



MINUTES

City Council Regular Session BUILDS Building, 4221 S. Wilson's Creek Blvd. February 04, 2025 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 6:00 p.m. Council Members present included Justin Neal, Darran Campbell, Garry Wilson, Chris Updike, Brian Fields, Eric Gerke, Justin Shaw, and Daniel Harter. Others in attendance were: City Administrator David Cameron, City Attorney Megan McCullough, Fire Chief Duane Compton, City Clerk Laura Burbridge, Data and Security Supervisor Michael Sallee, Police Chief Brian Sells, Police Major Jamie Burks, Police Lieutenant Zach Richards, Chief Financial Officer Bob Ford, Chief of Staff Lisa Addington, Community Development Director Karen Haynes, 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

1. Appoint Richard Copeland as a Planning and Zoning Alternate Commissioner for a Four-Year Term.

Mayor Franklin announced the appointment of Richard Copeland as a Planning and Zoning Alternate Commissioner for a Four-Year Term.

Citizen Participation

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

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Council Member Neal and seconded by Council Member Updike to approve the consent agenda. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

2. Approve the January 21, 2025 City Council Minutes.
3. 25-R-05 Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the Purchase and Safety Equipment Outfitting of Three (3) New Police Department Vehicles.
4. 25-R-06 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the Police Department to Apply for Two (2) Reimbursable 2025-2026 Missouri Highway Safety Program for Traffic Safety Grants.

Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule

Board of Adjustment Meeting	February 6, 2025-Cancelled
Planning & Zoning Meeting	February 10, 2025
City Council Workshop	February 11, 2025
City Council Meeting	February 18, 2025
City Council Meeting	March 4, 2025



Old Business and Tabled Items

5. **25-05 An Ordinance of the City Council Amending Title IV (“Land Use”), Chapter 405 (“Zoning Regulations”), Article 405-I (“In General”), Section 405.020 (“Definitions”) and Article 405-VIII (“Special Use Regulations”), Section 405.670 (“Generally”) of the Municipal Code of the City of Republic, Missouri.**

Motion was made by Council Member Updike and seconded by Council Member Neal to have the second reading of Bill 25-05 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes was available for questions of Council. Council Member Neal motioned for the passage of Bill 25-05. Council Member Updike seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

6. **25-06 An Ordinance of the City Council Amending the Employee Handbook.**

Motion was made by Council Member Neal and seconded by Council Member Updike to have the second reading of Bill 25-06 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Lisa Addington was available for questions of Council. Council Member Neal motioned for the passage of Bill 25-06. Council Member Updike seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

New Business (First Reading of Ordinances)-None

Other Business (Resolutions)

7. **25-R-07 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the City to Re-apply for the Cost Share Program with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to Fund Revised Transportation Improvements to State Highway MM.**

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Updike to take up Resolution 25-R-07. Karen Haynes presented the Resolution and answered questions of Council. The vote was 8 Aye-Campbell, Fields, Gerke, Harter, Neal, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. Motion Carried.

Reports from Staff

City Administrator David Cameron noted that while the current agenda was brief, future meetings would ramp up in scope and complexity. He mentioned that winter weather was expected to return soon. Cameron highlighted the Police Department's Annual Awards Ceremony, with the following awards: Officer of the Year James King, Civilian of the Year Police Services Representative Reagan Fruzza, and Life-Saving Awards to Officer Ryan Edney and Sgt. Frank Schreiber. Mr. Cameron recognized the exceptional work of the officers and expressed appreciation for the staff's efforts in organizing the event.

City Administrator David Cameron confirmed that utility rate increases had been passed and that a formal notification would be sent to residents. He mentioned that a story had aired on KY3 regarding rate changes and that the letter would be distributed closer to when the changes would impact residents, specifically in the March 18 and April 3 billing cycles. He also thanked the staff for their efforts in distributing the State of the City report to citizens.

City Administrator David Cameron provided an update on the progress of the administration building addition. Renderings were now available for review, and sinkhole remediation would begin before any construction commenced. The next Council workshop is scheduled for next Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to

1:00 p.m. Cameron credited Council Member Neal suggesting more structured time for Council discussions, noting that workshops would now be held every other month to allow Council members to submit agenda items. These workshops would be open to the public, with appropriate public notice, and guidelines would be established to ensure efficient use of time.

City Administrator David Cameron emphasized the importance of aligning city priorities and encouraged Council members to consider these as part of upcoming discussions. He also noted that Bob Ford had prepared the budget calendar for the 2026 budgeting process, which would be open to the public to promote transparency and citizen engagement in the budget process.

City Administrator David Cameron reported that a citizen had inquired about renaming Highway 60 in connection to the Young Brothers Massacre. He provided an update on the Shuyler Creek Trail project, which was progressing on schedule with anticipated completion in early May. Regarding the MM Highway Cost Share Project, Cameron explained that the City had previously partnered with MoDOT but had to withdraw due to the project's expanded scope and financial impact. The city has since been directed to reapply, and the Council has approved and adopted legislative priorities for MM Highway. Cameron expressed hope that MoDOT would move forward with the project.

City Administrator David Cameron noted that the legislative session was underway and confirmed that Senate Bill 979 had not been refiled. The city has submitted an initial request for \$50 million in funding for Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. He commended State Representative Davidson for his appointment as Vice Budget Chair of the House, expressing pride in Davidson's advancement and gratitude for his support in securing the initial \$50 million. Cameron acknowledged the efforts of Karen Haynes and Lisa Addington during their recent trip to Jefferson City and mentioned that the Mayor and Bob Ford would participate in the next legislative trip.

City Administrator David Cameron reported that staff has been asked to consider safety improvements at the Hines Street and Lynn Avenue roundabout and are working on solutions to slow down traffic. He concluded his report by thanking the Council and staff, particularly Lisa Addington, for stepping in during his absence following the passing of his stepfather, a World War II veteran and lifelong mentor. Cameron reflected on the valuable advice and life lessons he had received from his stepfather and expressed gratitude for the support and professionalism demonstrated by city staff during his time away.

Mayor Eric Franklin reflected on a busy few weeks, noting that he regretted missing Wayne Hawkins' retirement party and extended congratulations to him on his retirement. He thanked everyone who attended the Chamber lunch, remarking on the great conversations and the camaraderie shared during the event. Franklin expressed his appreciation to Macy Mitchell and the Chamber Board for their leadership. Mayor Franklin also thanked the staff and Council for dedicating time to recent work sessions. He congratulated Matt Russell, who was sworn in as the President of the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association in January. Franklin recognized the success of Miracle Week, sharing that it raised 71% more funds than in 2023, and he acknowledged the many supportive calls received from Republic citizens. Finally, Mayor Franklin announced the upcoming Mayor's Association meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 27, at 5:30 p.m. in Strafford. He noted that Richard Sheets and Laura Holloway from the Missouri Municipal League would be in attendance for discussions.

Executive Session

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 610.021.2 Real estate acquisition. Closed session. Closed vote. Closed record.

Motion was made by Council Member Neal and seconded by Council Member Updike at 6:24 p.m. to go into Executive Session under RSMo 610.021.2 Real Estate Acquisition. Closed session. Closed vote. Closed record. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 8 Aye-Updike, Shaw, Gerke, Fields, Campbell, Harter, Neal, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Council Member Neal and seconded by Council Member Updike to adjourn the Executive Session Meeting at 6:43 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 8 Aye-Neal, Harter, Campbell, Gerke, Wilson, Updike, Fields, and Shaw. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

Eric Franklin, Mayor