



WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on December 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present were: Mayor Gibbons, Council Members Jaksetic, Luetzow, McLean, Rheinnecker, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Asche, Deputy City Clerk Zoe Williams, Planning & Development Services Director Jonathan Raiche, Kirkwood Arts Commission Chair Zoe Perkins, and City Attorney Jackie Graves. Council Member Schaefer was absent and excused.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Luetzow to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 work session meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF MURAL PROGRAM

Arts Commission Chair Zoe Perkins addressed the Council regarding the Arts Commission's desire to develop a Mural Program to allow murals in downtown Kirkwood. Some of the discussion is as follows:

- The Arts Commission has been contacted by several residents and business owners inquiring about adding murals.
- Four murals were painted in downtown Kirkwood in the 1970's and are aging and showing end of life.
- Murals can enhance aesthetics, support public art, promote community identity, improve wayfinding, boost tourism, and can increase property values.
- There could be complications related to First Amendment protections, government vs. private speech, and the requirement for content neutrality.
- It would need to be determined where murals should be permissible, such as; public buildings, private commercial property, schools, residences
- Question was raised regarding murals containing business names and whether they constitute signage under zoning.
- The Arts Commission is asking for authorization from the Council to move forward with working with legal counsel on drafting a Mural Program Policy.

Council will take the Arts Commission recommendations and request under consideration.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS ALLOCATION DISCUSSION

Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes presented information pertaining to possible uses of Opioid Settlement Funds for recent Police and Fire expenditures. Some of the discussion is as follows:

- So far, the City has received \$171,885.78 in Opioid Settlement Funds, and have expended \$97,428.59 of those funds.
- Concern was raised regarding Opioid Settlement Funds being used retroactively. The State Auditor recommend avoiding retroactive reimbursement except in narrowly defined cases.



- It was determined that only 30% of Opioid Settlement Funds can be applied retroactively. Staff is in agreement with the State Auditor's recommendation of avoiding retroactive reimbursement.
- Concern was raised about categorizing general emergency equipment (e.g., cardiac monitors) as opioid-related purchases.
- Question was raised regarding if there is potential for installation of naloxone access boxes in public areas, and educational opportunities with the Kirkwood School District via the Kirkwood Police School Resource Officers.
- Since settlement payments will continue for many years, funds could accumulate until well-defined, compliant programs are ready for implementation.

It was the consensus of the Council that no immediate expenditures were necessary. Instead, opioid settlement funds should be incorporated into future departmental budgets, focusing on eligible items such as Narcan, prevention initiatives, and evidence-based educational programming.

NOISE DISCUSSION

The Council held a discussion regarding numerous noise complaints received from a citizen pertaining to noise from entertainment in downtown Kirkwood, specifically 4-Hands. Some of the information discussed is as follows:

- Typically, when the Police Department receives a complaint regarding noise, a Police Officer will respond to the call to determine if the noise levels were unreasonable or not.
- So far, no citations have been issued due to complaints regarding noise from entertainment in downtown Kirkwood. Businesses have typically cooperated when contacted by the Police Department and adjusted volume levels.
- The City does have an ordinance that defines nuisances due to volume of noise.
- Question was raised regarding if noise from entertainment could be determined on a decibel level. There are challenges of implementing enforceable decibel limits, with variability in readings caused by building height, wind direction, humidity, topography, and tree canopy.
- Ordinances governing specific establishments that contain provisions allowing the Council to reconsider live music permissions if found disruptive was discussed.
- The need for a defined hearing process should the City ever be required to review or revoke a business's entertainment permissions was recommended.

Staff will continue engaging with 4-Hands and other businesses to encourage consistent volume management and will follow up with the business owner of 4-Hands to ensure continued cooperation.



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

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

Roll Call:

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

The meeting was closed.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

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

Roll Call:

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

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

Laurie Asche
City Clerk