



# City Council ACTION

The following is a summary of select City Council action items from the October 30, 2023 City Council meeting.

## Boards & Commissions Appointments

The following board and commission nominations were approved:

- Pat Dillon – Downtown Review Board

No board or commission nominations were denied or postponed.

## Summarized City Council Actions

Following is an explanation of select items that were taken up by the City Council:

**6731 South 59 Highway Zoning Redistricting** (Item #4: Bill #597-22 – 417): The City Council approved a request for Zoning District Changes from M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing) to C-3 (Commercial) for the property located at 6731 South 59 Highway. Currently, the property is used for consignment sales and auctions, which is a use permitted by right in Heavy Manufacturing districts. If approved, the applicant proposes a mercantile/retail use as a bait shop for the property. Heavy Manufacturing zoning does not allow mercantile/retail uses as primary uses. The Planning Commission previously recommended approval of the zoning district change.

**Embedded City Engineering Services** (Item #9: Bill #594-22): The City Council approved an ordinance authorizing an agreement for Embedded City Engineering Services with Snyder & Associates, Inc. Professional, registered engineering services are required by the City for internal projects and review of projects submitted within the City. Historically, these services have been provided by in-house professional engineers with qualifications to certify construction plans. For several years, the City has had challenges maintaining professional engineers on staff and has chosen to employ Snyder & Associates on a contract basis to fulfill the role traditionally filled internally. The revised approach ensures continuity and expediency of services.

**Transit Bus Replacement** (Item #10: Bill #595-22): The City Council approved the submission and execution of FTA Urban Area Formula funds grant to provide transit capital assistance for the replacement of two (2) 2012 30 ft Gillig buses that have reached the end of their useful life. The upgrade of these buses will complete the new fleet and will bring the entire fleet within its useful life. The grant has been reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

**2611 Cook Road Preliminary Plat Approval** (Item #11: Bill #596-22): The City Council approved the preliminary plat for a Major Subdivision entitled “Book Hill” located at 2611 Cook Road. The new subdivision will be a total of 5 lots. The property is currently composed of 1 lot of land in the subdivision “Green Valley Addition.” This request was made by Build It Back Joetown, LLC.

**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Acceptance** (Item #13: Bill #599-22): The City Council approved acceptance of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, which will be used for the purchase and installation of license plate readers for the Police Department and Buchanan County Sheriff’s Department. The license plate readers will assist law enforcement in response to all types of criminal activity but will be specifically focused on efforts to reduce violent crime, apprehend offenders, and achieve successful prosecution. The license plate readers will not be used to issue traffic tickets or identify individuals.

**City Hall HVAC Cooling System Replacement** (Item #14: Bill #600-22): The City Council approved a \$1,615,506 contract with Schneider Electric Buildings Americas, Inc. for the replacement of the current cooling systems within City Hall. City Hall's entire air conditioning systems are reaching the end of their useful lives and need full replacement. This project will include replacing the rooftop condensing units with a chilled water system. Existing air handling units that were installed with a more recent heating system upgrade will remain in place. The project will include replacement of separate systems for the Council Chamber and fourth floor systems.

**Sewer Rate Study** (Item #16: Bill #602-22): The City Council authorized Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. to complete the 2024 Sewer Rate Study. Burns & McDonnell has completed a cost-of-service sewer rate study for the City on an annual basis for the last four years. The study prepares and develops proposed retail and wholesale wastewater rates for users of the sewer system using a cost allocation methodology to ensure costs of operating the system are appropriately divided amongst user classes, including residential, commercial, and industrial, which all discharge significantly different waste that costs varying amounts to treat.

**River Bluff Brewing Sign Agreement – 1224 Frederick** (Item #18: Bill #604-22): The City Council approved a St. Joseph River Bluff Gateway Project Revitalization Agreement with River Bluff Brewing to provide a reimbursement grant for the installation of an exterior grain storage silo at River Bluff Brewing Company on Frederick Avenue. The 25-foot-tall silo will be installed on the west side of the building and be visible from Frederick Avenue and along the walkway from the parking lot to the main entrance to the business. The silo will have custom painting on its exterior with the business logo and will add to the distinctive appearance of the landmark brewery.

**Support of West8 Design Path for Renovation of Krug Park** (Item #19: Bill #605-22): The City Council approved support of the design path presented by West8 for the renovation of Krug Park. The firm completed three public input sessions beginning in July 2023 and presented a project update to the City Council during a work session on October 19, 2023. The City Council’s support of the design path enables West8 to proceed to developing a final design proposal that will be submitted for bid through a design-build process. The City Council will be asked to approve the final design proposal before a design-bid contract is issued.

**Public Health Emergency Response Planner Services** (Item #20: Bill #606-22): The City Council approved a contract with Lesley Schulte to continue providing Public Health Emergency Response Planner services for the City of St. Joseph Health Department for one year. The role assists in Public Health's effort to continually plan to respond to all hazards and to protect the health of the community. The Health Department receives an annual Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant that covers all planning, training, networking, and execution of preparedness activities for the health of the community and region.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Bryan Carter reported the following:

- Discussions with the Missouri Department of Economic Development regarding the River Bluff Gateway Program have progressed and Department is indicating it will allow River Bluff Gateway funds in the full King Hill Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Downtown, and St. Joseph Avenue corridor. Administration of the program will still have to comply with federal ARPA restrictions, but this progress resolves a significant additional restriction.
- Contributors to the youth sports facility feasibility study have agreed that a project is worth pursuing and that the City is best positioned to be the lead on the project, in large part because the City will be the entity tasked with executing any funding plan that includes the issuance of public debt. City staff is now working on materials to present the study to the City Council together with financing information. That information will be delivered to the City Council in the near future.
- The drive through Krug Park has been closed as of Monday to accommodate Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities Department crews' installation of Holiday Park displays.
- Last week, the City received notice that it was awarded a \$500,000.00 Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant to help complete a sidewalk on Cook Road stretching from I-29 overpass to Bishop Road. The grant will be coupled with the Cook Road CIP project and will allow local funds to stretch farther. The primary benefit of this project will be connecting multiple neighborhoods along Cook Road to Oak Grove Elementary encouraging students to walk or bike to school.
- On September 18, the system that is used to broadcast City Council meetings had a significant failure that could not be repaired until last week. Multimedia Planner Ed Schilling performed impressive work to implement temporary improvements that allowed meetings to continue to be broadcast despite significant technological challenges.
- Assistant Fire Chief Jamey McVicker was recently recognized by the Missouri Local Government Employee Retirement System (LAGERS) as the 2023 Winner of the Local Government Hero Award. This is a statewide award presented to one of eight finalists from 45 nominations. A video presented at the annual LAGERS meeting recognizing Jamey can be found at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/876509922/367b50ef94?share=copy>