



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

## **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on September 11, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present were: 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 Asche, Director of Finance Mary Sprung, Public Services Director Chris Krueger, City Engineer Richard Holesinger, Assistant City Engineer Jennifer Brown, Director of Electric Mark Petty, Communications Manager Jessica Winter, and City Attorney Jackie Graves.

### **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Luetzow to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2025 work session meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **PEDESTRIAN AND ROAD SAFETY DISCUSSION**

Staff presented an overview of the ARC traffic signal system, installed in 2020 at nine intersections along Kirkwood Road. The system includes vehicle detection, audible pedestrian push buttons, and Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) designed to give pedestrians a 3-second head start before vehicles receive green signals.

Staff emphasized that under current programming, a white pedestrian walk signal never coincides with a green left-turn arrow. If a malfunction occurred, the entire signal would default to a red flash. However, walk signals may appear during a flashing yellow arrow phase, requiring drivers to yield to pedestrians in accordance with Missouri law.

Council raised several questions and concerns:

- Council asked about driver compliance, particularly the risk of drivers ignoring signage or failing to see pedestrians due to large vehicle blind spots.
- Members discussed whether walk signals should be eliminated entirely during flashing yellow arrow phases to avoid conflicts.
- Concerns were raised about safety for children, seniors, and individuals with mobility challenges who may need more time to cross intersections.
- Questions were asked about whether increasing the LPI from 3 to 5 seconds would improve pedestrian visibility and safety.

Staff responded that MUTCD standards recommend a 3-second LPI, but confirmed the system can be reprogrammed to allow a 5-second interval. They also noted that modifications have previously been made at intersections near senior housing facilities upon request.

Council engaged in an extended discussion of potential changes:

- Suggestion was made regarding prohibiting walk signals during any flashing yellow phase, requiring pedestrians to wait for a protected phase.
- It was noted that inattentive driving is widespread and supported a test of stricter pedestrian protections downtown.
- It was emphasized that increased LPI time could allow pedestrians to clear more of the intersection before cars proceed.



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- It was highlighted safety concerns for children and seniors crossing wide, multi-lane intersections.
- There was support for piloting changes at the Jefferson and Woodbine intersections, which experience both congestion and school traffic.

Staff confirmed adjustments would be simple programming changes and could be implemented on a trial basis. Council consensus was to extend LPIs from 3 to 5 seconds at Jefferson and Woodbine, monitor results, and receive a follow-up report. Council also directed staff to maintain public communication urging pedestrians to use the push buttons for safe crossings.

Direction Given: Staff will implement 5-second LPIs at Kirkwood Road and Jefferson and Kirkwood Road and Woodbine intersections as a pilot program and report back to Council on outcomes.

### **WEST JEWEL PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Staff reviewed existing ordinance restrictions on West Jewel, which currently prohibit parking on school days from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. along the south side of the 500–700 blocks, in addition to prohibiting school drop-off and pick-up. Residents have expressed frustration about the inability to accommodate service vehicles and visitors due to the parking restrictions.

Staff recommended reinstating parking on the south side of the 500 and 600 blocks during school hours while maintaining the drop-off and pick-up prohibition. Council held a lengthy discussion with questions and proposals:

- Question was raised regarding whether reinstating parking would simply result in high school students occupying spaces all day.
- Time-limited parking (two or four hours) as a possible compromise was suggested.
- Closing the pedestrian cut-through, Pioneer Way, to reduce student use of the neighborhood was suggested.
- Installing highly visible 'No Student Parking' signs at both entrances to West Jewel was proposed.
- Continued cooperation with the high school and school district to better regulate student permits and encourage alternatives was expressed.
- Ensuring residents can access contractors, cleaning services, and deliveries, noting this had been a key concern expressed in petitions was emphasized.
- It was debated whether restrictions could be enforced by the City, with staff clarifying that 'No Student Parking' signs would not be enforceable by ordinance, but could be backed by school policy enforcement.

Consensus was reached to:

- Reinstate parking on the south side of the 500 and 600 blocks.
- Maintain the prohibition on school drop-off and pick-up.
- Post 'No Student Parking' signs at West Jewel entrances on a trial basis.
- Communicate changes with residents, school officials, and police to encourage compliance.
- Proceed with ordinance amendments to reflect the reinstatement of parking, with first reading on September 18<sup>th</sup> and second reading on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



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### **MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING**

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1- Legal, 12 – Contract Negotiations, & 18 - Audit).

Roll Call:

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

The meeting was closed.

### **MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING**

Motion was made by Council Member McLean and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to open the meeting.

Roll Call:

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

The meeting was opened. Since no further matters were to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Laurie Asche  
City Clerk