



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on March 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present were Mayor Griffin, Council Members Duwe, Gibbons, Luetzow, Sears, Ward, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Asche, Deputy City Clerk Bridget Waters, Communication Manager Katherine Hessel, City Attorney John Hessel, Director of Public Works Bill Bensing, Finance Director Sandy Stephens, Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Forgy, and Planning and Development Services Director Jonathan Raiche.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2023 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Duwe and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to approve the February 16, 2023 Work Session minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

WATER BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chief Administrative Office Russell Hawes and Director of Public Works presented information pertaining to the Water Budget. Some of the information presented is as follows:

A 15% water rate adjustment was presented the Citizens Finance Committee and is included in the current proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget. However, after further analysis of the water operations, a 30% rate adjustment is being recommended. The Water Department cash balance is deteriorating. As of today, cash balance is down to \$2.1 million.

Two options were provided: 30% upfront, or if the Council decides to split the 30% into a 15% increase in both fiscal years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 as well as a 5% increase in 2025/2026. A 15% rate increase does not increase cash balance. A 30% rate increase would increase the cash balance by approximately \$2.8 million.

The cost to install water mains is approximately \$1.9 million per 1 mile or \$2.6 million per 1% of 8 inch mains. A discussion took place regarding what the average bill would be with a 15% rate increase versus a 30% rate increase.

A discussion took place regarding the Infrastructure Renewal Charge. Concern was raised regarding a 30% rate increase during inflation. Question was raised regarding where the \$710,000 transfer out of the Water Fund goes? The transfer goes to the Capital Improvement Fund. It was requested that reverting back to the \$210,000 transfer out of the Water Fund be explored. Question was raised regarding having a moratorium regarding water main replacement.

If Council chooses to go with a 30% water rate increase, rather than the 15% rate increase currently in the proposed FY2023/2024 budget, the budget can be adjusted prior to second reading of the legislation.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Ward and seconded by Council Member Duwe to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1 – Legal).

Roll Call:

Mayor Griffin	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”
Council Member Sears	“Yes”
Council Member Ward	“Yes”
Council Member Duwe	“Yes”
Council Member Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”

The meeting was closed.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

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

Roll Call:

Mayor Griffin	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”
Council Member Sears	“Yes”
Council Member Ward	“Yes”
Council Member Duwe	“Yes”
Council Member Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”

The meeting was opened.

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

Laurie Asche
City Clerk