



Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, July 14, 2025 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Alderman Harold Deckerd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Aldermen Jessica Orsini, Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, and Landon Magley answered roll call. Alderman Don Rodgers was absent. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, Public Works & Utilities Director Matthew Rusch, Water & Sewer Dept. Foreman Aaron Kroeger, Electric Dept. Foreman Clayton Crump, Street & Sanitation Dept. Foreman Deme Towne, Police Chief Harlan Hatton, Fire Chief Denny Rusch & Deputy City Clerk Beth Kable. Citizens present: James Smith with the Centralia Fireside Guard, and Betty Gooding with the Centralia Chamber of Commerce.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

Alderman Deckerd led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Electric Foreman Clayton Crump reported that they have been setting new poles for new services at Domino's and have done some brush clearing. Alderman Hudson asked about the line in the alley behind the police department and Clayton said it would be done in the fall because power would have to be turned off for an extended time. They do not want power to be cut in hot or cold conditions.

5. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Street Forman Deme Towne said they have been trimming trees and replacing some curb.

They have also been doing some spraying in alleys and sidewalks along with doing some mowing. They have also hung the new gates and signs at the old landfill to accommodate the new brush pit arrangements. Alderman Orsini asked about the tree that fell at Columbia and Switzler streets, asking if it was an Ash tree. Deme responded that it was not an Ash, but a Maple and it was uprooted in a storm.

6. WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Water Foreman Aaron Kroeger said that he had met with ICom about boring a water line under Highway 22 in order to install service at Domino's and the project was completed last week. He also said with the help of the Electric Department, they replaced the last sand filter. All 3 filters have been replaced, and they will hopefully last 10 years.

7. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR

a. Monthly Report

Minutes:

Public Works Director Matthew Rusch said that the crew that is replacing the roof at City Hall started yesterday, and the tree inventory started last Thursday. He said they have divided the town into zones and are working their way across town. He said they are also starting to work on the new electric service for the build at the High School. Alderman Deckerd asked about the drainage ditch on the south side of the High School that runs by the practice field and Matthew said that he and Deme have discussed options and will start work on it soon.

8. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Wilkins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Orsini seconded the motion. On a call by Alderman Deckerd for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0