning for the Annual Wine and Whiskey Walk has begun; it will be held in September.

a. Chamber of Commerce Reports

8. PARK BOARD

a. Park Board Agenda(s)

b. Park Board Minute(s)

9. LIBRARY BOARD

a. Library Board Minute(s)

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Cemetery Advisory Committee

11. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

a. Balance Sheet

b. Budget Report

c. Accounts Payable Over \$1250

12. OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT

a. Dayne's Rate Increase

Minutes:

City Administrator Strain reported that Dayne's Waste Disposal increased rates effective June 1, due to rising fuel costs. Rates increased \$.27 per residential service, 3.5% for commercial services, \$11.00 per roll off delivery, and \$11.00 per roll off pull charge.

b. Bereavement Leave

Minutes:

City Administrator Strain presented a draft of a Bereavement Leave policy for City employees. The current policy identifies the leave as funeral leave, and states it must be used to attend funeral services. The Benefits Committee discussed the policy, and proposed changes to change the verbiage to bereavement leave, extend leave to up to 5 days for immediate family member, and include additional family members such as "step" members. The Board will consider the ordinance changes at an upcoming Board of Aldermen meeting.

13. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Wilkins made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Orsini seconded the motion. On a call by Alderman Deckerd for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.