



**CITY OF CHARLESTON
204 N Main St
Charleston, MO 63834**

**City Council Meeting
September 16, 2026, at 6:30 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mayor, Jason Oliver. Councilman Trent Lane, Councilman Jackie Whiteside, Councilwoman Monica Goodin, Councilman Rick Toon, City Manager Greg Luehmann, City Attorney Tabatha Graham, City Clerk Ali Morris, Sergeant at Arms, Robert Hearnese Jr., and Public Safety Officer Ie'Meion Giles were present. All stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: Councilman Whiteside made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2026, meeting and the August 25, 2026, meeting. Councilwoman Goodin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Report of City Business: City Manager Greg Luehmann presented the following report of city business:

The City Manager reported attending a Bootheel Progress and Partnership meeting in Sikeston with seven consultants representing companies interested in relocation opportunities within the United States. The City's future wastewater lagoon capacity was identified as an area that should be considered for future economic development opportunities. The City Manager also noted an upcoming Data Center 101 seminar at Three Rivers College.

The City Manager reported attending a Coalition meeting with C-2000 regarding a potential Fresh Start grant to assist the Charleston Youth Association with uniforms, equipment, and salaries. The City Manager agreed to serve as an advisory member of the Charleston Youth Association.

The City Manager reported that the annual check-in with I-Worq regarding code enforcement and permitting was completed, with all systems operating satisfactorily and no changes recommended.

A work order was placed with Wireless USA to repair the storm siren near the Fire Station that was damaged during a recent storm.

The City Manager and David met with Sierra from Horner-Shifrin regarding mapping water and sewer structures and developing a wall map to assist with tracking properties with liens related to code enforcement abatements.

Kendra Gibson confirmed that the rubber turf at Rolwing Park remains under warranty through March 5, 2028. A crew will be sent to repair the damaged area.

The City Manager, David Harris, and Rich Cochran of Water's Engineering reviewed Addendum C outlining the City's obligations for the Landmark Project.

The possible removal of the fire hydrant near the corner of First State Bank and Trust was discussed in conjunction with MoDOT's planned ADA-compliant sidewalk improvements next year.

A request was received regarding the possibility of constructing a walking/bike trail or sidewalk along North Main Road and within Plainview Subdivision due to the number of families and children residing in the area. The matter will be reviewed.

The City Manager reported receiving the results of a pond survey conducted at Hequembourg Pond. Recommendations included additional fish and wood structure for fish cover. Fish may be ordered from Arkansas Pond Stockers for delivery to Feeders Supply.

Due to complaints from residents regarding activity on Byrd Walking Trail, an officer will patrol the trail using the City's ATV during morning and late-afternoon hours. The two farthest benches have been removed. An ordinance regarding the trail will be presented for Council consideration. Bobby will research the purchase of a properly equipped 4-wheeler that could also be utilized for other City events, including the Dogwood Azalea Festival.

The City will participate in a Habitat for Humanity grant program to provide healthy-home assessments and remediation to eligible low- and moderate-income households in Charleston, with the goal of identifying and addressing residential health and safety hazards.

The City Manager and Mayor attended Grand Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church and accepted a Certificate of Recognition in Partnership from the church's President and Pastor.

The city manager concluded his report, and no formal action was taken.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Bill NO. 4001 / Ordinance NO. 3142- An Ordinance Amending and Establishing Water, Sewer, and Trash Rates was the first item of new business. There was a five-year plan to increase the rates, and this is the final year within said plan. A motion was made by Councilman Toon to accept the increase and the ordinance amending the rates. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Bill NO. 4002 / Ordinance NO. 3143- An Ordinance Amending Chapter 240 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Charleston, Missouri, by Adding Section 240.070, "Unauthorized

Camping and Conduct in City Parks, Trails, and Public Property”; Providing for Regulation of Camping, Park Property, Fires, and Structures, Personal Property, and Enforcement; and Providing for Penalties was presented. After the second reading, a motion was made by Councilman Toon to approve the ordinance amending the code. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Liz Haymaker and Jennifer Behnken with the Missouri Department of Conservation introduced themselves and presented Council with a proposal for beautification of the interstate exits and overpasses. The proposal included recommendations for native plants and landscaping options that would be well-suited to the area and provide an attractive appearance. They discussed various planting and design options, expected maintenance requirements, and considerations associated with establishing and maintaining the landscaping.

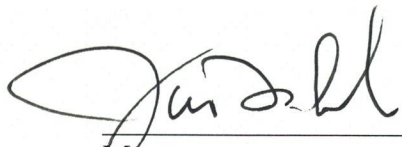
The Monarch Butterfly Garden was also discussed as part of the presentation and Mike Mueller added that Day 3 Seed would be hosting a Monarch Butterfly class on September 24th at 101 N Main Street. The class will educate about the butterfly population declining and how “no mow zones” can aid in the desperate situation.

Introduction of Visitors: Mike Mueller, Perry Harper, Kenny Hulshof, Jennifer Ford, Ryan Ford, Talisha Mays, Tom Davis, Willie Jarrett, Orrice Stanback, Mary Shelby, Barry Boyce, and one unidentified male were in attendance.

Barry Boyce submitted the meeting participation form and addressed the council. Mr. Boyce spoke about forming a committee for future events, including Labor Day.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the City Council, Councilman Whiteside made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session. Councilwoman Goodin seconded the motion. All were in favor. The regular meeting was adjourned.

Council entered into closed session pursuant to Section 610.021(1), RSMo., for confidential and privileged communications with the City Attorney regarding the Rural Fire District contract renewal.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk