



WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on February 5, 2026, 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, Schaefer, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Interim Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Asche, Deputy City Clerk Zoe Williams, Director of Public Services Chris Krueger, Director of Parks and Recreation Kyle Henke, and City Attorney Jackie Graves.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 22, 2026, SPECIAL JANUARY 27, 2026 AND SPECIAL JANUARY 29, 2026 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member McLean and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2026, Special January 27, 2026, and Special January 29, 2026 work session meetings. The minutes were approved with Council Member Rheinnecker abstaining from the January 27, 2026 minutes.

SPEED LIMIT ON MANCHESTER ROAD DISCUSSION

Director of Public Services Chris Krueger presented on boundary-determinant speed limits on Manchester Road and the viability of a speed limit decrease. Staff recommended decreasing the speed limit from 35 to 30 miles per hour within Kirkwood's city limits.

Reasons in favor of the speed limit decrease cited:

- Large updates made in conjunction with MoDOT after a severe car accident near North Kirkwood Middle School promoted safety and traffic control
- Nearby facilities heightening safety concerns, such as schools
- Kirkwood businesses and aesthetic investments along Manchester Road would become more visible to slower motorists
- Previous City-conducted speed study data supporting that Manchester Road was an area of concern

Staff stated that, if MoDOT is approached with a request to lower the speed limit, MoDOT will conduct its own speed study as a requirement, without asking for payment from the City.

It was the consensus of the Council for staff to approach MoDOT with a request for a speed limit decrease from 35 to 30 miles per hour on Manchester Road.

CONCESSION SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Director of Parks and Recreation Kyle Henke presented considerations for in-house concession operations at the Ice Rink and Aquatic Center. This is an extension of a discussion previously taken place in June 2025.

Concessions are currently operated by a third-party vendor with the City receiving approximately 5% of gross sales. The vendor contract terminates at the end of March. Budget finalization will be required before a decision can be made on the vendor contract; budgetary effects of contract termination and concession in-house operation would include:

- Food and beverage inventory purchases



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- Equipment acquisition/replacement, currently estimated at \$9,000 – \$13,000
- Staffing costs, including wages, training, and scheduling

Questions were raised regarding the presented figures; staff assured estimated profits could be met and the figure estimates were accurate. There was discussion on staffing and timing of alcohol sales.

Staff provided benefits of taking concessions in-house, including:

- Flexibility on menu and pricing; scheduling alignment; and overall integration of facility operations and customer service
- Provides a satisfactory response to current public requests for certain concessions, such as coffee and alcohol
- Requires no refitting/upgrading of the concession areas in the buildings

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with these considerations in the FY27 budget.

SANITATION RATE INCREASE DISCUSSION

Director of Public Services Chris Krueger presented a proposed structure for a customer rate increase for the Sanitation Department of \$2.72 or 10% (\$27.23 to \$29.95) which would take effect in April of 2026. The proposal supports upcoming capital purchases and rising operational expenses. The City has seen these previous rate increases:

- A \$3.44 (20%) increase on Base Service in 2017 (\$17.06 to \$20.50)
- A \$6.73 (33%) increase on Base Service in 2020 (\$20.50 to \$27.23)

The proposal includes a three year structure: 10% in FY27, 10% in FY28, and 5% in FY29; staff is only seeking approval for the initial 10% increase. Comparisons of rate prices and structures between nearby municipalities were shown.

Discussion on recyclables took place. Current recyclable tonnage cost is \$87, changing monthly, with an 18-month average of ~\$80. Potential for saving money by eliminating single-stream recycling, restricting certain materials, and stopping recycle pickup in exchange for customer dropoff were considered. The level of service provided by Sanitation Department staff was noted.

Budget standings were presented:

- There is currently \$2 million in reserves for the Sanitation Department
- Certain purchases budgeted in FY26 are rolled over in the FY27 budget; one rollover purchase is anticipated in FY27
- The rate increase will generate a \$300,000 revenue, but funds are questionable after 2032

It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to draft legislation and to explore reducing or eliminating single-stream recycling.



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MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Schaefer and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1 – Legal, 2 – Real Estate, & 12 – Contract Negotiations).

Roll Call:

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

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

Laurie Asche
City Clerk