



**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**  
**August 17, 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 Michael Tighe, Assistant City Administrator/Parks and Recreation Director Jared Keeling, Information Systems Director Chris Crosby, Police Lieutenant Jamie Burks, Planning Manager Karen Haynes, Chief of Staff Lisa Addington, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jennafer Mayfield, BUILDS Administrator Andrew Nelson, Fire Chief Duane Compton, Interim Finance Director Larry Brown, Systems Administrator Michael Sallee, 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 6:02 p.m. No one came forward so Mayor Russell closed citizen participation at 6:02 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve August 3, 2021 City Council Minutes.
2. Approve Vendor List.

**Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule**

City Council Meeting	August 24, 2021
Board of Adjustment Meeting	September 2, 2021
City Council Meeting	September 7, 2021
Planning & Zoning Meeting	September 13, 2021

**Old Business and Tabled Items-None**

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

3. **21-55 An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Republic, Missouri, Approving The Annexation Of Approximately Ninety-One Point Five-Five (91.55) Acres, Located at 6542 West US Highway 60 and adjacent Right-of-Way.**

Council Member Franklin motioned for the first reading of Bill 21-55 by title only. Council Member Wilson seconded. The vote was 7 Aye-Wilson, Deichman, Franklin, Pool, Mitchell, Grooms, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes Nelson provided an overview of the bill. City Administrator David Cameron noted a public hearing needed to be conducted. Karen Haynes confirmed the public hearing was published in the newspaper for this date and time. The public hearing was omitted from the agenda.

Council Member Deichman motioned to add the public hearing to the agenda as it was published in the newspaper as required. Council Member Wilson seconded. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Mitchell, Pool, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

Mayor Russell opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. for those in favor of the annexation. Stu Stenger, 5051 S. National spoke in favor of the annexation as a representative of the developer. Ricky Haas with Olsson Engineering, 550 E. St. Louis St. spoke in favor of the annexation as a representative of the developer.

Mayor Russell opened the public hearing for those opposed to the annexation at 6:09 p.m. No one came forward so Mayor Russell closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

**4. A Public Hearing of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Setting the 2021 Property Tax Levies for the City of Republic, Missouri.**

Mayor Russell opened the public hearing for the property tax levy at 6:09 p.m. No one came forward so Mayor Russell closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

**5. 21-56 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Setting the 2021 Property Tax Levies for the City of Republic, Missouri.**

Council Member Pool motioned for the first reading of Bill 21-56 by title only. Council Member Deichman seconded. The vote was 7 Aye-Wilson, Pool, Deichman, Franklin, Mitchell, Grooms, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Larry Brown provided an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council that this was a first read and to get with staff with any questions prior to the next meeting.

**6. 21-57 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Vacating a General Utility Easement Located on Property Owned by MM Highway, LLC, Also Known As Heart of America Park, in the City of Republic, Missouri.**

Council Member Grooms motioned for the first reading of Bill 21-57 by title only. Council Member Franklin seconded. The vote was 7 Aye-Wilson, Pool, Deichman, Franklin, Mitchell, Grooms, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Mayor Russell explained that this bill was approved in 2017, but was never signed, requiring it to be approved by Council again for recording purposes. Mayor Russell reminded Council that this was a first read and to get with staff with any questions prior to the next meeting.

**Other Business (Resolutions)**

**7. 21-R-33 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the Renewal of the Agreement with the Bank of Missouri to Provide Depository and Banking Services.**

Motion was made by Council Member Pool and seconded by Council Member Deichman to approve Resolution 21-R-33. Laura Burbridge provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote

was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Wilson, Pool, Mitchell, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

**8. 21-R-34 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the City Administrator to Approve the Contract for Interim City Attorney Damon Phillips, Pursuant to Republic City Charter.**

Motion was made by Council Member Deichman and seconded by Council Member Franklin to approve Resolution 21-R-34. David Cameron provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Franklin, Grooms, Wilson, Pool, Mitchell, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

**9. 21-R-35 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the City Administrator to Request Allocation of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.**

Motion was made by Council Member Deichman and seconded by Council Member Pool to approve Resolution 21-R-35. David Cameron 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 acknowledged Council has done a lot the last couple weeks with back-to-back meetings. Mr. Cameron shared we didn't get the levy information until the last minute, so we moved the meetings in August to the end of the month to meet state statute.

City Administrator David Cameron shared the newly released Census data, which identified the population of Republic as 18,750. We have not received official notification from the Census Bureau. Mr. Cameron noted this is 27% growth over the past 10-year period. Mr. Cameron reported our projections show 12% growth each year over the next 5 years. There is a lot of growth, and this is only the beginning. Mr. Cameron reminded everyone we get funding allocations from Greene County based on our population so our portion of the collected taxes should go up from the County's shared taxes as well as the motor fuel tax. Mr. Cameron reported that when you see this type of growth, it can be advantageous to do a special census to ensure our funding portions are adequately distributed to account for the growth. The last several years increased the population numbers significantly.

City Administrator David Cameron thanked the community for their excellent turnout for the ballot measure. Mr. Cameron reported the turnout was substantial for an August ballot, which we had hoped would occur. Mr. Cameron reported there were 400 more voters for the August election than the April election when citizens voted for the Mayor and Council Members. Mr. Cameron thanked the community for voting and for demonstrating such overwhelming support of the measure. Mr. Cameron shared we can now take care of public safety in a robust way. Mr. Cameron reported the certified results have been submitted to the state and we hope by 9/1 we will receive information from them. Mr. Cameron reported we will begin with the wage adjustments and benefits followed by job postings. Mr. Cameron reported we have seen a lot of interest in the positions already, but we will not spend money until it is received.

City Administrator David Cameron announced street projects will begin this month with microsealing of Miller Road. Mr. Cameron shared when driving down these roads, it reminds him of the urgency to do something or it will cost millions to repair or replace if delayed too long. Mr. Cameron expressed this will be a great demonstration that we are keeping our promise to do road improvements.

City Administrator David Cameron showed a conceptual drawing of a proposed roundabout at Lynn and Hines. Mr. Cameron reported this is the most dangerous intersection in town. Anderson Engineering did the conceptual design and Council should see a contract for this project presented soon.

City Administrator David Cameron reported the sidewalks along Hines are also being discussed. Mr. Cameron reported there are a lot of requests for certain projects, and we can't get to every road right away. Mr. Cameron explained we will address the high impact jobs first. Mr. Cameron shared we hear about Main Street and Highway 174 frequently. Mr. Cameron reminded everyone that these are State Highways and require a 50/50 cost share with MoDOT. Mr. Cameron shared this project is not on their radar at this time and would require collaboration to complete. Mr. Cameron shared the City gave the school an alternative option for queuing, and they are looking for land, but have not found property at this time. Mr. Cameron reported a Hines and ZZ roundabout is in discussion as well.

City Administrator David Cameron also announced the city will pick up the discussion of quiet zones. Mr. Cameron reported this is not our biggest project, but we have received about 70% support on this project. Because of the requests from citizens, we will engage an engineering firm, do public hearings, and meetings. Mr. Cameron shared the one concern he identified is the requirement for a designated 100 feet, which would lead to some roads becoming right in, right out, or closed roads. This would impact the residents and businesses, so they will need to be engaged in the conversation. Drawings and cost estimates will have to be presented by an engineer. We will invite the community into this discussion.

City Administrator David Cameron updated Council on the MM Highway updates. We have completed the cost share application, the Department of Economic Development has committed 6 million dollars, and we are waiting to hear if Greene County will participate in the cost share as well. Mr. Cameron announced he is presenting to the State Commission, thanking them for their contribution to this project and presenting the additional needs of Republic. Mr. Cameron reported that US Highway 60 was bumped to higher position on the project scoring list due to the traffic count and two fatalities this year. It would be a big win for the city if we get this project on the calendar.

City Administrator David Cameron reported the ballot took a lot of energy and when we present about Trust Edge, you will hear that if you have more than 3 priorities, you have too many. Mr. Cameron shared he wanted to present our eight next priorities now that Public Safety has been funded. Mr. Cameron reminded Council of our Mission, Vision, and Values before sharing our priorities for the next 90 days. Mr. Cameron shared we will also discuss this during our upcoming budget meeting.

First and foremost, we will lead and cast vision. We will Lead, Plan, and Communicate.

We are working to execute a new Administrative Agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to get the city back into compliance with NPDES permit. This comes with a \$37 million price tag, but we have that strategy. We have requested some provisions due to COVID-19 related delays, including an extensive price increase. We need to deal with this project on a tight timeframe. Mr. Cameron reported he and Andrew will be doing strategic planning with Burns and McDonnell next month.

We will address the many transportation project needs to include expanding MM Highway to 5 Lanes with a \$9 million cost, expand other parts of MM Highway to 3-Lane with a cost of \$26 million, expand US Highway 60 possibly to 6-lane, update MM Highway to ZZ Highway, address the Lynn and Hines intersection with a roundabout, address ZZ Highway and Hines with a possible roundabout, add sidewalks along Hines, complete the trail grant project to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, microseal Miller Road, and address several side streets that need immediate attention, such as Olive Street.

We will create and present a new financial strategy to aggressively and strategically allocate our funds. We will not treat tax dollars like monopoly money and our expenses must be calculated to yield maximum efficiency and effectiveness and contribute to growing our tax base. We will continue to reduce our debts ahead of schedule. We will not be going on a spending spree as the additional sales tax dollars are collected.

We need to address our facilities and secure funding for those facilities, specifically in Parks operational funding. Our Parks Department is funded by their Parks sales taxes. We will need to build Fire Station #3 while also paying off debt on Station 1 and Station 2.

We will continue to work on our Economic Development and are currently in discussion to partner on a development of a new 200+ acre industrial park.

We plan to boost our communication significantly. Our new Public Information Officer starts September 20th. We are looking forward to pushing out large volumes of information both externally and internally. Mr. Cameron thanked Jennafer Mayfield, Jared Keeling, and Jamie Burks for the way they handled the ballot measure. Mr. Cameron shared Jennafer would like to get back to her day job with all the Parks events coming up. Mr. Cameron shared he also looks forward to the Annual Report for the year.

We will be evaluating our organizational structure to address our needs and organizational management. We want to ensure we have the resources and process map to move forward and must grow strategically.

City Administrator David Cameron announced we will do another city tour in May along with our employee appreciation picnic. Mr. Cameron reported we are already planning into 2022 on how to get there and are focused on securing our future while staying true to our Mission, Vision, and Values. The projects listed are the threats and concerns to our community, even if citizens don't realize it.

City Administrator David Cameron shared his appreciation for our staff, Mayor, and Council Members to allow us to lead this community through this interesting season. Mr. Cameron shared he loves this, and the best is truly yet to come. Mr. Cameron shared people are asking how we are doing it and he shared we have a successful model through planning, leading, and communicating with Council.

City Administrator David Cameron thanked Mike Tighe for being here tonight for Damon.

Mayor Matt Russell shared he teases Mr. Cameron a lot about talking. Mayor Russell shared people are taking notice because we are a government entity, but Mr. Cameron runs it like a business. Mayor Russell agreed with Mr. Cameron that the tax dollars aren't monopoly money and people should be happy to see the government treating it like a business. Mayor Russell shared staff treats the people's money as the people's money. Mayor Russell shared it is the right thing for the right reason.

Council Member Franklin asked if the census data is available to the public. Staff confirmed it is on the Census website.

Council Member Mitchell shared her daughter requested that she ask if we are allowed to have goats within city limits. Staff reported it is only allowed in areas zoned agricultural.

Council Member Pool shared her appreciation to the staff that shows up and all the work they do through the week, especially David. Mrs. Pool thanked Ryan Squibb for coming from a distance and always being here. Mrs. Pool shared she is glad to see him when he is here.

## **Adjournment**

Mayor Russell adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

---

Matt Russell, Mayor

DRAFT