



**Matt Russell, Mayor**  
Garry Wilson, Ward II  
Christopher Updike, Ward III  
Jennifer Mitchell, Ward IV  
  
Eric Franklin, Ward I  
Gerry Pool, Ward II  
Shane Grooms, Ward III  
Jim Deichman, Ward IV

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**City Council Chambers, 540 Civic Boulevard**  
**September 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

**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 Matt Russell at 6:00 p.m. Council Members present included Christopher Updike, Jim Deichman, Eric Franklin, Garry Wilson, Gerry Pool, Shane Grooms, and Jennifer Mitchell. Others in attendance were: City Administrator David Cameron, Interim City Attorney Damon Phillips, Assistant City Administrator/Parks and Recreation Director Jared Keeling, Information Systems Director Chris Crosby, Lieutenant Jamie Burks, Planning Manager Karen Haynes, Fire Chief Duane Compton, Customer Experience Specialist Brianna Thompson, Chief of Staff Lisa Addington, BUILDS Administrator Andrew Nelson, Public Information Officer Allyssa Dudley, and City Clerk Laura Burbridge.

**Opening Prayer**

Opening prayer was led by City Administrator David Cameron.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Matt Russell.

**Citizen Participation**

Mayor Matt Russell opened citizen participation at 6:00 p.m. No one came forward so Mayor Russell closed citizen participation at 6:01 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Council Member Deichman and seconded by Council Member Pool to approve the consent agenda. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Pool, Wilson, Updike, and Mitchell. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

1. Approve September 7, 2021 City Council Minutes.
2. As per RSMo. 109.230(4), City records that are on file in the City Clerk's office and have met the retention schedule will be destroyed in compliance with the guidelines established by the Secretary of State's office.
3. Approve Vendor List.
4. Approve Utility Billing Fee Refunds.
5. 21-R-40 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving the Dedication of Right-of-Way of Approximately 0.29 Acres Located at 2860 North Brookline Avenue.
6. 21-R-41 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute an Addendum to the Agreement for Financial Consulting Services with Maximist, LLC.

**Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule**

Planning & Zoning Meeting                      October 12, 2021



City Council Meeting	October 5, 2021
Board of Adjustment Meeting	October 7, 2021
City Council Meeting	October 19, 2021

**Old Business and Tabled Items**

- 7. 21-58 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving the Final Plat of Olde Savannah Phase Two Subdivision.

City Administrator David Cameron notified Council Bill 21-58 needed to be tabled until the next meeting to provide time for Liberty to install infrastructure. Council Member Franklin motioned to table the meeting until October 5, 2021. Council Member Updike seconded. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Mitchell, Pool, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

- 8. 21-59 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri to Bring Power to the City Gateway Sign Site Located at 6571 W. US Hwy 60.

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Updike to have the second reading of Bill 21-59 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Pool, Wilson, Mitchell, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Jared Keeling was available to answer any questions from Council. Council Member Deichman motioned for the passage of Bill 21-59. Council Member Franklin seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Mitchell, Pool, Wilson, Updike, Franklin, and Grooms. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

- 9. 21-60 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Cost Apportionment Agreement with the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission for the Maintenance of Painting on Signals at State Highway 174 and US Highway 60.

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Updike to have the second reading of Bill 21-60 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Pool, Wilson, Mitchell, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Andrew Nelson was available to answer any questions from Council. Council Member Wilson motioned for the passage of Bill 21-60. Council Member Pool seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Mitchell, Pool, Wilson, Updike, Franklin, and Grooms. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

**New Business (First Reading of Ordinances)**

- 10.21-61 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving Amending the Zoning Code and Official Map by Changing the Classification of Approximately 4.77 Acres from Medium Density Single-Family Residential (R1-M) to General Commercial (C-3), Located at 503 North West Avenue.

Motion was made by Council Member Pool and seconded by Council Member Deichman to have the first reading of Bill 21-61 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Mitchell, Pool, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes provided an overview of the bill. Teresa Davison with Heithaus Engineering and Associates, Inc. located at 535 W Battlefield Rd spoke in favor of the bill. Mayor Russel reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff prior to the next meeting with any questions.

11.21-62 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving Entry of an Abatement Order on Consent with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Regarding Wastewater Treatment and Authorizing the Execution of Same by the Mayor.

Motion was made by Council Member Mitchell and seconded by Council Member Franklin to have the first reading of Bill 21-62 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Mitchell, Pool, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Andrew Nelson provided an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council to get with staff prior to the next meeting with any questions.

#### **Other Business (Resolutions)**

12.21-R-42 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving a Preliminary Plat for Ashford Place, a Residential Subdivision Consisting of Approximately 9.32 Acres Located at 924 North Main Street.

Motion was made by Council Member Grooms and seconded by Council Member Franklin to approve Resolution 21-R-42. Karen Haynes provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Wilson, Pool, Mitchell, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

#### **Reports from Staff**

City Administrator David Cameron introduced Allyssa Dudley, the new Public Information Officer to Council. Mr. Cameron reported Ms. Dudley grew up in this area and is returning home after working in Saint Louis for four years. Mr. Cameron shared he looks forward to her partnering with media and staff to push out our message internally and externally. Mr. Cameron acknowledged Jennafer Mayfield did a solid job as Interim Public Information Officer and thanked her for her efforts in the absence of a PIO. Mr. Cameron shared we have a lot going on with fast growth rates. Mr. Cameron welcomed Ms. Dudley to the community.

City Administrator David Cameron shared Finance Director Meghin Cook will be back in office tomorrow. Mr. Cameron reported baby is doing well and we are looking forward to having Ms. Cook back. Mr. Cameron thanked Larry Brown for his work while Meghin has been out.

City Administrator David Cameron reviewed the finance report with Council. Mr. Cameron shared operating costs are down, mostly with savings in public safety. We have seen 17% growth in our sales tax numbers. Mr. Cameron shared his appreciation of staff and for Council allowing us to do our jobs. Mr. Cameron shared we treat our work here as we would our own business and home, being accountable for the funds spent. Mr. Cameron reminded Council that doing the right thing sometimes leads to frustration, as in the circumstances with the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Cameron shared if we take care of rate structure rather than fearing pushback from the community, the debt we are taking on for the upgrades would have been significantly less. Mr. Cameron shared the \$40 million cost would have been \$20 million ten years ago. Mr. Cameron reminded Council of the importance of taking care of what is already there and not just focusing on the new projects. Mr. Cameron shared the Water funds are also extremely low and vulnerable, so we will have to address that rate structure as well in the 2022 budget. Mr. Cameron reminded Council the rates haven't increased since 2014, but we will do increases in stair step increments.

City Administrator David Cameron shared we will have our budget hearing in November and shared the public safety measure will help with their budgets. Mr. Cameron notified Council we will not collect these taxes until January 1st, and anticipate seeing the first disbursements in March. Missouri Department of Revenue's protocol is to go through two quarters before implementation.

City Administrator David Cameron shared that two Mondays from now, we will be interviewing applicants for the Ward 1 seat to fill Brandon Self's vacancy.

City Administrator David Cameron shared our two largest threats to the community are the need for more public safety, and the Abatement order on Consent for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is a legal action and Mr. Cameron commended staff, engineering, and the wisdom of staff hiring outside environmental counsel to work through this. Mr. Cameron thanked the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Representative Davidson. Mr. Cameron reported the DNR did not posture with us and worked with us, giving us almost everything we asked for while agreeing with our arguments. Mr. Cameron shared the value in the expense of almost three million dollars because we didn't even have the elevation of pipes, We were able to stop the plan and move a different direction. Mr. Cameron reported he will be in Kansas City next week to work through what will get us on the right path with this project. Mr. Cameron encouraged Council to ask Andrew what the AOC means before the next meeting. Mr. Cameron reported Andrew will answer any questions needed. Mr. Cameron reminded Council we deferred the approved rate increase that was passed in April until January 2022. Mr. Cameron let Council know that due to the growth moving at a faster pace than previously anticipated, the last numbers he saw for the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements was closer to One hundred million dollars.

City Administrator David Cameron reported he plans to have a November vision session. Mr. Cameron is presenting at the October 5th Chamber Luncheon a 20 minute overview of this vision as an opportunity to share with and engage the business community. Mr. Cameron reported we will go over this as a city in November, ask for feedback, and have another driving tour to see what is going on. Mr. Cameron reported there will be some new announcements that will coincide with that tour.

City Administrator David Cameron reported he attended a Civic Leadership Visit, where the first lady of Republic, Krystal Russell attended. Mr. Cameron reported he got to speak at that visit about regionalism. Mr. Cameron reported our area has a lot to offer and we need to move as a region moving forward because cities competing is not our objective. Mr. Cameron shared quality of life is important and we need to work collectively. Mr. Cameron reported he appreciated the opportunity to be away and felt it benefitted our community greatly.

Mayor Matt Russell shared that Mr. Cameron announced Mrs. Russell as the first lady every time she walked in the room.

City Administrator David Cameron shared he is excited about the future of Republic and Southwest Missouri collectively. Mr. Cameron reported he loves being part of that future and growing our region while being good stewards.

Mayor Matt Russell shared he didn't go to the Civic Leadership Visit but his wife Krystal did. Mayor Russell reported she told him about the event, sharing 65-70 people were in attendance, mostly from Springfield. On the last day during the takeaways, she was at one table where everyone talked about Republic growing and reported to the group about Republic. Mayor Russell shared that all the other tables talked about Republic's growth and about the flame David lit under them in his speech. Mayor Russell reported she said David did an amazing job. Mayor Russell reminded council that what we are doing is impactful. We are cleaning up problems and dealing with things, but people are talking about us and we are doing something right. Mayor Russell reported that David undersold what happened at that event and emphasized that people are paying attention and talking about our progress.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Russell adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

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Matt Russell, Mayor

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