



City Council ACTION

The following is a summary of select City Council action items from the May 13, 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:

Sewer Service Fee Increase (Item #7 Bill #828-22) The City Council authorized an amendment to the Code of Ordinances that will implement the recommendations stated in a Cost of Service Sewer Rate Study. The study recommended a total increase in revenues of 4.25%. To achieve that total, the retail service charge will increase by 4% and the volume charge will increase by 7%. The retail service charge is the flat rate charge that every user is billed, and the volume charge is the charge based on the actual amount of water used. New rates will go into effect in October 2024.

Police Department Equipment Purchase (Item #8 Bill #825-22) The City Council authorized the purchase of 57 Mobile Data Terminals consisting of laptop computers and related equipment that will be used in Police Department vehicles.

2024 Urban Trail System Maintenance Project (Item #9 Bill #826-22) The City Council authorized a Contract with GDS, LLC (dba Ambrozi Contracting) for maintenance and repairs of the Urban Trail system. Due to weather and normal wear and tear, the concrete in some areas has begun to degrade and needs repair. Funds were made available from the 2013 and 2019 CIP campaigns.

Children's Discovery Center Block Rehabilitation (Item #12 Bill #832-22) The City Council authorized an agreement that further specifies improvement projects to be completed using a portion of previously allocated ARPA funds for rehabilitating and improving infrastructure and amenities that will complement the two-block area surrounding the Children's Discovery Center. This agreement specifies that \$220,000 will be used to replace all public sidewalks along the east and south sides of the Discovery Center.

Public Address System Bill McKinney Softball Complex (Item #13 Bill #833-22) The City Council authorized the purchase of a public address system for the Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park. Previously, City Council authorized Transient Guest Tax funding for several projects associated with the St. Joseph Riverfront Master Plan area, including the public address system. The softball complex has not previously had a public address system. The system will be used to notify players, spectators, and staff of events in the complex, inclement and rapid weather notifications, as well as game administration and communication on fields 2, 3, & 4, where championship games are typically held.

Phil Welch Stadium Deck Repairs (Item #14 Bill #834-22) The City Council authorized a work order with Auxier Construction Company for repairs to the deck at Phil Welch Stadium. Repairs will consist of removal and reconstruction of the ADA ramp leading to and from the deck, including the addition of new concrete footings, total replacement of the treated lumber on both levels of the deck surface, replacement of the rail caps with new smooth cedar, replacement of all treated lumber spindles, and replacement of pre-identified joists where needed throughout the support structure of the deck.

36th Street and Sacramento Street Major Drainage Infrastructure (Item #15 Bill #835-22) The City Council authorized the execution of a work order with Sprague Excavating Co. Inc., for the installation of a Major Drainage Infrastructure at 36th Street and Sacramento Street. The stormwater drainage was severely deteriorated, inefficient, and incapable of handling the necessary flow required for the area. Several of the crossroad tubes were failing and in danger of collapse. City crews began the project but determined that additional workers and equipment will be needed to finish the work. Sprague Excavating and Street and Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair crews will collaborate to fast track the completion date of the project.

Market-Rate Housing Project (Item #16 Bill #836-22) The City Council authorized the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Buchanan County and the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce relating to a potential development project at North Pointe Drive in St. Joseph to potentially assist in development of market-rate housing using economic development tools. The St. Joseph Comprehensive Plan identified a shortage of mid and upper income housing in the rental market and an increasing number of young professionals commuting from areas such as Platte City and North Kansas City instead of living in St. Joseph due to lack of attractive housing opportunities. The purpose of the MOU is to express intent to incentivize development of a multi-family apartment complex that is upscale and designed to encourage and attract young professionals working in St. Joseph at companies such as Mosaic Life Care, Altec Industries, Boehringer Ingelheim, and others.

2024 CIP Project Schedule (Item #17 Bill #837-22) The City Council approved a proposed schedule for projects funded from the proceeds of the 2024 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Sales Tax. Projects approved by the voters include annual appropriations for items such as sidewalk grants and street improvements, to specific projects such as a new fire station and park facility improvements. The actual schedule proposed may vary depending upon the availability of grant funds, property acquisition, or other issues that influence schedule development.

Police Department Equipment Grant Application (Item #18 Bill #838-22) The City Council authorized the filing of an application with the Bureau of Justice for a Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant for the purpose of replacing expired bulletproof vests for the Police Department. Eligible jurisdictions can request funds to assist with the purchase of one vest per officer, per fiscal year. Federal payments will cover up to 50% of the total cost. The department has approximately 28 vests that will expire over the next 2 years.

Fire Department Donation Acceptance (Item #20 Bill #827-22) The City Council approved acceptance of donations from AG Processing, Inc., and CoBank to be used by the Fire Department to purchase needed equipment to outfit new fire trucks. The donations provide the Fire Department with funding necessary for the purchase of suppression equipment that was not otherwise available in the FY23-24 budget, putting valuable equipment in the hands of the firefighters and enabling enhanced services to the community.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Bryan Carter reported the following:

Police Memorial: The Fraternal Order of Police will host the annual Police Memorial on Wednesday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m. in Civic Center Park outside City Hall. If inclement weather hinders the memorial, it will be moved inside City Hall.

Use Tax Ordinance: The ordinance that was first read during Monday night's meeting and would authorize the submission of a Use Tax extension question to the voters of St. Joseph will be voted on during a special meeting held on Monday, May 20, at 4:00 p.m. Approval during the special meeting will enable the City Clerk to file the ordinance with the County Clerk before the statutory deadline on May 28.

May 29 City Council Meeting: The City Council meeting that would be scheduled for May 28 will be held on May 29 due to it falling on the Memorial Day holiday.