



# City Council ACTION

The following is a summary of select City Council action items from the January 22, 2024 City Council meeting.

## Boards & Commissions Appointments

No board or commission nominations were considered.

## Summarized City Council Actions

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

**3734 Pear Zoning Redistricting** (Item #4 Bill #684-22): The City Council approved a request for Zoning District Changes from a Commercial (C-3) designation to a Light Manufacturing (M-1) designation for the property located at 3734 Pear Street. The property was previously occupied as an Apple Market grocery store at the intersection of Belt Highway and Pear Street. The property owner intends to utilize the property for packaging of shelf-stable pet food ingredients. That activity would not have been allowed under a commercial zoning designation. The Planning Commission previously recommended approval of the zoning district change.

**Sewer Manhole Inspections** (Item #9 Bill #674-22): The City Council authorized a work order with Surveying and Mapping, LLC for the continuation and re-inspection of City-owned sanitary sewer manholes. The inspections will include visual inspection of the top-side of manholes to check the integrity and condition of the manholes. The inspections satisfy regulatory requirements. One-seventh of the system is inspected every year to ensure the City remains on a seven-year inspection cycle.

**Bike to Work Day Grant** (Item #10 Bill #675-22): The City Council authorized an agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to fund the Bike to Work Day Program. The event has become an important tradition in the City to raise public awareness about the benefits of using cycling as transportation.

**Transit Bus Purchase** (Item #12 Bill #677-22): The city received a grant from the Federal Transit Administration for the purchase of two 30' buses for the City's Go St. Joe bus system. The City Council approved the purchase from Gillig, LLC. The buses will replace two of the 27 buses in the transit fleet. The two new buses will complete the fleet and bring the entire fleet within its useful life.

**Pony Express Statue Repair** (Item #14 Bill #679-22): The City Council authorized an agreement with Jensen Conservation for restoration and repairs to the Pony Express Statue located at the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Frederick Avenue, and Francis Street in downtown St. Joseph. The statue has been in place for nearly 90 years and the granite base is cracked and bulging. Jensen Conservation will replace the 23-ton granite base with matching granite sourced in the United States.

**Civic Arena Improvements** (Item #15 Bill #680-22 & Item #16 Bill #681-22): The City Council previously passed a resolution supporting the utilization of American Rescue Plan Act funds to complete improvements to the floor scoreboards and sound system at Civic Arena. Two bills approved specific use of the funds for a sound system assessment and purchase of an LED scorer's table, two basketball scoreboards that will be placed in the end zone, and three locker room clocks. The scoreboards and clocks will be purchased from Daktronics to be compatible with the main Daktronics that is visible throughout the arena.

**Charter Amendments** (Item #19 Bill #685-22): The City Council approved an ordinance to submit proposed charter amendments to the voters of St. Joseph during the April 2nd election. The ballot will contain seven proposed revisions:

- Staggered terms and redrawing districts: Currently, all City Council members are elected at the same time every four years. The amendment would require an election every two years with four district council members being elected to four-year terms during one election and the Mayor and four at-large council members being elected to four-year terms two years later. For only the 2026 election, district council members would be elected to two-year terms to implement the staggered approach. The ballot question would also clarify details about how districts are redrawn.
- Election process: Current charter language allows candidates to obtain petitions to collect signatures to run for mayor, at-large city council, and district city council, but the candidate can only file one petition and run for one office. A proposed change would limit candidates to obtaining petitions for only one office but allow them to turn in incomplete petitions and obtain petitions for an alternative office. The change would also adjust the timeframes for withdrawing filed petitions, clarify how candidates may be elected at the primary election, adjust the timeframe within which the City Council must declare election results.
- City manager removal: The charter requires six council members to vote in favor of hiring a city manager but allows five to vote to remove a city manager. The change would require six of nine city council members to vote in favor of hiring or removing a city manager.
- Departmental structure: The original charter created certain City departments and personnel structure. Other City departments are created by the Code of Ordinances. The proposed change would remove the requirement to create certain departments. Those departments would remain in the Code of Ordinance and continue to be departments.
- City boards and commissions: Although most City boards and commissions are created by the Code of Ordinance and can be modified by ordinance, the Personnel Board and Museum Oversight Board are created by the Charter. The proposed change would move both boards from the Charter into the Code of Ordinance.
- Publication: Various provisions of the Charter require public notice to be published in a newspaper. A potential change would allow alternative methods of publishing public notice to ensure the notice is readily available through different forms of media.

- Municipal Judge retirement age: State statute prohibits a municipal judge from being elected after the age of 75 and prohibits an associate circuit court judge from serving past the age of 70. The proposed change would align the municipal judge and association court judge age limitation at 70 years old. The change would not go into effect until after the 2030 general election. Delayed effectiveness will enable the sitting municipal judge to be elected one time after his 70th birthday.

**Housing Rehabilitation Contracts** (Item #21 Bill #687-22 & Item #22 Bill #688-22): The City Council approved the execution of two Housing Rehabilitation Contracts. The contracts include rehabilitation projects to benefit two citizens meeting low-to-moderate income requirements. Superior Exteriors of Northwest Missouri LLC will complete the work. Work included in the contracts will minimize housing code violations and generally improve the property.

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

City Manager Bryan Carter reported the following:

**Rosecrans Memorial Airport Runway**: After being closed since last summer, the primary runway at Rosecrans Memorial Airport opened two weeks ago. The runway was fully demolished and reconstructed as part of a \$28 million project that was funded largely by state and federal sources, including \$17 million as part of a Military Cooperative Construction Agreement and \$9 million as part of the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program.

**February 20 City Council Meeting Cancellation**: Staff will be preparing a resolution to cancel the City Council meeting that is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20 due to a conflict with the statewide Missouri Municipal League Legislative Conference in Jefferson City. Staff accommodated the cancellation by expediting the filing of a couple of items that appeared on the January 22nd City Council meeting agenda.

**Facility Heating Issues**: Various City facilities experienced heating issues during the recent extreme temperatures. The REC Center has had various issues, including a lack of heating to the blue gym, purple gym, and community room. Parts are anticipated to be delivered in February and will enable a longer-term repair. Remington Nature Center's HVAC system has been inadequate for an extended period. A new system has been on order for several months and is expected to be delivered in mid-April. Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center's HVAC systems are having various issues that are affecting the kitchen, dining room, portions of the multipurpose room, and the conference room. A longer-term plan for that facility is in development.