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- Maintain
  - Ensure
  - Build
  - Improve
  - Create
  - Invest
  - Revitalize

# City Council ACTION

The following is a summary of select City Council action items from the January 8, 2024 City Council meeting.

## Boards & Commissions Appointments

The following board and commission nominations were approved:

- Sarah Weaver – Land Bank
- Greg Hatten – Tourism Commission
- Robert Bucher – Planning Commission
- Gage Barton – Building and Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals

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:

**Civic Arena Equipment Enhancements** (Item #12 Bill #662-22 & Item #13 Bill #663-22): The City Council approved funding for two enhancements to Civic Arena.

- The purchase of two Spalding Freestanding Volleyball Systems costing a total of \$25,000. The new systems will better position the Civic Arena to submit proposals to host significant volleyball events such as the MIAA Division II Conference Championship that recently took place at Civic Arena and the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) High School Championships, which are scheduled for 2025 and 2026.
- The purchase of a new portable stage from SICO America, Inc. for \$196,265 will enable the replacement of the portable stage that was originally purchased when Civic Arena was opened in 1980. The new stage is much easier to assemble and teardown and can be stored in a smaller space when not in use. Easier assembly and teardown may enable a more rapid transition between events.

Two additional enhancements were presented for first reading. One would purchase additional court-level score and video boards, and one would authorize funds to improve the sound system in Civic Arena.

**Opioid Settlement Funds Appropriation** (Item #14 Bill #664-22 & Item #13 Bill #663-22): The City Council amended the budget to appropriate \$105,000 in opioid settlement funds. This budget amendment makes the funds available for expenditure following approval by the opioid review committee that was established through the execution of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with Buchanan County. The review committee is a small group of interested individuals who have worked to address the negative impact opioids have had on our community. The committee will review applications and determine which agencies/groups/individuals will receive funding, the purpose of that funding, and the amount. The City's procurement policy will require any funding allocations exceeding \$25,000 to be presented to the City Council for approval by resolution.

**Hyde Park and Northside Complex Aquatics Facilities** (Item #18 Bill #668-22): The City Council adopted a resolution expressing support to proceed with development of the Hyde Park Water Feature-Phase II, Hyde Park Pool House, and Northside Complex Splash Park projects utilizing remaining 2019 CIP funding and Park Sales Tax funding.

The Parks Sales Tax included a list of supplemental projects that will only be completed if the tax generates enough funding to complete the projects. The resolution recognizes that the Parks Sales Tax is generating enough revenue to complete those supplemental projects and supports proceeding with the Hyde Park Water Feature-Phase II although it is a supplemental Parks Sales Tax project. Additionally, the Hyde Park Pool House project will be completed in conjunction with the Hyde Park Water Feature-Phase II project. The pool house and phase II projects will, effectively, complete the Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park.

The resolution also supported proceeding with the Northside Complex Splash Park beginning in FY26, which begins on July 1, 2025. Aligned completion may enable some uniformity in parts and management measures for the two facilities. It will also help ensure regional support for both projects.

**Bartlett Park Lower Ball Field** (Item #19 Bill #669-22): The Parks Sales Tax projects included funding to resolve drainage issues and repair damage to the Barlett Park Lower Ball Field Facilities. Auxier Construction has previously replaced broken concrete and repaired eroded soil near the concession building. The City Council authorized a work order to repair the soffits and fascia of the building, concrete around the building, and sidewalks. The concession building will also be painted.

**Health Department Electronic Health Records** (Item #20 Bill #670-22): The City Council authorized execution of a contract with CureMD to implement an electronic health records system. The system will centralize management and storage of electronic health records. The system will help ensure retention regulations are appropriately met and allowing continuity of care. Startup costs total \$11,786 and will be paid using grant funding.

**Police Department K-9 Thazer Retirement and Donation** (Item #21 Bill #671-22): After serving the community since 2017, Police K-9 Thazer will be retiring from duty as a Police K-9. The City Council approved donation of Thazer to Police Officer Dillon Powell who has been Thazer's only handler through his nearly 7 years of service. While Thazer will be retiring from duty, he will be able to remain with Officer Powell.

**City Hall Window Replacement** (Item #20 Bill #670-22): The City Council approved a design-build contract with Timekey Glazing to replace the windows at City Hall. Timekey specializes in window replacement for historic buildings. The windows that will be replaced are original to the building with limited panes of glass having been replaced over the building's nearly 100-year history. Each existing window is single pane with steel frames, some of which are missing operational hardware. Timekey Glazing will replace each of the building's 138 windows with modern window technology that adheres to the existing aesthetic of the building. While working to preserve the aesthetic of the building, Timekey will limit disruption of the limestone exterior and repair any damage done to the mostly-plaster interior. The project is scheduled to cost \$2,264,835.

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

City Manager Bryan Carter reported the following:

**Street Homelessness:** The United Way facilitates the local Continuum of Care that involves numerous non-profits and other agencies to focus on resolving homelessness. The City Council has previously endorsed the Blueprint Plan for a System of Care for Homeless Services that defines services available for those seeking them. The program, however, does not always function well when the homeless individuals do not desire help. For the last few months, City officials have been reiterating the growing community concern about efforts to address street homelessness and petty crime (trespass, littering, etc.) related to street homelessness. The Police Department has taken the lead in identifying solutions to address those issues. They identified a program developed in Sarasota, Florida, that focuses on outreach and education, but utilizes enforcement when necessary. In December, that program was presented to the at the Continuum of Care Planning for the Future Meeting; going forward, the Police Department will take the lead on building out a variation of the program. We anticipate bringing an overview of the program to the City Council after it is better developed; full implementation will include additional financial resources.

**Economic Development Administration Grant Update:** In September, the City Council approved a resolution authorizing submission of a \$500,000 grant application to the Economic Development Administration. The grant application effort was led (and paid for) by the Chamber of Commerce, but the City was the applicant. Unfortunately, we learned this week that the City was not awarded a grant. Notably, no entity in Missouri received an award.