

Special City Council Work Session
June 23, 2025 – 7:20 P.M.
City Hall - 203 Paul Street - Pleasant Hill, MO 64080

Present

Mayor: John King

Council Members: Pat Niner, Michelle Newberry, Brenda Dummer

Staff: Shelby Teufel, Nici Wilson, Tommy Wright, Tony Bakken, Jeff Hull, Amy Johnson, Missy Gentry, Kylie Baker, and Jodie Wasson

Public: Carla Murray, John Self, Ed Clemmons, Jessica Elliott

Mayor King called the work session to order at 7:20 P.M. Jodie Wasson called the roll of officials. A quorum was declared.

1. Personnel Staffing Including Municipal Court Discussion:

City Administrator Shelby Teufel prefaced this discussion by reminding the Council that our current Court Administrator has accepted a position with another entity. Typically, we would continue to hire a new Court Administrator and move forward but we now have the option to transfer this service to the county if the Council is so inclined. The estimated cost for our current municipal court is \$145,000/yr, with an anticipated revenue of \$120,000. With changes that have taken effect since the passage of Senate Bill 5, the municipal court acts as its own department with little oversight by the City. Some of the changes that have come about post Senate Bill 5 are:

- Limited fines and imposed hearing requirements
- Placed a revenue cap at 20% of the General Fund revenue
- Judge to retire by 75 years old
- Requirement to be open and available to the public 32 hours per week
- Separate space and no access to records
- Court personnel cannot perform other work for the City and City staff are not to perform work for the Court
- Baliff has to be a court employee

Staff and Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of keeping court as is or moving to the county. Discussion was also had regarding the process for transitioning to the county.

Mayor King stated that he had reached out to some other entities to get their opinion on using the Circuit Court for their business as well. The opinion that he received from them regarding the Circuit Court was overwhelmingly positive. Mayor King asked Chief Wright's opinion on the matter. Chief Wright explained that he has no preference either way, both have pros and cons. CW Niner stated that she would like the City to keep the municipal court as it is. Niner further stated that we have a responsibility to the community and that she thinks moving to the county could be more costly. Mayor King inquired if state regulations get more strict could that potentially end up costing the City more. For example, if the City were required to hire a bailiff and additional staff, as well as maintenance of the court space.

After some discussion it was agreed that the City would keep Municipal Court local and operational as it currently is.

2. Additional SRO position:

Discussion was had regarding the possibility of adding another SRO position. The school district is already moving forward with filling the second position with a Cass County deputy. There is grant funding available that the City could apply for to add another officer. This grant funding would be good for three years and then after that it would be the responsibility of the City to fully fund the position.

After some discussion it was agreed upon that we would not move forward with the grant application for funding at this time.

Mayor King stated that we have needs in every department for additional staffing. He used City Hall staff as an example. When Johnson was promoted to Finance Manager we eliminated an Accounts Payable position. That position was absorbed by the Customer Service Rep position. When one or two employees are out at the same time it does cause some issues with other employees trying to cover those positions as well as their own. CW Niner asked if we could show what each position within the City does to get a better understanding.

3. Naming of Recreation Complex:

As we are approaching the completion of the renovations at the Recreation Complex we now need to decide on a name for the facility and what will be on signage. After some discussion the consensus landed on "The Hill" - Pleasant Hill Recreation Complex.

4. Rock Island Trail and Other Bicycle Plans:

The county is now on board with completing the bike trail. There are a couple of gaps in the trail system. The State has everything from the trailhead to the south. The state park section is really called the "Rock Island Trail". The City has an obligation to construct more trail at the lake. We received a grant for this project and we have to have this completed by 2027 or forfeit the grant funding.

5. Other Items Discussed:

- Council inquired about how many hotels, Air BNB and camping facilities we have operating in town. There are approximately 11 in town.
- Cedar Street Bike Lane - discussed having dual lanes on one side so parking can stay on the other side.

- CW Dummer requested a stop sign at Mulberry and Trail Ridge Dr, on the south side of the intersection where motorists on Mulberry going north have to stop before turning left onto Trail Ridge Dr.
 - CW Newberry would like to edit the snow shoveling ordinance enforcing primary routes and handling of properties along 7 Hwy.
 - Moving forward Council would like to require any applicant with a special events application to be present at the Council meeting where the application is being considered so that they can present their request and be available to answer any questions from the Council.
 - CW Niner inquired if the speed limit on Country Club Dr could be amended. Chief Wright stated it would depend on who set the speed limit.
 - Future work session topics include:
 - Economic Vitality and Development Council
 - Ben White with Missouri Main Street Connection
6. Motion was made to conclude the work session and go back into open session at 9:20 P.M. by CW Newberry, seconded by CW Niner. Vote as follows: CW Niner aye, CW Newberry aye, CW Dummer aye. Motion approved.
7. Back in open session, there being no further business to come before the City Council, a motion was made by CW Niner, seconded by CW Newberry to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:20 P.M. Vote as follows: CW Niner aye, CW Newberry aye, CW Dummer aye. Motion approved.

Approved: _____

Mayor - John King

Attest: _____

City Clerk - Jodie Wasson