



MINUTES
City Council Regular Session
City Hall, 4221 S. Wilson's Creek Blvd.
May 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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 regular session meeting of the City Council of the City of Republic, Greene County, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Eric Franklin at 6:01 p.m. Council Members present included Brian Fields, Dan Harter, Eric Gerke, Garry Wilson, Justin Shaw, Justin Neal, and Chris Updike. Others in attendance were: City Administrator Colten Harris, Chief of Staff Lisa Addington, IT Manager Michael Sallee, Fire Chief Duane Compton, Police Chief Brian Sells, Chief Financial Officer Bob Ford, City Clerk Laura Burbridge, City Attorney Justin Rogers, Community Development Director Karen Haynes, Police Lieutenant Zach Richards, Communications Coordinator Ashlee Rowen, Senior Planner Katherine Louderbaugh, Principal Planner Chris Tabor, and Parks and Recreation Director Kris Parks.

Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Mayor Franklin.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Franklin.

Mayor's Announcements

Mayor Franklin announced the appointments of Tyler Overstreet to the Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board, Council Member Eric Gerke as the Council Liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Trevor Tippie to the Housing Authority. Mayor Franklin also announced the reappointment of Sue Watkins to the Housing Authority. Council Member Harter motioned to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Enhanced Enterprise Board, Housing Authority and Planning and Zoning Commission as presented. Council Member Shaw seconded. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

1. Appoint Dr. Tyler Overstreet to the Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board to fill the term of Dr. Matt Pearce to expire on July 15, 2028.
2. Appoint Trevor Tippie and re-appoint Sue Watkins to the Housing Authority for a four-year term.
3. Appoint Council Member Eric Gerke as the Council Liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a one-year term.

Proclamations

4. Mental Health Awareness Month

Mayor Franklin presented the Proclamation to Chad Wibel with Personal Assistance Services. Mr. Wibel spoke about the importance of mental health and commended the City for prioritizing the wellbeing of staff.

5. Dr. Matt Pearce Day

Mayor Franklin presented the proclamation to Dr. Matt Pearce. Dr. Pearce spoke of the positive partnership he has had with the City and staff during his tenure.

Citizen Participation

Mayor Franklin opened citizen participation at 6:14 p.m. No one came forward, so Mayor Franklin closed citizen participation at 6:15 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Council Member Harter and seconded by Council Member Updike to approve the consent agenda. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

6. Approve the May 5, 2026 City Council Work Session Minutes.

7. Approve the May 5, 2026 City Council Minutes.

Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule

City Council Meeting	June 2, 2026
Board of Adjustment Meeting	June 4, 2026
Planning & Zoning Meeting	June 8, 2026
City Council Meeting	June 16, 2026

Old Business and Tabled Items

8. 26-17 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving Budget Amendment No. 1 to the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026.

Motion was made by Council Member Shaw and seconded by Council Member Harter to have the second reading of Bill 26-17 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Bob Ford was available for questions of Council. Council Member Neal motioned for the passage of Bill 26-17. Council Member Updike seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

New Business (First Reading of Ordinances)

9. 26-18 An Ordinance of the City Council Vacating Approximately Four Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five (4,195) Square Feet of Sanitary Sewer Easement Located in Lot 6 of Boyce Hills Subdivision (VACA 26-001).

Motion was made by Council Member Harter and seconded by Council Member Neal to have the first reading of Bill 26-18 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Katherine Louderbaugh gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Franklin reminded Council to get with staff before the next meeting with any questions.

10. 26-19 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving a Special Use Permit for Rescue One to Operate a Veterinary Facility on Real Property Located at 3155 East Sawyer Road.

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Updike to have the first reading of Bill 26-19 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Chris Tabor gave an overview of the bill. Ellen Dowdy, 2000 S. Stewart, spoke in favor of the bill as the Board President for Rescue One. Chris Wynn with CJW Transportation, 5051 S National Suite 7A, spoke in favor of the bill as the civil engineer representing Rescue One. Mayor Franklin reminded Council to get with staff before the next meeting with any questions.

Other Business (Resolutions)

11.26-R-12 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the City of Republic to Apply for Safe Streets for All Grant Funds to Improve Roadway Safety Along Route MM Between Interstate 44 And James River Freeway in Partnership with Ozarks Transportation Organization and Missouri Department of Transportation.

Motion was made by Council Member Shaw and seconded by Council Member Neal to take up Resolution 26-R-12. Karen Haynes presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

Reports from Staff

City Administrator Colten Harris reminded everyone that City offices will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. He thanked Dr. Pearce and Chad Wibel for attending the meeting and receiving the resolutions. He expressed appreciation for the impact Dr. Pearce has had on the community and the legacy he is leaving behind. He also emphasized the importance of the Mental Health Awareness proclamation, noting that mental health affects families, workplaces, and schools, and that publicly recognizing it helps reduce the stigma.

City Administrator Colten Harris announced several upcoming events and updates, including the June 2 workshop featuring a Historical Society update, the J.R. Martin Loop ribbon cutting and grand opening on June 12 at 6:00 p.m., and the opening of The Rush Aquatic Park on May 24. He also reminded residents of the upcoming road closures on Farm Road 103 and Stone Falls Road throughout the summer.

City Administrator Colten Harris also acknowledged several staff accomplishments. He recognized Parks Horticulturalist Ryan Mareth for having an article published in the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association magazine regarding his efforts to restore native plants through prairie and native landscape installations. He also highlighted Parks Arborist Donnie Robertson, who has been growing more than 300 vegetable plants in the greenhouse over the winter for community members to use in their own gardens at little to no cost, helping provide food for local families. In addition, he recognized the Republic Police Department for adding five Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to the patrol division. He noted that these lifesaving tools will help officers respond quickly during cardiac emergencies and improve cardiac arrest survival rates in the community.

Mayor Eric Franklin shared his appreciation for the recent Employee Appreciation Picnic and said he enjoyed the opportunity to visit with staff. He wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and referenced last week's ceremony honoring Salvation Army contributions. He also discussed ongoing work related to Harbor House and recognized the ribbon cutting for the Chadwick Flyer Trail completed by partners Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) and the City of Ozark.

Mayor Franklin thanked Council Member Brian Fields for his two years of service as Planning and Zoning Liaison and welcomed Council Member Gerke into the role for the coming year. He also noted that Boy Scout Troop 174 invited Council to attend a flag retirement ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on May 25 and reminded everyone of the upcoming OTO Board meeting on May 21.

Mayor Franklin announced the June 1 ribbon cutting at the Republic Library and commented on the quality of the new building. He concluded by recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month and thanking those working to support mental health initiatives. He again expressed appreciation to Dr. Pearce for attending the meeting and noted how meaningful it is to have the City's Mission, Vision, and Values displayed in the Council Chambers.

Adjournment

Mayor Franklin adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

Eric Franklin, Mayor

DRAFT