



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on August 6, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Biedenstein, Griffin, Jaksetic, Luetzow, Sears, and Deputy Mayor Ward. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes, City Clerk Betty Montañó, and Public Information Officer Beth von Behren. Mayor McDonnell was absent and excused.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Griffin and seconded by Council Member Sears to approve the meeting minutes of July 16, 2015. The motion was unanimously approved.

KIRKWOOD R-7 SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTATION

Tom Williams and Mike Romay with the Kirkwood R-7 School District presented information pertaining to the tax increase ballot measure that will be on the November ballot. Representatives of the School Board were also present. Council Members Biedenstein and Jaksetic joined the meeting.

The School District believes it is important to provide information pertaining to the needs of the School District and the reason for the ballot measure. Some of the issues discussed included:

- Increase in resident enrollment every year since 2006-07. Increased 14% in last five years.
- Decrease in non-resident enrollment. Used to be higher than 600 and is currently at 337. Projected to continue to decrease and the District no longer accepts new VTS students unless they are siblings of current VTS students.
- Enrollment growth creates increase in teaching staff. Since 2009-10 41 additional teachers have been hired.
- Discussion of funds that receive revenue from property taxes and other revenue sources.
- The District has not asked for a tax rate increase in 10 years.
- Kirkwood's expenditure per pupil is just above the County average and comparable to what neighboring districts spend.
- Kirkwood receives very little state funding - \$552 per student and must rely on property tax revenues to educate students. The St. Louis County average is \$2,216 per student.
- Tax rates are expected to drop about 20 cents due to Missouri law restrictions.
- While the ballot measure will ask for 78 cents there will be a 20 cent reduction to this amount because of state law. The actual amount would be 58 cents.
- Because of relatively flat revenues and increasing operating costs the District's fund balance is projected to decline without significant cuts or an operating tax increase.
- With tax increase will maintain financial stability for a 5-year Operating Fund cycle.
- Suggestions were made on additional information that should be shared with voters.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Luetzow and seconded by Council Member Sears to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (2) Real Estate.

Roll Call Vote as Follows:

Council Member Biedenstein	"Yes"
Council Member Griffin	"Yes"
Council Member Jaksetic	"Yes"
Council Member Luetzow	"Yes"



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Mayor McDonnell	Absent
Council Member Sears	“Yes”
Deputy Mayor Ward	“Yes”

The meeting was closed.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Jaksetic and seconded by Council Member Luetzow to open the meeting.

Roll Call Vote as Follows:

Council Member Biedenstein	“Yes”
Council Member Griffin	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”
Mayor McDonnell	Absent
Council Member Sears	“Yes”
Deputy Mayor Ward	“Yes”

The meeting was opened.

There being no further issues to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

Betty Montaña, MMC/MPCC
City Clerk