



City Council ACTION

The following is a summary of select City Council action items from the September 30, 2024 City Council meeting.

Boards & Commissions Appointments

The following board and commission nominations were approved:

- Gary L. Clark – Administrative Violation Review Board

Summarized City Council Actions

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

Maple Leaf Skateboard & Bike Park (Item #8 Bill #975-22): Previously, the City Council authorized an agreement with Spohn Ranch, Inc. for the Design/Build of a Skateboard and Bike Park at Maple Leaf Park, located on Maple Leaf Parkway immediately north of Woodson Street. During the design process, additional elements were added that were outside the scope of the original contract such as: a pathway connecting the sidewalk to the new skateboard/bike park for ADA access, spectator seating with a shade structure and a quarter-pipe at the southwest corner. The City Council has approved additional CIP funding for these elements.

Parks Department Restroom Facilities Improvements (Item #9 Bill #976-22): Previously, the City Council authorized a contract with Brooner Construction & Crane for restroom facility renovations at the Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center, Northside Complex, and Bartlett Park. Original plans for renovations did not account for the following elements:

- All new toilets will be handicap height at Joyce Raye Patterson Center.
- Existing conduit at Bartlett Park is unable to be used, therefore trenching and installation of new conduit is necessary.
- Door locks at Bartlett and Northside Parks need to be replaced to allow for additional deadbolt locks that can be utilized after winterization is completed.
- Overhangs and fascia boards at each facility will be covered in maintenance-free material.

The City Council authorized a Change Order to provide additional funding for these project elements.

Safe Streets Grant Agreements (Item #11 Bill #978-22): The City Council authorized the execution of two Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Agreements with the United States Department of Transportation to assist in the development of a comprehensive safety action plan for the St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization (SJATSO). The plan aims to improve transportation safety

within the SJATSO region, involving stakeholder engagement and a thorough safety analysis utilizing five years of crash data.

South 29th Street Culvert Repairs (Item #13 Bill #981-22): The City Council authorized a purchase order utilizing the Master Agreement with Sprague Excavating Co., Inc. for replacement of the culvert pipe located on South 29th Street. The existing culvert pipe has failed, leading to a significant collapse of the roadway above it. Sprague will remove the damaged round culvert and replace it with a new arched culvert pipe coated for corrosion resistance. The arched design will provide additional cover and clearance for underground utilities, minimizing disruption to the surrounding area. The new pipe will be longer, offering over fifty feet of surface area compared to the current thirty-one feet. The added length will accommodate two twelve-foot lanes, a curb, gutter, sidewalks, and modern guardrails, resulting in a safer, more modern, and visually appealing crossing.

Parks Department Equipment Purchases (Item #14-#17): The City Council authorized the purchase of the following items for the Park Maintenance Division utilizing Parks Sales Tax Funds:

- Bobcat - K.C. Bobcat
- Kubota Mower - Coleman Equipment
- Utility Tractor & Flex Wing Mower - Ag-Power, Inc.
- International 4X4 Flat Dump Chassis - Rush Truck Center of Missouri

These purchases will provide safe and reliable equipment for use by personnel in the care and maintenance of park facilities, parks, trails, and boulevard system.

Water Protection Equipment Purchase (Item #18 Bill #986-22): The City Council authorized the purchase of an AQ 300E Automated Multi-Chemistry Analyzer from Seal Analytical, Inc. for use by the Water Protection Division. The purchase of this new equipment will enable laboratory staff to test for additional pollutants, such as cyanide, directly in-house rather than outsourcing the analysis to third-party labs which will lead to significant cost savings.

Mass Transit Vehicle Purchase (Item #19 Bill #987-22): The City Council authorized the purchase of a 2024 Chrysler Voyager LX passenger van from Reed Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM to be used by the Mass Transit Division. Transit staff use passenger vans to position bus operators at remote locations to provide an uninterrupted bus service on all routes. The vans also monitor service, on-time performance, driver observation, and other transit-related activities. The new van will replace a 2009 Nissan Quest that is 15 years old and has been driven 107,907 miles. It has exceeded the years of life guidelines required of FTA-funded vehicles.

Traffic Signal Upgrades (Item #23 Bill #991-22): The City Council authorized a contract with RS Electric Utility Services for the Signalized Intersection Mast Arm Conversions Project utilizing previously approved American Rescue Act (ARPA) funding. Four major intersections located at 22nd & Frederick, Noyes & Frederick, St. Joseph Avenue & Grand Avenue, and St. Joseph Avenue & Middleton will be upgraded with modern mast arm infrastructure. Currently, these intersections are supported by span wire, intended only for temporary use according to current standards. Upgrades to these intersections will ensure Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices compliance, enhance aesthetics, modernize the infrastructure, and improve overall safety.

Police Department Grant Filings (Items #25 & #26 Bill #993-22 & Bill #994-22): The City Council approved the filing of a Federal Assistance Grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for the 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant for the purpose of purchasing ten Falcon License Plate Recognition Cameras to be shared with Buchanan County Sheriff's Department under a Memorandum of Understanding.

The City Council also approved the filing of a Federal Assistant Grant application from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Continuum of Care funding and the creation of a Homeless Outreach Team with a Social Worker position within the Police Department. The plan aligns with HUD's priority of addressing homelessness using a Housing First model, which ensures individuals receive support without requiring them to meet preconditions such as sobriety or employment. By adopting this approach, the City will be better equipped to address the root causes of homelessness and provide a pathway to stability for individuals and families.

Housing Infill Analysis (Item #28 Bill #996-22): The City Council authorized an agreement with Steadfast City for the development of a Housing Infill Analysis and Needs Assessment Plan utilizing ARPA funding. The analysis and assessment will help to identify existing and future housing stock throughout St. Joseph and identify strategies that will help ensure the housing market provides opportunities for all income levels. The plan will be used as a tool to focus on new residential development to fill the current and future housing gap.

City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager Clint Thompson reported the following:

- **American Rescue Act Funding:** Between now and the end of the year, Council Meeting Agenda's will include the final allocations of projects funded through ARPA dollars. ARPA regulations require all funding to be appropriated by the end of 2024.
- **St. Joseph Marathon:** The City hosted the St. Joseph Marathon for the second year in a row. There were over 600 runners this year, many of those traveled from other states to participate. The St. Joseph Sports Commission organizes the marathon and the City partners with them to assure safety of the athletes involved. It was another successful year.