



CITY OF CHARLESTON
204 N Main St
Charleston, MO 63834

City Council Meeting
April 14, 2026, 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 Tyler Babb, and Public Safety Officer Curtis Arnold were present. Mayor Goodin asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resolution NO. 1119- A Resolution Accepting and Approving Certified Results of General Election held on April 7, 2026. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to accept the results and pass the resolution. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Oath of Office for Newly Elected Councilmember- City Attorney, Tabatha Graham administered the oath of office to Richard (Rick) Toon.

Election of Mayor for the term of April 14, 2026, through April 6, 2027- Councilman Whiteside nominated Councilman Jason Oliver to be Mayor. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Presentation of Plaque to Outgoing Mayor- A plaque of appreciation was presented to outgoing mayor, Monica Goodin by newly appointed mayor, Jason Oliver.

Election of Chairman Pro Tem for the term of April 14, 2026, through April 6, 2027- Councilman Toon made a motion to nominate Councilman Jackie Whiteside to serve as Chairman Pro Tem. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: The City Council meeting minutes of March 10, 2026, March 12, 2026, and March 26, 2026, were presented. Councilman Toon moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion, and the following vote was recorded: all were in favor, and none were opposed.

Report of City Business: The city manager said he discussed with Jim Thurmond the potential opportunity to expand the walking trail behind the baseball field all the way to Monsanto Road.

He said they will continue to research into other owners between Hillhouse Park and Monsanto Road and look for a grant to fund the expansion.

Mr. Luehmann said he spoke with Enterprise Fleet Management about leasing additional vehicles for the upcoming budget year.

He also reported that Spring Cleanup was very successful with a total of fourteen dumpsters utilized.

It was reported that the drainage project had progressed well with a relatively dry spring so far.

It was mentioned that Circus Grimaldi will be coming to Charleston from May 15th through 17th at AD Simpson Park.

The city manager then explained that he met with Tom Brown, Director of Focus Bank and they discussed potential donations from the bank to the Historical Society to do much needed maintenance on the property. More information will be available within the next sixty days.

Mr. Luehmann explained that he and David Harris agreed to purchase a new engine to replace the old one, which was worn out on our Thompson dewatering machine. This is used to drain water in deep sanitation repairs. This was also critical for the drainage project. The cost was \$10,527.00.

It was mentioned that David received a quote from Hart Electric to replace the backup generator for the water plant. The quote was \$112,976.25 for a 350kw generator. This item was noted as a potential weakness in our recent FEMA threat assessment since it is over twenty years old. We are in the process of researching potential grants from various agencies currently with the assistance of Jim Grebing from the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission.

The city manager then mentioned he and Bobby Hearnese have been in discussions with Flock Safety relating to adding additional cameras and gunshot detection to our current system.

Mr. Luehmann said he attended the monthly Chamber meeting where final plans for the Dogwood Azalea Festival were discussed. He explained that the carnival would be located on the Hurley property at 415 East Marshall Street and that they verified the 1-million-dollar insurance policy for the carnival and the Chamber was in place.

It was mentioned that Solar Day will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026.

To conclude his report, Mr. Luehmann announced that the Charleston Dog Pound, under the guidance of Kelly Brown and volunteer Rachel Bentlage, has made huge strides and received numerous positive comments. Rachel updates our Facebook page-Charleston MO City Dog Pound, on a weekly basis, displaying pictures of dogs available for adoption. Over \$2,000 in donations have been raised by generous citizens to pay for medical procedures at Animal Health Center. An account is set up there strictly for medical procedures at a discounted rate.

At this time, Animal Control Officer, Kelly Brown and volunteer Rachel Bentlage addressed the council. Bentlage explained how she got involved with the pound by finding a dog in the road when coming to town for work. She said she quickly realized how much work Brown was doing all on his own and saw that he was in desperate need of help, particularly with the Facebook

page. Bentlage explained that the number of page views has increased from 84,000 views in one year to over 200,000 views in the last few months. The number of adoptions and donations has also increased significantly. Bentlage said there are a lot of dog lovers in town that are always willing and ready to provide anything they need and ask for.

Old Business: Mayor Oliver said that although the agenda says there is no old business, we had a last-minute update to make regarding the community theater program that was discussed at the last meeting with Superintendent, Jamarcus Williams. Perry Harper was in attendance to present the update. Harper explained that they are officially re-launching the Jr./Sr. High Theater Departments, and they hope to see city involvement. Harper also explained that the lighting at the current theater is in desperate need of replacing. They are looking into arts and literacy grants for LED fixtures. Mr. Luehmann said he would help get them in touch with the right people for this. Harper also mentioned that the production of Cinderella will be May 1st and 3rd and they are hoping to see as many members of the community there as possible. The goal is to have visiting artists to utilize the theater as well.

New Business: The first item of new business was consideration of rezoning an area located in the 100 block of North Elm Street from R2 to R3 in order to allow the construction of quadplexes. Mayor Oliver explained that he attended the Planning and Zoning meeting regarding the request. The item will be tabled until the May council meeting.

Next was consideration of Bill NO. 3987 / Ordinance NO. 3128- An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Charleston, Missouri, to Execute an Agreement for Dispatch Services Between the Mississippi County Sheriff's Department and the Charleston Department of Public Safety and Providing for the Terms Thereof. Bobby Hearn explained that last year's agreement only included nighttime dispatching for \$30,000 and the new agreement is for full-time at \$50,000 per year. He explained that everything is going well so far. A motion was made by Councilwoman Goodin to approve the ordinance and to execute the agreement. Mayor Oliver read the ordinance two times by title. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Next was Resolution NO. 1120- A Resolution of the City of Charleston, Missouri, Demonstrating its Commitment to Public Safety and the Reduction of Violent Crime. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve Resolution NO. 1120. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

The last item of new business was an update on the city dog pound but was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Introduction of Visitors: Perry Harper, Kelly Brown, Flo Tyler, Annie Oliver, Rachel Bentlage, Talisha Mays, 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 Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk