



Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Committee Chairman Alderman Harold Deckerd called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen present: Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, Don Rodgers, and Landon Magley. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, Public Works and Utilities Director Matt Rusch, Street Foreman Deme Towne, Water & Sewer Foreman Aaron Kroeger, Electric Foreman Clayton Crump, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Police Officer James Alley. Citizen present: Linda Bormann.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

Chairman Deckerd led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Minutes:

Chairman Deckerd opened the floor for Comments from Citizens at 6:31 pm. Linda Bormann asked if Dayne's Trash Service would allow recycling to be placed in a reusable bin instead of clear trash bags, as the bags are not recyclable. City Administrator Strain replied that she would confirm with Dayne's, but the latest contract does state recycling must be in clear bags only. Bormann also questioned if the water system is still able to detect water leaks on a daily basis. Public Works Director Rusch responded that the system sends a notification if the water runs for a long period of time, but not necessarily daily. To identify all leaks daily would require manually checking over 2000 accounts daily, which is not feasible. Possible leaks are detected during the billing cycle via a "leak list" and notifications are sent to applicable utility customers at that time. Bormann then stated she noticed that Rusch has begun reviewing contracts with the wastewater irrigation lease farmers, and asked why the city is responsible for paying so much within this program. Rusch advised that DNR issued a No Discharge Order, and the City needs to utilize these farmers for their storage. Alderman Deckerd reiterated that without this program, a new

sewer treatment plant would be necessary, but is not an option financially. Rusch clarified that the farmers do pay for some items such as electricity, pumping of the pivots, basins, and minor repairs. Negotiations have just begun on new 20 year contracts, and details are still being finalized. There being no further comments, Chairman Deckerd closed the section at 6:41 pm.

5. PUBLIC WORKS

Minutes:

Street Foreman Towne reported that his crew has been busy plowing and hauling snow. They also had to repair or replace several signs that had been knocked down by citizen's vehicles during the last storm. Estimates for pipe replacement are being obtained for the areas of Alco Street and the Centralia Cemetery; the replacement will allow for better drainage.

- a. Activity Report**
- b. Streets**
- c. Sanitation**
- d. Storm Water**
- e. Other**

6. WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Water & Sewer Foreman Aaron Kroeger reported his crew assisted the Street Department with snow removal in January. Kroeger commended employee Evan Plank for the work he did to replace the EGR Cooler on the Vac Truck, which saved the department time and money. Due to cold temperatures in January, 20 water meters were frozen and needed to be thawed and repaired.

- a. Activity Report**
- b. Water**
- c. Sewer**
- d. Other**

7. ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Electric Foreman Clayton Crump reported that his crew also assisted with snow removal in January. Inventory has been completed for 2025, as well as truck and machinery maintenance. Line clearance was done near Sappington Street. In addition, a damaged neutral wire was repaired at the golf course.

- a. Activity Report**
- b. Generation/Purchase**
- c. Distribution**
- d. Other**

8. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Minutes:

Public Works & Utilities Director Matt Rusch reported that he recently met with DNR and Bartlett & West for the final inspection of the Chemco Slaker. The inspection passed all checkpoints and the City is awaiting receipt of final paperwork. Rusch advised that the Slaker is performing well and some reports have indicated that less lime may be needed, which would be a financial savings to

the City. Rusch has also met with Centralia School personnel regarding their future projects, and possible impacts to the City infrastructure. Superintendent Chancellor may attend an upcoming Board meeting to further discuss their fine arts building project.

a. Monthly Report

b. Other

9. AS MAY ARISE

10. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Orsini made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call for ayes and nays by Chairman Deckerd the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm. Vote results: Aye: 6; Nay: 0; Absent: 0.

Contact: Tara Strain, City Administrator (tara@centraliamo.org (573) 682-2139) | Minutes published on 02/11/2025, adopted on 02/18/2025