



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on October 3, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present Mayor Gibbons, Council Members Jaksetic, McLean, Rheinneck, Schaefer, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Russ Hawes, City Clerk Laurie Asche, Parks and Recreation Director Kyle Henke, and City Attorney John Hessel. Council Member Luetzow was absent and excused.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Schaefer and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to approve the minutes of the September 19th Work Session minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Parks & Recreation Director Kyle Henke provided an update to the Council. The Community Center project is approximately 40% complete. Starting Friday, October 4th, around 3:00 p.m., limited access to the renovated space will be limited. This action will allow Phase II on schedule, slated with hazardous material abatement on Monday, October 7th, on the second and third floors. ADA parking is complete and will open on Friday. The Geyer entrance will switch to the lakeside entrance. EV parking will remain closed for now while final electrical connections are made. Access to the front doors are limited. The entrance doors will be temporarily located at the new egress doors until the final door closers are installed next week. A temporary rubber flooring has been installed at the new front desk, Ice Rink and Concession areas. The new ceiling over the lobby entrance will not be on site until mid-November. The stone fireplace and the West gym will not be complete until mid-October. Kirkwood's Fire Marshal has approved these public access plans.

Some discussion took place as follows:

- A question was raised about how the progress is going compared to what was anticipated.
 - The progress is very close to what was anticipated
- A question was raised about the contingency for phase I.
 - \$160,000 was approved, and only \$100,000 has been used. We are right on track.

Phase III is the Ice Rink, and we anticipate the construction to start in March 2026.

- A question was raised asking if the Ice Rink is still open.
 - The Ice Rink will be open until construction starts in March 2026.

CLAY AVENUE & SOUTH KIRKWOOD ROAD PROJECTS PUBLIC COMMENT ANALYSIS DISCUSSION

Public Services Director Chris Krueger and City Engineer Rich Holesinger were present to discuss the topic with the Council.

Clay Avenue Project:

- An Open House will held on July 11, 2024.
- The project limits are Woodbine to Adams.
- Two raised intersections at Argonne and Jefferson.



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- The project involves resurfacing the streets, curbs, sidewalks, curb ramps, and storm sewers.
- 80% of the project is grant funded.
- A total of 11 responses were received for this project.

Mr. Holesinger discussed the recommendations in the following sections:

1. Intersection Safety Enhancements:
 - a. Madison & Clay: Several comments advocate a 4-way stop due to high pedestrian traffic and safety concerns. However, staff determined that the intersection does not meet MUTCD section 28.05 application requirements for a 4-way stop. Some requests include adding a crosswalk and pedestrian safety from the St. Peter parking lot.
 - b. Staff recommends that the crosswalk at Jefferson Avenue exists and that no additional crosswalk is warranted.
2. Traffic and Road Design:
 - a. Lane Widths: A call to narrow traffic lanes to 9 feet on the bridge and 10 feet on South Clay to reduce crash rates. Staff recommends that the posted speed limit of 25 mph and lane width of Clay Avenue is adequate for daily traffic and Emergency equipment.
 - b. Stop Bars: To improve pedestrian visibility and safety, we request that stop bars be moved back to at least 10 feet from crosswalks. Staff recommends that stop bar placement be a minimum of 4 feet from the nearest edge of the intersection, with marked crosswalks or turning movements required.
3. Crosswalk and Lighting Improvements:
 - a. Reflective Tape and Lighting: Suggestions include using wet reflective tape for better visibility and updating pedestrian and intersection lighting to enhance safety, particularly at night. Staff recommends applying durable thermoplastic marking tape with this new road resurfacing project, including all arrows, stop bars, and crosswalks. Lane markings such as skip dashes and double yellow are to be painted.
 - b. Raised Crosswalks: Multiple requests have been made to add raised crosswalks in specific locations to slow traffic and improve pedestrian safety. Staff recommends that the Argonne and Jefferson raised intersections be located near a school with high pedestrian volume and vehicle conflicts. Bollards will be considered in the design of the raised intersections to separate pedestrian and vehicle spaces.
4. Project Executive:
 - a. Disruptions: There have been concerns about minimizing business disruptions during construction. Staff recommends working closely with business owners and local stakeholders to plan and coordinate work during off-peak hours. Staff will communicate more with businesses to ensure they are informed about construction timelines.

A discussion took place.

Public Services Director Chris Krueger and City Engineer Rich Holesinger were present to discuss the topic with the Council.

South Kirkwood Road Project:

- Open House was held on Aug. 29, 2024
- Project limits are Monroe to South Rose Hill



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- New sidewalks and new curb ramps
- Additional improvements at the intersection of Rose Hill and Woodbine
- A total of 15 comments were received for this project.

Mr. Holesinger discussed the recommendations in the following sections:

1. Safety Features and Improvements: A request for a flashing beacon in the 505 S. Kirkwood Road School zone. Staff recommends a preliminary plan to identify a 25 mph school speed limit zone with flashing beacons for Nipher Middle School.
2. Road Configuration: 11 out of 15 comments stated a preference for reducing the number of lanes from four to three, requesting a reduction of two lanes with a center turn lane. Staff is not opposed to lowering lanes, but a traffic consultant is recommended to perform a Traffic study.
3. Walkability and Bicycle Infrastructure: Calls for prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist safety through improved infrastructure, including wider sidewalks and bike lanes. Staff recommends a plan that includes 5-foot wide sidewalks that are ADA compliant.
4. General Support and Community Impact: Some comments express appreciation for the planned improvements and recognize the need for a safer pedestrian-friendly environment.
5. Technical Suggestion: Based on FHWA recommendations, consider using reflective tape for lane markings and ensuring adequate lighting.

A discussion took place. It was the consensus of the Council to conduct a traffic study.

CROSSWALK SIGNAGE DISCUSSION

Council Member Schaefer discussed with the Council displaying crosswalk signage without the City. The signage can only be placed at mid-block crosswalks.

A discussion took place. It was the consensus of the Council to use the signage at a couple of the mid-block crosswalks.

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

Laurie Asche
City Clerk