



MINUTES

City Council Workshop BUILDS Building, 4221 S. Wilson's Creek Blvd. May 13, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Eric Franklin, Mayor
Eric Gerke, Ward I
Garry Wilson, Ward II
Christopher Updike, Ward III
Justin Neal, Ward IV
Justin Shaw, Ward I
Darran Campbell, Ward II
Brian Fields, Ward III
Daniel Harter, Ward IV

Call Meeting to Order

The work session meeting of the City Council of the City of Republic, Greene County, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Eric Franklin at 11:05 a.m. Council Members present included Justin Neal, Darran Campbell, Garry Wilson, Brian Fields, Eric Gerke, Daniel Harter, and Justin Shaw. Others in attendance were: City Administrator David Cameron, City Attorney Megan McCullough, Fire Chief Duane Compton, City Clerk Laura Burbridge, Police Chief Brian Sells, Principal Planner Chris Tabor, Chief of Staff Lisa Addington, Chief Technology Officer Josh Jones, Engineer (E.I.) Stefani Fitzpatrick-Duncan, IT Manager Michael Sallee, Deputy Fire Chief Lynn Hollandworth, Operations Manager Eric Brown, BUILDS Associate Jordan Gardner, and Parks and Recreation Director Kris Parks.

Presentations and Discussions

1. AARC Final Report and Public Safety Updates.

Police Chief Brian Sells presented an update on the Police Department, including the impact of the public safety sales tax. He also provided information regarding Project AARC. Duane Compton presented additional details in support of the Project AARC initiative.

City Administrator David Cameron expressed his appreciation to staff who contributed to the development of the City's Emergency Response Plan. He emphasized the importance of having a clear chain of command during emergency situations, noting that when devastation occurs, people look for leadership and answers. He also highlighted the need for intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) with neighboring cities to facilitate coordinated disaster response.

City Administrator David Cameron acknowledged Colin Chastain, who was present at the meeting. Mr. Chastain is the incoming President of the Student Government Association at Missouri State University. Mr. Cameron noted that Mr. Chastain is currently learning how local government operates through engagement with the City of Republic.

2. Tri-State Water Coalition Presentation.

Roddy Rogers with Southwest Missouri Water presented the Tri State Water Coalition information.

3. Discussion on Proposal to Negotiate a Potential Intergovernmental Agreement with City Utilities for Supplemental Water Connections.

City Administrator David Cameron provided an overview of the proposed agreement negotiations, noting that the proposal aligns with Mr. Rogers' earlier presentation regarding water access. He further explained that the treatment of well water differs significantly from the treatment of surface water, both in terms of required infrastructure and regulatory standards.

Council Member Neal Presentation and Discussion

4. Liquor Licensing Discussion.

Council Member Neal proposed amending the liquor licensing fees to reduce confusion for businesses and to lower overall costs, noting that businesses are already required to pay fees to both the state and county. He acknowledged that the City's current fee structure and licensing

categories are consistent with those of surrounding municipalities and are aligned with what state statute permits for municipalities.

Council engaged in discussion and posed questions to staff regarding the proposal. While consensus on immediate action appeared to be divided, Mayor Franklin requested that staff evaluate the current rates and return to Council with potential revisions. City Administrator David Cameron stated that any proposed changes would be brought forward at a future workshop for discussion before being presented for a first reading.

Report from Staff

Council Member Neal reported attending the Lauber Municipal Law training for elected officials, where one of the topics discussed was the inclusion of prayer during Council meetings. The recommendation shared during the training was to conduct the prayer prior to the official start of the meeting.

Mayor Eric Franklin expressed appreciation for all who attended the meeting and for the discussion regarding public safety. He emphasized the importance of respecting the work of first responders and reminded Council Members to coordinate through City Administrator David Cameron when appropriate. The Mayor also thanked Mr. Rogers for his presentation on the Tri-State Water Coalition and noted the impact of the personal story he shared about Haiti.

Adjournment

Mayor Franklin adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

Eric Franklin, Mayor