



Matt Russell, Mayor
 Eric Gerke, Ward I
 Garry Wilson, Ward II
 Christopher Updike, Ward III
 Justin Neal, Ward IV
 Eric Franklin, Ward I
 Darran Campbell, Ward II
 Brian Fields, Ward III
 Clint Gerlek, Ward IV

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Municipal Court Building, 540 Civic Blvd
December 12, 2023 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 Darran Campbell, Eric Franklin, Garry Wilson, Eric Gerke, Brian Fields, Justin Neal, Chris Updike, and Clint Gerlek. Others in attendance were: City Administrator David Cameron, Assistant City Administrator/Parks and Recreation Director Jared Keeling, City Attorney Megan McCullough, Police Chief Brian Sells, Fire Chief Duane Compton, Finance Director Bob Ford, Assistant City Administrator-Community Development Andrew Nelson, City Clerk Laura Burbridge, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jennafer Mayfield, IT Director Chris Crosby, Chief of Staff Lisa Addington, Associate Planner Patrick Ruiz, Aquatics Administrator/Recreation Coordinator Emma Dulin, Recreation Superintendent Garrett Cline, Principal Planner Chris Tabor, Office Manager Steffi Weaver, BUILDS Analyst Trenton Sims, Lead Meter Tech Lori Brown, Operations Manger Eric Brown, Project Supervisor Fred Prisk, ROW Inspector Tim Fowkes, Project Supervisor Mike Shaw, Construction Worker Travus McCroskey, Project Supervisor Josh Lair, Crew Leader Brad Besett, and Performance Maintenance Todd Ryan.

Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by City Administrator David Cameron.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Matt Russell.

Citizen Participation

Mayor Russell opened citizen participation at 6:01 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 Wilson and seconded by Council Member Updike to approve the consent agenda. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

1. Approve the November 14, 2023 City Council Minutes.
2. Approve the November 16, 2023 City Council Workshop Minutes.
3. Approve the Vendor List.
4. 23-R-67 A Resolution of the City Council Appointing New Authorized Signers for the Municipal Court Account with Arvest Bank.

Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule

Board of Adjustment Meeting	January 4, 2024
Planning and Zoning Meeting	January 8, 2024
City Council Meeting	January 9, 2024
City Council Meeting	January 23, 2024



Old Business and Tabled Items

5. **23-53 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving the Final Plat of the Harper Ridge Phase 1 Subdivision. (Tabled from 11/14/23)**

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Updike to have the second reading of Bill 23-53 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Chris Tabor were available to answer questions. Council Member Franklin motioned for the passage of Bill 23-53. Council Member Updike seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

6. **23-58 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving Amendment of the Zoning Classification of Approximately 0.81 Acres of Real Property Located at 445 US Highway 60 East, from Local Commercial (C-1) to General Commercial (C-2).**

Motion was made by Council Member Updike and seconded by Council Member Fields to have the second reading of Bill 23-58 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Chris Tabor were available to answer questions. Council Member Neal motioned for the passage of Bill 23-58. Council Member Updike seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

7. **23-59 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving Amendment of the Zoning Classification of Approximately 40.46 Acres of Real Property Located at 7217 West Farm Road 182, from Agricultural (AG) to Medium-Density Single-Family Residential (R1-M).**

Motion was made by Council Member Fields and seconded by Council Member Franklin to have the second reading of Bill 23-59 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Chris Tabor were available to answer questions. Council Member Wilson motioned for the passage of Bill 23-59. Council Member Franklin seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

8. **23-60 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving the Final Plat of The Woods Subdivision.**

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Franklin to have the second reading of Bill 23-60 by title only. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Chris Tabor were available to answer questions. Council Member Neal motioned for the passage of Bill 23-60. Council Member Franklin seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 7 Aye-Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

9. **23-61 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving the Final Plat of Greenfield Estates Subdivision.**

Mayor Russell announced that staff has requested to table this item until the January 9, 2024 meeting. Council Member Updike motioned to table the item. Council Member Franklin seconded. The vote was 7 Aye-Updike, Wilson, Gerlek, Fields, Neal, Franklin, and Gerke. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

Swearing In of Appointed Official

City Clerk Laura Burbridge swore in Council Member Darran Campbell, appointed at the November 14, 2023 Council Meeting.

New Business (First Reading of Ordinances)

10.23-62 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving the Final Plat of the Stone Creek Falls Phase Two Subdivision.

Motion was made by Council Member Updike and seconded by Council Member Franklin to have the first reading of Bill 23-62 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Chris Tabor gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

11.23-63 An Ordinance of the City Council Calling an Election on the Question of Whether to Impose an Additional Three Percent Sales Tax on Tangible Personal Property Retail Sales of Adult Use (Non-Medical) Marijuana Sold Within the City, Pursuant to Article XIV, Section 2.6(5) of the Missouri Constitution; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Sales Tax; and Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election.

Motion was made by Council Member Updike and seconded by Council Member Campbell to have the first reading of Bill 23-63 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Laura Burbridge gave an overview of the bill. Alex Paulson, owner of Easy Mountain Dispensary spoke against the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

12.23-64 An Ordinance of the City Council Proposing Amendments to the City Charter Pertaining to the Appointment, Term and Minimum Qualifications and Duties of the City Attorney; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Amendments; Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election, and Providing for Enactment of the Proposed Amendments if Approved.

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Fields to have the first reading of Bill 23-64 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Laura Burbridge gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

13.23-65 An Ordinance of the City Council Proposing an Amendment to The City Charter Establishing a Schedule for the Election of Councilmembers to Staggered Four-Year Terms at the General Municipal Election Held on Even Years; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Amendment; Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election, and Providing for Enactment of the Proposed Amendment if Approved.

Motion was made by Council Member Updike and seconded by Council Member Franklin to have the first reading of Bill 23-65 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Laura Burbridge gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

- 14.23-66 An Ordinance of the City Council Proposing an Amendment to The City Charter to Clarify the Procedure for Filling Vacancies in the City Council; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Amendment; Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election, and Providing for Enactment of the Proposed Amendment if Approved.**

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Fields to have the first reading of Bill 23-66 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Laura Burbridge gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

- 15.23-67 An Ordinance of the City Council Proposing an Amendment to the City Charter Establishing Procedures for the Passage of Ordinances in a Single Open Meeting of the City Council and Allowing for the Second Reading of Ordinances to Occur as Part of the Consent Agenda for an Open Council Meeting; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Amendment; Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election, and Providing for Enactment of the Proposed Amendment if Approved.**

Motion was made by Council Member Neal and seconded by Council Member Gerke to have the first reading of Bill 23-67 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Laura Burbridge gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

- 16.23-68 An Ordinance of the City Council Proposing an Amendment to the City Charter to Include Capital Planning in the Annual Budget Process; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Amendment; Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election, and Providing for Enactment of the Proposed Amendment if Approved.**

Motion was made by Council Member Neal and seconded by Council Member Fields to have the first reading of Bill 23-68 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Laura Burbridge gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

- 17.23-69 An Ordinance of the City Council Proposing an Amendment to the City Charter by Repealing Section 10.3 Pertaining to Temporary Permitting for Public Utilities; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Amendment; Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election, and Providing for Enactment of the Proposed Amendment if Approved.**

Motion was made by Council Member Updike and seconded by Council Member Neal to have the first reading of Bill 23-69 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Laura Burbridge gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Russell reminded Council this is a first read and to get with staff with questions prior to the next meeting.

Other Business (Resolutions)

- 18.23-R-68 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission Regarding Reallocation of Stockton Lake Surface Water for Use as Public Water Supply.**

Motion was made by Council Member Updike and seconded by Council Member Fields to take up Resolution 23-R-68. Andrew Nelson presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

- 19.23-R-69 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the BUILDS Department to Purchase a Combination Sewer Cleaning Truck, a Trailer Jetter, and a Street Sweeper from Armor Equipment at Bid Pricing Provided to the Missouri Department of Transportation through Sourcewell.**

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Updike to take up Resolution 23-R-69. Andrew Nelson presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

- 20.23-R-70 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the Application to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' State Infrastructure Program for \$25 Million for the Purposes of Capital Improvements to the Wastewater System.**

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Updike to take up Resolution 23-R-70. Andrew Nelson presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

- 21.23-R-71 A Resolution of the City Council Awarding the Bid to Supply Certain Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment for the Republic Aquatic Park to Resort Contract Furnishings.**

Motion was made by Council Member Fields and seconded by Council Member Updike to take up Resolution 23-R-71. Garrett Cline presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

- 22.23-R-72 A Resolution of the City Council Expressing Support for the Proposed U.S. Bicycle Route 251 through the City Between Springfield and Northwest Arkansas and Requesting Designation of the Route as an Official U.S. Bike Route Recognized by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.**

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Gerke to take up Resolution 23-R-72. Chris Tabor presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

- 23.23-R-73 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Drury Properties Inc. for Right of Way Access at U.S. Highway 60 and Farm Road 107 as Part of the New Republic Intermediate School Project.**

Motion was made by Council Member Gerke and seconded by Council Member Franklin to take up Resolution 23-R-73. Andrew Nelson presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Franklin, Gerke, Gerlek, Neal, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

Reports from Staff

City Administrator David Cameron commended everyone for the meeting. Mr. Cameron noted in 2018-2019, Andrew brought a vision on a napkin with a drawing of the new MM alignment with a school, library, and City Hall in that area and negotiated that street dedication to benefit that school by allowing 60 Highway access. Mr. Cameron commended him for the leadership, noting it saved the school district \$1.5-3 Million in waterline improvements. Megan will draft the 60 Highway street access. Mr. Cameron noted everyone thought he was crazy, but commended everyone and Council for seeing that vision through. We do plan and lay these things out but it takes investors to complete the vision and the work of the crews making this happen.

City Administrator David Cameron thanked everyone for the spirited discussion tonight, adding he loved seeing business owners show up.

City Administrator David Cameron noted Andrew's presentation on the combo truck, thanking everyone on the team and noting it should have been purchased 10 years ago per our compliance order. Mr. Cameron spoke to the BUILDS crew present, noting the amount invested in their equipment, reminding them that money follows trust. Mr. Cameron added we will bring another vehicle in the future, but first this one has to be running consistently to demonstrate the value. Mr. Cameron added he doesn't think it will last 10 years due to the need for running it, but Andrew and Council demonstrated a willingness to provide those resources. Mr. Cameron also noted the tenure of their crews with Eric Brown at 30 years, Brad Besett at 32 years, and an average tenure of 18 years in the BUILDS Department.

City Administrator David Cameron noted that Senate Bill 979 has been filed and would allow Springfield to annex up to 6 miles without being compact and contiguous. Mr. Cameron noted he looks forward to finding out the legalities of this bill and speaking with representatives on it.

City Administrator David Cameron congratulated and welcomed Mr. Campbell to Council.

City Administrator David Cameron noted this is the last meeting of the year and we saved the longest for last. Mr. Cameron shared it is a blessing to lead this community; reminding everyone not to forget the reason for the season. Mr. Cameron shared his appreciation for the staff and Council, along with those who have signed up to serve. Mr. Cameron added we will continue to advance for the good and bad in 2024. Mr. Cameron wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council Member Neal noted the paving map and asked if it is something we could do for sidewalks as well to plan for improvements to sidewalks. Mr. Cameron noted there is no master sidewalk plan as there was no funding for streets, adding the more we have those conversations and people identify special need areas, we could get one in short order.

Council Member Wilson noted there are streetlights out all over town, particularly at Elm and 60 there are 4-5 out. Mr. Wilson asked if at night we could have law enforcement note those when not on calls. Andrew Nelson noted one sergeant gave him that list, who is now the chief. Mr. Nelson noted he is signing off on outages reported to us and it takes a little time to complete. Mr. Cameron noted it is something that could be noted on social media as well.

Council Member Franklin thanked Megan McCullough and Judge McBride for allowing him to observe court. Mr. Franklin noted there were lots of things going on and he was impressed by the process. Mr. Franklin also thanked the Fire Department, as he got to go spend an afternoon with the crew cutting a car

in half. Mr. Franklin noted it was impressive to see and they even let him wear the uniform. Mr. Franklin thanked Laura and Megan for the preparation of the large agenda. Mr. Franklin also thanked Laura for the candidacy filing, noting it was a smooth process. Mr. Franklin noted the End of Year meeting last Friday and thanked Mr. Cameron and Mayor Russell for speaking; adding his congratulations to those who received awards. Mr. Franklin wished everyone a great holiday.

Council Member Updike shared that with the Republic Tigers championship game in Columbia, there were at least 2,000 people at the game, which was a great turnout. Mr. Updike gave a shout out to the coach.

Mayor Russell echoed Council Member Updike, noting it was a great thing being invited to speak at the school as he was honored to present the Republic High School with a proclamation. Mayor Russell noted it was neat to be in the auditorium full of kids excited about going to state, adding he remembers that feeling as a student and what a memory that created. Mayor Russell noted this is an indication of our community with positive momentum and thanked everyone for the hard work for our community that is being seen at our school and other communities.

Executive Session: *No further action, other than announcing adjournment by the Mayor, shall take place after an Executive Session that is scheduled as the last matter on the Agenda unless otherwise stated on the Agenda or as allowed per RSMo. 610.02.*

1. RSMo 610.021.1 Pending and/or potential litigation. Closed session. Closed vote. Closed record.
2. RSMo 610.021.12 Any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected.

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Updike at 7:55 p.m. to go into Executive Session under RSMo 610.021.1 Potential Litigation. Closed session. Closed vote. Closed record., and RSMo 610.021.12 Documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected. Closed session. Closed vote. Closed record. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 8 Aye – Gerke, Updike, Campbell, Wilson, Neal, Franklin, Gerlek, and Fields. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Updike to adjourn the Executive Session Meeting at 8:11 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 8 Aye – Neal, Gerke, Fields, Updike, Campbell, Gerlek, Franklin, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

Matt Russell, Mayor