



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on July 3, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present Mayor Gibbons, Council Members Jaksetic, McLean, Rheinnecker, Schaefer, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russell Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Asche, Chief Murphy, Chief Silvernail, Director of Public Services Chris Krueger, Parks Director Kyle Henke, Planning & Development Services Director Jonathan Raiche, Communications Manager Jessica Winter, and City Attorney John Hessel. Council Member Luetzow was absent and excused.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2024 AND JUNE 20, 2024 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to approve the minutes of June 13th Work Session. The motion to approve minutes was unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Council member Rheinnecker and seconded by Council member Schaefer to continue approval of the June 20th, 2024 minutes to the July 18, 2024 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE AND FIRE BUDGET PLANNING DISCUSSION

Fire

Chief Silvernail provided an overview of the Fire Department Budget to the Council. The Fire Department is an all-hazard agency that handles almost all safety issues in the City of Kirkwood.

- The Fire Department handles all HAZMAT, EMS, and Transportation for EMS. All equipment is advanced life support, including the Suppression Apparatus.
- Kirkwood Fire has three strategic Fire Stations throughout the City.
- There are 3 Advance Life Support (ALS) Ambulances, 2 ALS Engine Trucks, 1 Tower Ladder, and 1 Attack Pumper.
- The Fire Department has 55 uniform employees; 1 Battalion Chief, 3 Captains, 3 Engineers
- They are divided into 3 shifts with a total of 17 individuals per shift
- FY23/24, the Fire Department had 5,285 total calls, with 39.6% being Fire and 60.4% being EMS. The total calls for EMS is 3,192
- Fire Station House 1 receives the most calls at 2,190; House 2 at 2,005; and House 3 1,059 calls
- The national average response time is 8 minutes. Kirkwood run time is consistent between 6-7 minute range
- Fire calls are less than 2% of the calls. Ambulance calls more than 60%

Fire Capital Budget Update

- The Fire Department is expecting delivery of a new Engine Truck in December, a Ladder truck in the Spring of 2026, and 2 Ambulances; 1 in September 2024 and 1 in December 2024
- New Radios will be added to the current 5-year plan or the next 5-year plan. The cost per fire radio is \$7,000. The total to replace all radios is \$650,000
- Fire Pumper to replace engine House 1 is in the current 5-year plan



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Fire Operating Budget

- The training budget is been increased
- Overtime is a big factor, and the department is working to reduce sick leave and injury leave
- Turnover rate is an average of 2 a year

Revenues Derived

- Ambulance billing does not take care of the full cost. It only supplements the cost
- FY23/24 ambulance revenue totaled \$1.308 million dollars
- Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Federal Supplement for Medicaid patients. That revenue total is \$277,361 for FY23/24
- EMS Transport for the City of Glendale total is \$140,000 for FY23/24
- Kirkwood Fire is also contracted with the City of Glendale and the City of Oakland

Strategic Plan

- The fire command staff meets to discuss the 5-year plan and support the City's strategic plan
- Over the next 5 years, the Fire command staff will assist each Fire Station to determine what needs to be done at each firehouse
- A discussion occurred regarding developing CPR training for citizens' programs and adding more cities under contracts.

Police

Chief Murphy provided an overview of the Police Department Budget to the Council. A brief history of the Police Department was provided

- The Police Department staffs 96 employees; 62 commissioned, 22 civilians, and 12 part-time
- Total call volume from January 1, 2024 to June 1, 2024 is 59,090 calls made to dispatch which consist of emergency and non-emergency calls
- Police department responded to 12,826 calls
- Police is contracted with the City of Oakland
- Budget is over \$10 million dollars. 85% is salary and benefits, 12% contract services, 3% is discretionary

Capital Budget

- The biggest issue in the capital budget is vehicles
- Radio replacement will be needed in the near future

Operating Budget

- There is a total of 8 Cost centers; Admin, Investigations, Patrol, Support Services, Code Enforcement, and Traffic

Asset Forfeiture

- Funds received from investigations that Kirkwood Police were involved with that the government has seized.
- This can only be used to supplement budgeted funds
- A discussion took place about being more proactive in enforcing the speed limits
- Over 70% of people who are stopped are non-residents
- Legislative body cannot dictate the Police department issue more tickets. The court cannot impose a form of discipline like a night in jail because they can't pay the fine.

Strategic Plan



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- The Police department will try and move dispatch to the new Public Works facility
- Suggestions to have a study done for the Police department building

BIG BEND TRAFFIC CALMING DISCUSSION

Chief Administrative Officer Hawes discussed this item with the Council. Some of the discussion is as follows:

- Council passed Resolution 93-2024 on June 6, 2024 to reduce the speed limit on Big Bend Road to 30 miles per hour within the city limits
- St. Louis County is forming a review group to determine the engineering to implement this change
- The Street Code Investigation Team committee met and came to the conclusion that the best way to lower the speed limit is to reduce the through-lane width to 11 feet in the four-lane sections of the Big Bend corridor.
- In order to provide 11-foot lane width consistency, staff suggest the City agrees to restripe to County specifications the four-lane sections of Big Bend in Kirkwood not included in the County's current project
- The City will bear the cost of the lane striping outside the County project. This will cost between \$12,000 to \$15,000
- A discussion took place with concerns about the City asking for 10-foot lanes instead of 11-foot.

The Council's consensus is to ask for a reduction in lane width without adding certain feet and then let the Engineers discuss this topic.

KAA DISCUSSION

Chief Administrative Officer Hawes made the suggestion to discuss this topic openly. Council Member Jaksetic discussed this item with the Council. Some of the discussion is as follows:

- A meeting occurred with Council Members Jaksetic, Schaefer, and Parks Director Kyle Henke met with Rick Stream, Ben Caffey, and Michael Kleckner at the KAA fields on June 27, 2024
- Possibility of a Kirkwood Sports Group
- The name of the site would have to change
- Recommendation for the site: demolish the buildings and leave the backstops, fences, and dugouts. Leave the batting cage frames
- The site will not fall under Parks and Recreation
- Allow a citizen group to move forward with engaging a broader group to fundraise and develop a plan for sports fields
- A discussion took place regarding identifying the trees that should remain and the ones that should be removed

A motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to move forward with Phase 1 of the demolition, which will cost \$69,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1 – Legal).



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Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	"Yes"
Council Member Schaefer	"Yes"
Council Member Zimmer	"Yes"
Council Member Jaksetic	"Yes"
Council Member Luetzow	Absent
Council Member McLean	"Yes"
Council Member Rheinnecker	"Yes"

The meeting was closed.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member McLean to open the meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	"Yes"
Council Member Schaefer	"Yes"
Council Member Zimmer	"Yes"
Council Member Jaksetic	"Yes"
Council Member Luetzow	Absent
Council Member McLean	"Yes"
Council Member Rheinnecker	"Yes"

The meeting was opened.

There being no further matters to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

Laurie Asche
City Clerk