



City Council ACTION

The following is a summary of select City Council action items from the April 1, 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:

South Creek Woods Drive Zoning Redistricting (Item #4 Bill #756-22): The City Council approved a request for Zoning District changes from Single Family Residential (RP-1B) to Single Family Residential (RP-1A). The property located along South Creek Woods Drive was proposed to have the same lot sizes as Phases 1 and 2 of the Creek Woods Development to the North and have an alley to the South of the houses. New plans are to allow for the lots to be fourteen feet wider and provide no alley, instead the properties will have driveways on the front to allow off street parking to future owners. The Planning Commission previously recommended approval of the zoning district change.

1217 Powell Street Zoning Redistricting (Item #5 Bill #757-22): The City Council approved a request for Zoning District changes from Single-Family Residential (R-1B) to Apartment Residential (R-4). The structure located at 1217 Powell Street is currently framed to contain four units but has been vacant for more than two years. Therefore, City code requires that legal nonconforming use must cease. The property owner intends to renovate the existing structure and utilize it as a four-unit apartment building which would not be allowed under current zoning. The Planning Commission previously recommended approval of the zoning district change.

4801 South 169 Highway Conditional Use Permit (Item #6 Bill #760-22): The City Council approved the issuance of a conditional use permit that will allow for operation of a meeting hall in the building located at 4801 South 169 Highway. The property owner proposed minor changes including the addition of bathrooms, cosmetic improvements within the structure, and replacement of an outdoor deck. The application for a conditional use permit was previously recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

Creekwoods Plat 3 Preliminary Plat Approval (Item #14 Bill #758-22): The City Council approved the preliminary plat for the Creekwoods Plat 3 subdivision, consisting of fifteen lots and one detention basin located South of South Creek Woods Drive. This subdivision is the third phase of development in the area and will consist of single-family units. Parcels in the new portion of the development were proposed to be larger than the initial two phases, which required Zoning Redistricting that was also approved.

Book Hill Final Plat Approval (Item #15 Bill #771-22): The City Council approved the final plat for the Book Hill subdivision, consisting of five lots located at 2611 Cook Road. The preliminary plat for Book Hill was approved in October 2023.

City Vehicle Purchase (Item #17 Bill #761-22): The City Council authorized the initial phase for procurement and replacement of eight City vehicles through a Master Equity Lease Agreement with Enterprise FM Trust. The vehicles are the first authorized by the City Council under the Master Equity Lease Agreement that was previously approved. Under the agreement, the City will be able to lease vehicles that may be turned in and replaced based upon existing needs.

Civic Arena Improvements (Item #22 Bill #766-22): The City Council approved an agreement with G.A. Thompson Painting Contractor for the internal and external painting services at Civic Arena. The building's paint is currently fading, has dated color schemes, and is showing wear and tear. The City Council approved an external color scheme and City Leadership selected and approved the internal color scheme and scope. Civic Arena improvements enable the City, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and other partnering agencies to promote, bid, and host future sporting events.

1500 Highland Avenue Construction Agreement (Item #23 Bill #769-22): The City Council authorized the execution of an agreement with St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity for the construction of five new single-family homes to be located at 1500 Highland Avenue. Funding for the construction is available through the Home Investment Partnership Program, which develops affordable housing opportunities for low-income households.

408 South 8th Street Property Acquisition (Item #26 Bill #775-22): The City Council authorized the execution of an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency that will insulate the City from liability for the purchase of the property located at 408 South 8th Street. Following execution of the agreement, the City anticipates purchasing the property, demolishing the existing building, and placing a cap of asphalt or concrete over the footprint of the building. The property adjoins property on which Fire Department Headquarters is currently located and will facilitate the future design of an expansion of the Headquarters building.

River Bluff Bike Trail Improvement (Item #27 Bill #776-22): The City Council authorized an agreement with Ideker, Inc. to fix erosion issues where the Bob Simpson Bridge and River Bluff Trails project meet. Ideker Inc. is currently working on the River Bluff Trails project and can incorporate a remedy for the erosion issue into their ongoing work. The work will include the removal of six trees, re-shaping the bridge embankment sides, and placing rip rap stabilization on the slope.

911 System Improvements (Item #29 Bill #778-22): The City Council authorized the filing of an application to the Missouri 911 Service Board for the FY23 ARPA Next Generation 911 Grant for the enhancement of the 911 system. If approved, the funding will help enable enhancement of essential equipment for the 911 system and Communications Center. The traditional landline 911 system is at the end of its life and will need to be replaced with a modern Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Next Generation (NG911) system.

Fire Department Records Management (Item #30 Bill #779-22): The City Council authorized the purchase of Emergency Networking Solution from Tyler Technologies for Fire Department records management software to replace a software that will no longer be supported.

Health Services Contract (Item #31 Bill #780-22): The City Council authorized renewal of a contract with Buchanan County to provide certain public health services to residents of the County. Services include Clinic Services (community health, WIC, immunizations, and communicable disease services) and Health Administration, including Vital Records and Emergency Preparedness Planning Services. The contract is an extension of a long-standing relationship with the County.

Animal Shelter Design Work Order (Item #32 Bill #781-22): The City Council authorized the execution of a Work Order with Ellison-Auxier Architects, Inc. for design of a new Animal Shelter. Ellison-Auxier will provide design services for the shelter with input from Friends of the Animal Shelter. The design plans will include architectural, civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing designs. A 5300 sq. ft. new facility will be attached to an existing City building for a new shelter space of approximately 7600 sq ft. The new facility will be located at 3405 South Belt Highway.

MacArthur Drive & 6th Street Bridge Projects (Item #33 Bill #782-22): The City Council authorized the execution of change orders with Phillips Hardy, Inc. for the Bonds for Bridges Program for projects at the MacArthur Drive Bridge and the 6th Street Bridge.

The MacArthur Drive bridge will consist of removing the concrete deck, safety barriers, and guardrails to utilize the existing structural steel that will be cleaned and recoated. Aesthetically, the bridge will look the same with the addition of a sidewalk on the south side of the bridge and a black vinyl pedestrian fence over the railway. The new bridge will include two 13-foot driving lanes, concrete curbs, concrete gutters, storm water inlets and piping, and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.

The 6th Street bridge will consist of removing and replacing approach slabs, curb and gutter, deteriorated end bent diaphragms, unformed pier caps, pedestrian walkway and fence, and storm inlets. Aesthetically, the look of the bridge will not change. The rehabilitated cross-section and profile will continue to contain four 12-foot driving lanes, concrete curbs, concrete gutters, and storm water inlets and piping and retain the sidewalk on the east side of the bridge/roadway.

Heritage Complex Improvements (Item #34 Bill #783-22): The City Council authorized the purchase of a replacement playground canopy for use at the Heritage Complex. The existing canopy was destroyed during severe storms and high wind events. The overall age of the existing playground canopy contributed to the vulnerability. A playground canopy is necessary to provide shade for the playground and protect against softballs coming into the playground area.

Disc Golf Course Naming (Item #35 Bill #784-22): The City Council approved designation of an official name for the City's new disc golf course located in Hyde Park as the "Redbird Hills Disc Golf Course." The St. Joseph Disc Golf Club has spent over 250 volunteer hours on the development of the new disc golf course at Hyde Park and requested the name through the City's formalized park property naming process. The proposed name Redbird Hills comes from the geographic location in St. Joseph and the terrain of the course.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bryan Carter reported the following:

Military Advocate Grant: The City Council recently approved the submission of an application for a Missouri Department of Economic Development Military Community Reinvestment Grant in the amount of \$30,000. The grant was awarded to the City and will contribute to the cost of hiring a military advocate to advocate on behalf of the 139th Airlift Wing. The City, St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, the Buchanan County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Buchanan County, Missouri Western State University, and Mosaic Life Care are all partners in the effort to employ a military advocate. The Chamber of Commerce led the application effort, but the City served as the applicant because only governmental entities were eligible for the grant.

Bird Scooter Update: Bird, which provides the paid scooter service in St. Joseph, has informed the City that it will be discontinuing service in St. Joseph. The company entered bankruptcy last year, but maintained a fleet in St. Joseph; however, they are now expected to remove the remaining scooters.