



MINUTES

City Council Regular Session
City Hall, 4221 S. Wilson's Creek Blvd.
June 16, 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 6:00 p.m. Council Members present included Darran Campbell, Dan Harter, Eric Gerke, Garry Wilson, Justin Shaw, 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, Police Major Jamie Burks, Chief Financial Officer Bob Ford, City Clerk Laura Burbridge, City Attorney Justin Rogers, Principal Planner Chris Tabor, Communications Coordinator Ashlee Rowen, Community Development Director Karen Haynes, Chief Technology Officer Josh Jones, Development Engineer Angel Falig, and Street Facility Manager Doug Short.

Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Mayor Franklin.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Franklin.

Proclamations

1. National Safety Month

Mayor Franklin presented the Proclamation to Doug Short.

2. United States of America's 250th Birthday

Mayor Franklin presented the Proclamation to the VFW Post 4595.

Citizen Participation

Mayor Franklin opened citizen participation at 6:11 p.m. No one came forward, so Mayor Franklin closed citizen participation at 6:12 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Council Member Harter and seconded by Council Member Campbell to approve the consent agenda. The vote was 6 Aye-Campbell, Gerke, Harter, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

3. Approve the June 2, 2026 City Council Work Session Minutes.

4. Approve the June 2, 2026 City Council Minutes.

Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule

Board of Adjustment Meeting	July 2, 2026
Planning & Zoning Meeting	July 13, 2026
City Council Meeting	July 21, 2026
City Council Meeting	August 4, 2026

Old Business and Tabled Items-None

New Business (First Reading of Ordinances)

5. **26-20 An Ordinance of the City Council Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and BNSF Railway Company for a Rail Crossing Closure at Orr Street.**

Motion was made by Council Member Harter and seconded by Council Member Shaw to have the first reading of Bill 26-20 by title only. The vote was 6 Aye-Campbell, Gerke, Harter, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Motion was made by Council Member Harter and seconded by Council Member Wilson to substitute the revised version of Bill 26-20 for the version included in the original packet. The vote was 6 Aye-Campbell, Gerke, Harter, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes gave an overview of the bill. Chief James Kilburn from the Brookline Fire Protection District spoke of concerns with the potential timing of the closure in relation to the opening of the MM overpass. Mayor Franklin announced that pursuant to 3.10 (f) of the Charter, staff requested the second reading of this ordinance during this meeting. Council Member Campbell motioned to hold the second reading during this meeting. Council Member Harter seconded. The vote was 6 Aye-Campbell, Gerke, Harter, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

6. **26-21 An Ordinance of the City Council Approving an Amendment to the Zoning Classification of Approximately 5.25 Acres Located at 2125 East Hamilton Street from Oak Court Planned Development District (PDD) to Moral Assisted Living Planned Development District (PDD) and Approving a Development Plan.**

Motion was made by Council Member Shaw and seconded by Council Member Wilson to have the first reading of Bill 26-21 by title only. The vote was 6 Aye-Campbell, Gerke, Harter, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Chris Tabor gave an overview of the bill. Mayor Franklin reminded Council to get with staff before the next meeting with any questions.

New Business (Second Reading of Ordinances)

7. **26-20 An Ordinance of the City Council Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and BNSF Railway Company for a Rail Crossing Closure at Orr Street.**

Motion was made by Council Member Harter and seconded by Council Member Wilson to have the second reading of Bill 26-20 by title only. The vote was 6 Aye-Campbell, Gerke, Harter, Shaw, Updike, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes was available for questions of Council. Council Member Harter motioned for the passage of Bill 26-20. Council Member Campbell seconded. A roll call vote was taken digitally. The vote was 5 Aye-Campbell, Gerke, Harter, Shaw, and Wilson. 1 Nay-Updike. Motion Carried.

Other Business (Resolutions)-None

Reports from Staff

City Administrator Colten Harris thanked the VFW representatives for attending the meeting and accepting the proclamation. He stated that it was a great opportunity to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans. Mr. Harris also thanked staff for their work leading up to the ribbon cutting for The Loop at J.R. Martin Park, noting that the park looked fantastic and expressed excitement about the Farmers Market when it begins. He stated that celebrating milestones such as these is one of the best parts of his job.

City Administrator Colten Harris reminded the public that City offices will be closed on June 19 in observance of Juneteenth. He noted that June is National Safety Month and highlighted the importance of safety both in the workplace and throughout the community. He recognized staff members who work daily in construction zones and encouraged residents to slow down and remain alert when traveling through work zones. Mr. Harris announced that field inspections will be conducted June 22–26 as part of an ADA evaluation of sidewalks, ramps, and intersections.

City Administrator Colten Harris encouraged everyone to attend Have-a-Blast on June 26 and stated that he was looking forward to attending for the first time. He also reported that Animal Control has reduced adoption fees for the month of June. Mr. Harris stated that staff continues work on the City's communication strategy to ensure consistent communication with residents. He further noted that City offices will be closed on July 3 in observance of Independence Day and recognized July as National Parks and Recreation Month, thanking Parks and Recreation staff for their contributions to the community.

Mayor Eric Franklin reported that he attended an event at the VFW on Saturday and described the organization as a special fraternity of veterans doing many positive things within the community. He noted the VFW's recent donation to the library's food pantry and stated that veterans have a firsthand understanding of the sacrifices made to preserve freedom. He commented on the strong sense of ownership and involvement demonstrated by members of the organization and noted that the group meets on the second Saturday of each month. Mayor Franklin thanked the VFW representatives for attending the meeting.

Mayor Eric Franklin stated that he got to observe the volunteers participating in the Rotary Club's Day of Service throughout Republic and noted that many volunteers were working at the Historical Society. He encouraged residents to celebrate Independence Day safely and responsibly by cleaning up after using fireworks and encouraged everyone to exercise caution in construction zones in honor of National Safety Month. He also wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

Mayor Franklin commented on the successful opening of The Loop at J.R. Martin Park, noting that the park is now significantly more accessible and provides a valuable community gathering space. He stated that he was pleased to see the project completed and available for future events, particularly the upcoming Have-a-Blast celebration with an anticipated attendance of approximately 20,000 people. He announced upcoming meetings, including Ozarks Transportation Organizations board meeting on July 16 and the Greene County Mayors Association meeting on July 30.

Mayor Franklin reported that he spent part of the day speaking with middle school students in Dana Marshall's class. He stated that the students asked thoughtful and serious questions and shared ideas regarding community improvements. Topics discussed included a desire for additional places to play basketball, interest in a dog park, and the importance of crime prevention. Mayor Franklin noted that one of the key messages emphasized during the discussion was the importance of respecting police officers.

Adjournment

Mayor Franklin adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Laura Burbridge, City Clerk

Eric Franklin, Mayor