



CITY OF CHARLESTON
204 N Main St
Charleston, MO 63834

City Council Meeting
December 9, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mayor, Monica Goodin. Councilman Jason Oliver, Councilman Trent Lane, Councilman Jackie Whiteside, Councilman Rick Toon, City Manager Greg Luehmann, City Attorney Tabatha Graham, City Clerk Ali Morris, Sergeant at Arms Robert Hearn Jr., Public Safety Officer Curtis Arnold and Public Safety Officer Garrett Blake were present. Mayor Goodin asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance and read an opening statement.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: The City Council minutes of November 18, 2025, were presented. Councilman Oliver moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Lane seconded the motion, and the following vote was recorded: all were in favor, and none were opposed.

Report of City Business: The city manager explained that a zoom call was held with Matthew Jarrett and the steering committee to give an update on the Charleston Landmark Project. He said all six artists have now signed an initial agreement for their concept design work. The Memorandum of Understanding is on the agenda to discuss and has been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Mr. Luehmann said he received an update on the drainage project, and we should be able to go out for bid soon.

It was explained that a meeting was held with Councilman Lane and Animal Control Officer, Kelly Brown, to discuss the potential ability to assist citizens for the capture of wild animals, which we have done in the past. Some additional cages will be purchased, and we have also received some interest from an individual who would like to volunteer at the kennel.

A meeting was held with Ameren to discuss changing the existing agreement with them to include the Veteran Banners to hang on their poles, and they also discussed putting electricity on the lot across from the KC Hall to connect to our portable digital sign.

Mr. Luehmann said he attended the Charleston C2000 meeting at the Bowden Center and explained that Lester Gillespie would like to adopt some ideas from bigger cities to reduce gun

violence. Luehmann said he told Gillespie that the city would be willing to listen whenever he was ready to discuss any proposals.

Bootheel Progress with Partnership announced the hiring of Alana Mills as their Mississippi County representative.

Mr. Luehmann said he attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and an update on the upcoming Dogwood Azalea Festival was provided.

The city manager said the storm sirens are being tested on a regular basis and there have been several positive comments from citizens.

It was mentioned that with participation from downtown businesses, local banks, and the city, all awnings will have lights to celebrate the holiday season. The Courthouse and City Hall will also have Christmas lights.

Mr. Luehmann said special thanks to our public works department for the cleanup done on numerous properties within our community. He also made some posters with before and after photos that were on the table for viewing.

The city manager explained that a meeting was held with Jim Grebing, Executive Director at Bootheel Regional Planning Commission, Taylor Clark, Community Development Specialist from University of Missouri Extension, Jamarus Williams, Superintendent of Charleston RI School System, Anna Ferrell, Shining Light, to discuss options to build a saferoom/storm shelter in the Charleston community.

Mr. Luehmann said he had a meeting with members of the Mississippi County American Legion to discuss interest in building a Veterans monument at the Mississippi County Library to honor all Veterans from Charleston.

An update was given on our grant request for the first phase of the butterfly sanctuary. They asked us to be more specific on plant costs and needed more detail on the proposed water feature. Salvador Mundragon from the Missouri Department of Conservation explained that our region only receives \$40,000 each fiscal year and competition has increased for funds. We will reduce our grant request to improve our chance of receiving the grant.

The city manager said a request was made to replace a section of sidewalk at Perry Chapel Church, which is on the list to complete in December.

Mr. Luehmann said the Veterans to Remember program seemed to have great community support as the NHS students helped unveil banners that featured local veterans.

To conclude the report, the city manager explained that a citizen inquired about the possibility of changing the city's process of government from an "at-large" form into a ward-based form.

At this time, the council discussed the pros and cons of changing the city's process of government. Councilman Whiteside explained that with the council-at-large form, they look at the city as a whole, rather than dividing it up. He also explained that there would have to be an increase in salaries if they were to switch, as a mayor would have to be elected, and a city administrator to work under the mayor. Councilman Lane said he would need to look into ward-

based form of government before making a comment. Councilman Toon asked for the City Attorney to provide more information on mixing the forms of government. Councilman Oliver stated that he feels as if there would be less representation with only one person to represent each ward, and with the current system, there are five individuals to contact.

Old Business: The first item of old business was to discuss the potential three-way stop at South Ninth and Shelby Street. After some discussion, Councilman Whiteside made a motion to install the stop sign in order to create a three-way stop. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. It was explained that there will still need to be an ordinance passed in order to proceed. The ordinance will be on the agenda for next month.

Next, an update was given on the 353 Tax Abatement by Kenny Hulshof. It was explained that there has been a designated area, or the "Central Business District" to focus on that includes 48 buildings on the West side of Main Street and 42-44 on the East side of Main Street. The city council will need to appoint a board as part of the next steps in the process.

New Business: The first item of new business was to discuss the proposal for the council chamber desk and podium. There was a set of plans and cost estimate included in the council packets. The desk will be in three pieces, on rollers, so that desk can be moved around and the room can be utilized as needed. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Toon to proceed with the purchase. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Next, a Memorandum of Understanding between Mary Manley (funder of the Charleston Landmark Project) and the City of Charleston (future custodian of the Landmark) was on the agenda. The MOU was to establish a partnership as the City will eventually gain ownership over the land where the landmark will be installed, and over the landmark itself. Mike Mueller is heading the steering committee and explained that the six potential designs for the landmark will be presented as an exhibition during the upcoming Dogwood Azalea Festival where there will be a voting process. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to accept the Memorandum of Understanding. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

The liquor license for City Limits Grill was on the agenda as they recently reopened. A motion was made by Councilman Toon to approve the city liquor license. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor and none were opposed.

The final item on the agenda was the Annual Report of Business, which Councilman Oliver volunteered to read on the city manager's behalf. The report included everything accomplished by the city in 2025.

Introduction of Visitors: Mike Mueller, Trent Adams, Talisha Mays, Todd Clodfelter, Mike Owens, Kenny Hulshof, and Tom Davis were present.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the City Council, Councilman Whiteside made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk