



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

## **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on January 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present Mayor Gibbons, Council Members Jaksetic, Luetzow, McLean, Rheinnecker, Schaefer, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Asche, Public Services Director Chris Krueger, City Attorney John Hessel, and Communications Manager Jessica Winter.

### **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2024 WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024 Work Session minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **CITIZEN'S FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Tom Feiner, Chair of the Citizen's Finance Committee, presented the Citizen's Finance Committee Report to the Council. Some discussion is as follows:

- CFC provided the Council with a memorandum report
- The Citizens Finance Committee met with various City Departments weekly from September to December 2024. Departments include Engineering/Streets, Sanitation, Fire, Electric, KPAC/Recreation, Water, and Administration.
- The CFC took a more in-depth examination of the Water Department.
- The City is nearing the implementation of the new ERP system, which is expected to modernize and streamline processes and lead to operating efficiencies throughout City departments.
- The passage of the Transportation Development District should relieve some budgetary pressure relating to street capital needs.
- The City continues to take advantage of federal money.
- Development continues in Kirkwood. The pace is slow, but it is increasing.
- Capital expenditures continue to be of significant concern to the CFC.
  - The escalating general operations cost.
  - The cost of equipment has been increasing faster than inflation.
  - The next 5-10 years, new projects will be on the horizon.
  - The Police Department will need to be renovated.
- New development in the City's various commercial districts has markedly slowed over the past year, perhaps due to higher interest rates.
- Revenue projections are low. The reliance on sales tax is a vulnerability, and there are not a lot of revenue sources besides going out for additional taxes.
- The Water Department operated by the City distributes water to all properties located in the City, except for those situated in Meacham Park and portions of Quan Ave., Kirkwood Commons, and Kirkwood Crossing.
- The City Council sets the rates the Department charges occasionally after consultation with the City Administration and are not subject to review by the State Public Service Commission ("PSC").
- The growth in the revenue stream generated by tax revenues is expected to stagnate in the near term. It remains vulnerable to the occurrence of events beyond the control of the City.



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

- For FY26, the Department proposes to increase the “consumption-based” components of the fee schedule in a manner that would result in an overall charge that is 27% above current charges, contrasted with the 5% increase projected during last year’s budget review.

The City’s proposed FY26 budget continues to follow a conservative approach regarding estimated revenues from tax receipts and other revenue sources with larger-scale capital projects commencing.

(The full Citizen’s Finance Committee report is kept on file with the City Clerk).

Some discussion took place as follows:

- A recommendation was made to have CFC look at Water reserves.
- A question about whether rate increases could make up the Water Department deficit was raised.
- A question was raised about the sale of the Water Department going to the voters.
- A question was raised about the value of the Water system. This information will be determined after the 2025 Water Distribution System Master Plan Update.
- A recommendation was made about doing a fire feasibility study earlier than projected.

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

---

Laurie Asche  
City Clerk