



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

**City Council Meeting Minutes
Kirkwood City Hall
Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given by the Mayor, the City Council convened on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 South Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present: Mayor Gibbons, Council Members Jaksetic, Luetzow, McLean, Rheinnecker, Schaefer, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Ashe, Public Services Director Chris Krueger, and City Attorney John Hessel.

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

NONE

PRESENTATIONS

NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing #1

Mayor Gibbons recessed the meeting for the purpose of conducting a public hearing regarding the City of Kirkwood 2025-2026 Budget. Mr. Hessel entered the following exhibits into the record: An Affidavit of Publication in the Countian on February 4, 2025, which included a summary of the proposed Operating and Capital Budgets, as Exhibit 1; An Affidavit of Publication in the St. Louis County Legal Ledger on February 4, 2025, which included a summary of the proposed Operating and Capital Budgets, as Exhibit 2; an Affidavit of Publication in the Webster-Kirkwood Times on February 7, 2025, which included a summary of the proposed Operating Budget and Capital Budgets, as Exhibit 3; and the Kirkwood Code of Ordinances as Exhibit 4.

Director of Finance Mary Sprung presented the matter to the council:

- The proposed budget is balanced in accordance with Missouri State statute.
- A copy of the proposed FY25/26 budget is available on the City's website.
- The budget process started in late July/early August 2024 and presented to the Citizens Finance Committee.
- The Citizens Finance Committee met from September through December 2024, going over the proposed budget and presented recommendations to the City Council on January 9, 2025.
- The proposed budget included anticipated income/reserves available to fund the total City-wide appropriation request of \$131,069,000 with the General Fund and Electric Fund comprising 30%.
- The General Fund provides the funding for all general City services, which includes public safety.
- The proposed budget projects grant revenues in the amount of \$9,300,000 for the various City street improvement projects.



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- The proposed budget includes an appropriation in the amount of \$6,300,000 for lease payments due on various leases.
- The proposed budget includes a request to re-appropriate \$1,929,060 for previously approved projects that will be incomplete as of March 31, 2025.

Some discussion took place as follows:

- The \$6.3 million in debt service payments is on the \$70 million service.
- Reserves and transfers come to approximately \$24 million.
- A question was raised about the new law's impact that caps the real estate assessments for residents over 62, and if the City knows what the impact will be? The answer is no, not yet.
- A question was raised about how the City is handling the gap between the revenues and the expenses of the general fund? The balance comes out of the reserves. The reserves are savings from prior years; that's how the reserves are built up.
- The proposed budget includes a 27% water rate increase.

The bill will be placed on the March 6, 2025 agenda for first reading consideration.

Public Hearing #2

Mayor Gibbons recessed the meeting for the purpose of conducting a public hearing regarding the Downtown Kirkwood Special Business 2025-2026 Budget. Mr. Hessel entered the following exhibits into the record: An Affidavit of Publication in the Countian on February 4, 2025, which included a summary of the proposed Special Business District Operating Budget, as Exhibit 1; An Affidavit of Publication in the St. Louis County Legal Ledger on February 4, 2025, which included a summary of the proposed Special Business District Operating Budget, as Exhibit 2; an Affidavit of Publication in the Webster-Kirkwood Times on February 7, 2025, which included a summary of the proposed Special Business District Operating Budget, as Exhibit 3; and the Kirkwood Code of Ordinances as Exhibit 4.

Director of the Special Business District Donna Poe presented the matter to the City Council:

- Total revenues and other financing sources are \$428,300.
- In total, partially special business district is \$314,300 and \$114,000 for the Farmer's Market.
- Total expenditures and other financing uses are \$428,300.
- Revenues are generated from property owner and business licenses in the Downtown Kirkwood Business District.
- Expenses are generally for administration.
- The Special Business District employs 2 full-time staff, 1 part-time staff member, and 1 intern.
- The Kirkwood Farmer's Market will open on April 5th for the Spring season.



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Some discussion took place as follows:

- Question was raised regarding what month the actuals are through? The month of January. Business licenses are due on February 28th of each year.
- A question was raised about using reserve funds.
- A question was raised about transfers of other funds at \$25,000.
 - \$25,000 goes to the Parks Department for maintaining the public areas, like flower pots on the corners.
- A question was raised about the ownership of the Special business District building.
 - The City of Kirkwood owns the building at 130 E. Jefferson. There is a 25 year lease agreement between the City of Kirkwood and the SBD with a set fee of \$26,000 per month. SBD is also responsible for the rental property above the office that can offset the lease.

The bill will be placed on the March 6, 2025 agenda for first reading consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to approve the Consent Agenda.

- a) Approval of the February 6, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 11064A, amending the provisions of the Municipal Code, Chapter 25 – Zoning and Subdivision for sidewalk requirements not part of a subdivision in Section 25-69(a)(2)(ii) was brought before the City Council.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”

The bill, having received majority approval of the Council, was adopted and became Ordinance 10890.



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NEW BUSINESS

Bill 11068, repealing Section 14-385 “Use of Electronic Communication Device While Driving Prohibited” of the Kirkwood Code of Ordinances was brought before the City Council. Motion was made by Council Member Schaefer and seconded by Council Member McLean to accept the Bill as read. A discussion took place.

The bill received first reading approval and was held over.

Resolution 6-2025, accepting the proposal of Integrate Construction Partners in the not to exceed amount of \$5,543,000 (which includes a contingency in the amount of \$200,000) for Construction Services for the Kirkwood Ice Rink Project and authorizing and directing the Mayor to enter into a contract was brought before the City Council. Motion was made by Council Member Luetzow and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to accept the Resolution as read.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”

Resolution 7-2025, accepting the proposal of SCI Engineering, Inc. in the not to exceed amount of \$33,825.67 (which includes a 10% contingency in the amount of \$3,075.06) for Construction Materials Testing Services for the Historic Kirkwood Train Station Project and authorizing and directing the Director of Procurement to issue a Purchase Order was brought before the City Council. Motion was made by Council Member Luetzow and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to accept the Resolution as read. A discussion took place.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”



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Resolution 8-2025, accepting the proposal of Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc. in the not to exceed amount of \$166,170 for the 2025 Water Distribution System Master Plan update and authorizing and directing the Mayor to enter into a contract was brought before the City Council. Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Luetzow to accept the Resolution as read. A discussion took place.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
NONE

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Gibbons reported on the following:

- There will be a ground breaking ceremony for the Train Station renovation project on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.
- On Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center, there will be the kickoff to the City’s Signature Tree of the Year Program. This year’s signature tree is the Post Oak.

Council Member Zimmer thanked the Public Services department for doing a great job during the recent snow storms.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORTS
NONE

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS
NONE

CITY CLERK REPORTS

Upcoming Hearings – March 6, 2025:

A request for a Zoning Map Amendment for a portion of 1120 Earl Avenue from R-4 (Single Family Residential District) to B-3 (Highway Business District)



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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the formal meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Kirkwood City Council will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Laurie Asche
City Clerk