

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, August 11, 2025
6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Regular Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, August 11, 2025, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

In addition to the Mayor, the following members of the Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember John Tieman
Councilmember Steven McMahon; (*excused*)
Councilmember Lisa Brenner
Councilmember Dennis Fuller
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John Mulligan, Jr.; Director of Planning & Zoning, Dr. John Wagner; Assistant City Manager, Brooke Sharp; Director of Public Works, Mirela Celaj, and Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, Darin Girdler.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Brenner requested that Item K (5); Pershing Avenue Project, be moved to the City Manager's Report. It was seconded by Councilmember Tieman, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Smotherson moved to approve the Agenda as amended, it was seconded by Councilmember Tieman, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. PROCLAMATIONS (Acknowledgement)

None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. July 14, 2025, Draft Regular Meeting Minutes were moved by Councilmember Fuller, it was seconded by Councilmember Brenner, and the motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Councilmember Smotherson, who was absent on the fourteenth.

F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Lorraine Hall was nominated for appointment to the Senior Commission by Mayor Crow in place of Councilmember Steve McMahon, it was seconded by Councilmember Tieman, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Jane Schaefer was nominated for appointment to the Arts and Letters Commission by Mayor Terry Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Tieman, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Hope Horn was nominated for appointment to the Arts and Letters Commission by Councilmember Dennis Fuller, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson, and the motion carried unanimously.

G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Ivy Jackson Davis was sworn into the Senior Commission on July 21st in the clerk's office.
2. Shannon McDonnell was sworn into the Pension Board on July 22nd in the clerk's office.

H. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (Total of 15 minutes allowed)

Request to Address the Council Forms are located on the ledge just inside the entrance. Please complete and place the form in the basket at the front of the room.

Written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.**

Comments may be sent via email to: councilcomments@ucitymo.org, or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention, City Clerk. Such comments will be provided to the City Council prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting.

Please note that when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided.** Please also note whether your comment is on an agenda or a non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the comment will not be recorded in the official record.

Citizen Comments

Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse, U City, MO

Mr. Sullivan stated at the May 12th Council Meeting that he brought up the issue of streetlight poles and missing covers for the electrical connections at the bottom of what they call hand holes, where the light can be hooked up to the main electrical line. The absence of covers over these openings can lead to a dangerous situation, as they protect the high-voltage wires. In fact, some covers even state, "*Danger High-Voltage*". The City put tape around one of the poles, but left three others uncovered: 739 Westgate, the southwest corner of Leland and Clemmons, and 6840 Vernon. Mr. Sullivan stated he discovered these three poles while out walking, so it has to be assumed that there are others.

There also continues to be streetlights out:

- Olive & Kingsland;
- Three lights out across the street from Olive & Kingsland;
- Chamberlain east of Kingsland;
- Loop North in the alley by Heman;
- Midland, and
- Olive west of Pennsylvania

Mr. Sullivan stated as Chief Holmes says on his website, "*Adequate lighting deters potential criminal activity,*" and he believes that it is the City Manager's job to see that these lights are all working, not citizens. On some poles, their identification tag is 20 feet from the ground; should a citizen be expected to take a ladder out with them to get a tag number? He stated the City Manager is paid nearly \$200,000 a year. There is also a Deputy City Manager, Department Directors, and ten City Inspectors; three of whom are paid more than \$80,000 a year, so something is definitely wrong if all of these people combined are unable to keep the City's streetlights working.

Damaged dumpsters and dumpsters with no lids continue to be a problem. In addition to it being untidy, it's a health issue, especially when it rains. The alley behind All Saints on Clemmons points out this problem, and there are also tree branches that need to be picked up, and about 20 feet of electrical wire hanging down from a pole.

There is also a pile of branches on Cates by Westgate that he informed the City Manager about on July 1st and July 14th.

Mr. Sullivan concluded by stating you might have seen where the County Executive was indicted on four charges related to unlawfully spending public money on a ballot measure. This is the same thing the City did with Proposition F, and the School District did with Proposition U. Maybe both parties should consult with a criminal defense attorney, because they might need one. Thank you.

Zachary Finklestein, 7532 Liberty Avenue, U City, MO

Mr. Finklestein stated that tonight, he noticed several newcomers to this meeting appearing to be confused about how to enter the building. So, he would suggest that City staff place some additional signage on the front door, the elevator, and the stairs, directing them to the fifth floor.

Carl Cibulka, 1421 Coolidge Drive, U City, MO

Mr. Cibulka stated several months ago that he received a notice on his doorstep asking him not to park in front of his house on a specific date because they would be having a block party. When he asked the City Manager why people were being allowed to close off the street and stop traffic for a block party, he was informed that a petition had been filed seeking permission to hold the party. Mr. Cibulka stated that upon reviewing the petition, it only contained five or six names, and as a result, nobody came. However, on August 2nd, which was a Saturday night, another block party was held where they closed off Kempland and Coolidge. This time, there were over 200 people in attendance. Cars were parked up and down the street all the way to Woodson, which included about a dozen muscle cars that kept revving their engines, screeching their tires, and playing loud music. There was also alcohol being consumed, which resulted in broken glass being left on the street. He stated that when he called 911 to report the cars blocking the street, he was informed that they had a permit to hold the party, and that it was scheduled to end by 10 p.m. Upon calling the U City Police Department, he was informed that officers were already present, so what do you want me to do about it?

Mr. Cibulka stated in his opinion, the City Manager is not doing his job, in that he only seems to represent Blacks and the rich, while leaving everyone else to fend for themselves. He continues to allow these block parties that close off the streets in his neighborhood, which he feels is very unjust.

I. COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

K. CONSENT AGENDA - (1 voice vote required)

1. Right-of-Way Easement Deeds to St. Louis County for Olive and Kingsland Road Improvement Project
2. St. Louis County Easement at 716 Kingsland Avenue
3. Police Department purchase of a 2025 Dodge Durango and a 2025 Ram Laramie
4. EDRST FY26 Funding
5. Pershing Avenue Project-STP-5402(620)- M & H Concrete Contractors Inc., (*moved to City Manager's Report*)

Councilmember Clay moved to approve Items 1 through 4 of the Consent Agenda, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller.

Citizen Comments

Frank Ollendorff, 8129 Cornell Court, U City, MO

Mr. Ollendorff requested that Mannequins on the Loop be removed from the EDRST FY26 budget and replaced with 2.4 million dollars to complete the Streetscape Project, consisting of shaded and lighted sidewalks on Olive from Skinker to I-1/70. This is what the City Council promised would be the priority when they asked voters to approve the EDRST, and that was a 3 to 1 favorable vote. He stated that it would have been ludicrous to have asked citizens to approve this measure based on the promise of making the Mannequin Project their first priority. Therefore, he is asking that it be removed to fulfill that original promise.

Mr. Ollendorff stated that the amount of money budgeted for EDRST administration and personnel exceeds the maximum allowed by state law, which is 20%.

Voice vote on Councilmember Clay's motion carried unanimously.

L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – (Voice vote on each item as needed)

1. City Manager Updates

Mr. Rose asked Dr. Wagner to provide Council with an update on the Buyout Program.

Flood Buyout Program

Dr. Wagner stated that staff has made a fair amount of progress on the two grants designated for flood buyouts: FMA (Flood Mitigation Systems) and the HMGP (Hazard Mitigation and Grant Program). The City has received two bids for the role of Project Manager, which are being reviewed to make sure they adhere to the advertising requirements within the State Procurement Guidelines that were suggested by SEMA. An email will be sent to SEMA tomorrow as a follow-up confirming their actions, and if that is acceptable, a final review of the bids will be conducted. In the meantime, staff, with the assistance of the Purchasing Manager, have developed templates for future RFPs, title work, appraisals, environmental work, etc.

Mayor Crow posed the following questions to Dr. Wagner:

Q. Has any of this information been communicated to the flood victims?

A. *I have responded to all of the emails I've received on this topic, and as soon as their next steps are confirmed, I will send an email out to all of the flood victims.*

Q. At this point, is everything that is left to be done either operational or administrative issues?

A. *As far as I know, it is.*

Q. So, there should be no more issues related to funding?

A. *Yes, sir.*

Councilmember Fuller posed the following questions to Dr. Wagner:

Q. Assuming this all goes well, is there a projected date for when these buyouts are slated to start?

A. *Probably closer to winter. One of the firms we are seriously looking at has a lot of experience in this field, so if selected, the hope is that they will be able to pick up the pace.*

Q. Are there a projected number of properties that will be able to participate?

A. *We have 12 single-family homes and the Hefner Court Apartments as part of this process. However, SEMA has been adamant about our making sure that everybody knows this is strictly voluntary, and that they have the option to refuse FEMA's offer.*

2. Agreement (Navigate) - Driving Range Project

Mr. Rose stated that staff is recommending that Council authorize a contract with Navigate to provide owner's representative services for the design and construction of the driving range at Ruth Park Golf Course.

Ms. Sharpe noted that representatives from Navigate were also present to assist her in answering any questions.

As a summary, the Driving Range has been closed for some time now, and bringing on Navigate is the first step towards getting this project back online. As you might recall, dirt from the Market at Olive Development was previously transferred to the range, but it was not properly graded or elevated.

Staff is proposing that Navigate represent the City throughout the entire process, from design through construction. The total cost for procurement, pre-construction, and construction is \$71,000, which will come from the Capital Improvement Fund. The procurement and pre-construction phase is estimated to take approximately eight months, and the construction phase is estimated to take five months. So, if approved tonight, this project will take approximately 13 months to complete.

Mayor Crow asked if there was any way to get this done any sooner, because if his recollection is correct, the range has already been closed for two years? Mr. Rose stated that's about accurate.

Councilmember Clay moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller.

Councilmember Clay posed the following questions to Ms. Sharp:

Q. Can you break down what Navigate will provide that is different from what the City has the capacity to do?

A. Although the City does have an engineer on board, she already has several projects on her plate, which would make it difficult for her to provide full attention to this project. On the other hand, Navigate can focus 100% of their time on this project by serving as the Project Manager, assisting in the bidding process, the design process, the construction process, and handling any issues as they arise; similar to their role in the Annex/Trinity Renovation.

A. (Craig Schluter of Navigate Building Solutions): While Navigate certainly understands the urgency of this project, one reason for the longer schedule is that they have anticipated going through the entire process with MSD because of the bio-basins that need to be reworked as a result of erosion and grading. That process takes six months. But the plan is to do some early conceptual reviews with MSD to hopefully come up with strategies to move this project along as fast as possible. Following the State statute's process for issuing and reviewing the RFQ and procuring the design team is a two-month process. Once that is complete, their role as the City's advocate will be to bid the work out to various contractors, review all applications, handle all meetings, manage the construction process, provide quality assurance to mitigate any risks, and protect the City's interest.

Q. Just so I'm clear, are you saying that we can't leverage the work related to MSD's process that has already been done?

A. (Mr. Rose): We intend to leverage the work that has already been accomplished in any way that we can. However, the dirt that was brought in is only part and partial of why the range was going to be closed. There are problems with erosion, and the previous work that was done was done incorrectly, resulting in severe ruts in the surface. So, the goal is to get the work done right so we don't run into these same issues again in two or three years.

Councilmember Brenner asked Mr. Schluter if Navigate had experience with driving ranges or if they would be looking to procure someone with this experience? Mr. Schluter stated that while he does not have specific experience with driving ranges, Navigate has extensive experience with grading, erosion, and bio-basin projects. Navigate performed the Brentwood Bound Navigation Project, which is essentially what this is. So, they will not be the civil engineer on this project; however, they will be going through the State statute's process to assist the City with procuring a civil engineer who has experience in this type of work, and then managing that process based on their expertise.

Councilmember Smotherson stated in reviewing the Task Order, it appears as though post-construction services are not included. So, if Navigate is not going to play a role in the post-construction activities, is the City able to provide any guarantees that there will not be any delays and that the project will be completed by October 31, 2026? Mr. Rose stated the main reason for bringing Navigate on is because of the City's lack of knowledge and expertise in this area. They simply don't know what they don't know until they dive into the issues creating this erosion. So Navigate's role will be to advise the City on the grading or any major or minor changes that might be needed. Mr. Rose stated that he learned a long time ago that you can never guarantee anything associated with the timing of construction projects because there are just too many variables. But what he can assure Council is that getting the range back up and running is a very high priority.

Citizen Comments

Jim Rohfling, 840 Berick Drive, U City, MO

Mr. Rohfling stated that he has played golf at Ruth Park for 30 years, and while he is thrilled that this work is going to be done, he is disappointed with how the whole thing has been managed.

The City was made aware that there were erosion and issues with bio-swells back in 2008, but it wasn't until roughly five or six years ago that renovations were made to supposedly resolve those problems. And now, here we are again. According to one of the City's releases from a year ago, residents were informed that, *"The parking lot was going to be closed for one week. The driving range was going to be closed for three months. We will keep residents informed through updates on the website, news releases, flyers, and postings at the golf Course, to ensure transparency and address any concerns during the project duration."* None of that was ever done, and whenever he asked the staff at Ruth Park about what was going on, they stated that they had no idea. Even the Parks Commission seemed to have no idea about what was going on, and this was after the golf course had been closed for a year.

Mr. Rohfling stated what he was told is that the driving range was bringing in about \$350,000 a year. And if this project is going to take 13 months to complete, the City will have lost another \$350,000 in revenue, which does not include the money spent on the retaining wall that was built a couple of years ago that has now collapsed due to erosion. Tons of ranges have down slopes with erosion issues, but he's never seen anything like this. It's hard to imagine why the City couldn't get this golf course fixed while he's watching all these big buildings going up all over town. He stated that he does not think citizens realize how much money the City has lost as a result of this, but he's sure they would be flabbergasted to learn that you've lost over \$700,000 in revenue on a project that is now only going to cost \$71,000 to fix.

Voice vote on Councilmember Clay's motion carried unanimously.

3. Pershing Avenue Project-STP-5402(620)- M & H Concrete Contractors Inc.

Mr. Rose stated staff is requesting authorization to inform MoDOT that the base bid is the preferred option. This item does not award the contract, and that portion of this project will be on a future agenda. He stated that he has asked the Public Works Director to provide Council with additional details and respond to any questions they might have.

Ms. Celaj stated that Pershing Avenue is a federally funded City project. The bid opening was on August 5th, and there were eight responsible bidders. Before the award of a contract, staff checks the calculations and prepares bid tabulations for any amount that needs correcting. So, the amount seen on the actual bid proposal for M & H Contractors represents the revised calculations, which are included in the agenda packet.

Councilmember Brenner thanked Ms. Celaj for answering her question and asked if she had an estimated timeline for the start and completion dates?

Ms. Celaj stated that following the City Council's approval of the contractor and selection of materials, staff will submit the award to MoDOT, which typically takes between two to four weeks to issue a response. Once that is completed, staff will conduct a pre-construction meeting and issue a Notice to Proceed.

Mayor Crow asked Ms. Celaj if she could provide an estimate of when the construction would begin? Ms. Celaj stated that she anticipates that it will start by the end of September or the first of October.

Mr. Rose asked Ms. Celaj if this was going to be a winter project? Ms. Celaj stated that it would be, and she anticipates it starting this year, by the first of October.

Councilmember Clay stated that he noticed what he believes to be boilerplate language regarding the Diverse Business Enterprise requirement of 7% for this project. Is this something the City tracks to ensure that the participation goals are being met? Mr. Rose acknowledged that one of the things requested was a report on how all of the City's contracts were performing as it relates to the MBWE criteria. Councilmember Clay stated he did not expect the results of that request this evening; he just really wanted to understand more generally whether the City is tracking these requirements, and whether there are any trends on how vendors are performing?

Ms. Celaj stated that the DBE goal requirements are a part of MoDOT's guidelines that the City must review and keep track of.

Councilmember Brenner moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Tieman, and the motion carried unanimously.

M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - (Roll call vote required for 2nd and 3rd readings)

None

N. NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions - (Voice vote required)

- 1. Resolution 2025-09** - A Resolution amending the fiscal year 2024-2025 (FY25) Budget Amendment # 3 and appropriating said amounts.

Councilmember Smotherson moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller, and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Resolution 2025-10** - A Resolution for Municipal Park Grant – Heman Park.

Councilmember Tieman moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Brenner.

Councilmember Smotherson stated this Resolution seeks to spend \$650,000 to improve the basketball court, add a soccer pitch, and Pickleball courts. However, there are a lot of different activities that happen in Heman Park that are not being addressed in this Resolution.

The Starlight Concert Series uses an antiquated stage that must be brought in for every concert and is not ADA accessible. For years, the U City Concert Band has been asking for a platform to play on because they literally have to play in the grass. As a result, they have to eliminate instruments that cannot be rolled or pushed through the grass. No improvements have ever been made to the gravel parking lot, and half of the telephone poles that line the park are either rotten or missing. So, he would respectfully ask that this Resolution be amended to address some of these issues that need modernization, and ask his colleagues to table this item until that has been completed.

Citizen Comments

Richard Massey, 8200 Tulane, U City, MO

Mr. Massey stated that Councilmember Smotherson had covered most of the key points, but the biggest issues are the gravel parking lot and lighting. Visitors are parking as far as Midland and Olive, and oftentimes, there is confusion about where to park. The Starlight Concert Series is a large event for the community, and lighting is a problem after the sun sets.

Councilmember Clay stated he certainly hears Councilmember Smotherson's concerns but also recognizes that the basketball courts are in dire need of repair. So, while he is hesitant to delay that work, he would be supportive of bringing the issues mentioned back to Council, perhaps, as a budget amendment. He believes that Council is slated to have a planning session in the near future and thinks that would be an appropriate place to discuss this.

Mayor Crow asked if this Resolution had been presented to the Parks Commission? Mr. Girdler stated that it had been discussed with the Parks Commission. This is a grant that the City has received on an annual basis since its inception. Typically, it averages around \$575,000 and has a matching requirement of 5%. Mr. Girdler stated that although he did not have the exact date of the deadline in front of him, he does know that time is of the essence. Therefore, he would prefer that the matter be resolved this evening rather than delayed, because it could result in the City forfeiting the grant this year.

Mayor Crow noted that Council had just approved the budget in June, and he's not aware of any requests being made to add money to the budget for the issues being raised here this evening. That would have been the appropriate time to do so; therefore, he does not want to risk losing this grant by changing horses at the last minute.

Councilmember Brenner stated that a lot of times grants have stipulations as to what the money can be used for. Does this grant have any such requirements? Can it be used to improve some of the things mentioned by Councilmember Smotherson? Mr. Girdler stated his belief is that it can be used for any park improvements.

Mayor Crow stated he would agree that the stage being used for the concerts is extremely old and has been utilized for a very long time.

Councilmember Fuller stated the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1982, so he is troubled by the fact that a municipal park is using equipment that is not ADA-compliant, and thinks this is somewhat of an urgent issue. Is it possible to pass this Resolution with a stipulation that these issues be addressed next year?

Mr. Rose stated if it is acceptable to Council, one approach might be to approve this grant and forward a message to the Parks Commission asking them to evaluate the issues identified by Councilmember Smotherson, compare them to their existing list of projects for all of the City's parks, and then provide the Mayor and Council with a report illustrating where these new issues should be ranked within that previously established list. That would enable Council to see the full breadth of the outstanding projects for all of the parks.

Councilmember Fuller stated that he would be comfortable with Mr. Rose's suggestion.

Councilmember Tieman stated that he thinks it would be a mistake to put this Resolution on hold; however, he also believes that all of the issues raised this evening are important. So, he would agree that this should be presented to the Parks Commission for their input.

Voice vote on Councilmember Tieman's motion carried unanimously.

Bills - (No vote required for introduction and 1st reading)

Introduced by Councilmember Tieman

1. **BILL 9573** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 110 OF THE UNIVERSITY CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION, BY REPEALING SECTION 110.040 THEREOF, RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AND ENACTING IN LIEU THEREOF A NEW SECTION TO BE KNOWN AS "SECTION 110.040 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST." Bill Number 9573 was read for the first time.

Introduced by Councilmember Fuller

2. **BILL 9574** - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A FINAL PLAT FOR A MINOR SUBDIVISION OF LAND AT 7498 DELMAR BOULEVARD. Bill Number 9574 was read for the first time.

O. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS

1. Board and Commission appointments needed
2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions
3. Boards, Commissions, and Task Force minutes
4. Other Discussions/Business
 - a) **Baseball Fence at Heman Park Jack Buck Field**
(Requested by Councilmembers Smotherson and Brenner)

Councilmember Smotherson stated several years ago, Council voted to move the baseball field at Heman Park to Millar Park because of the flooding. However, the fencing for that field was never removed. Council was told that the fence was going to be used for six-on-six soccer and/or a dog park. But tonight, a Resolution was approved to put a soccer pitch by the basketball courts. So, the fence is no longer needed for six-on-six soccer in that area, and he does not know how anybody can use this as a dog park when the gates are always locked. Therefore, he is asking that the process Council voted on be completed by taking the fence down and, if needed, installing it at Millar Park with the baseball diamond.

Mr. Rose stated this item was discussed by Council a few months ago, so he would ask Mr. Girdler to come forward and present the Parks Commission's recommendation.

Mr. Girdler stated Purina is offering a grant ranging from \$15 to \$25,000 for dog park amenities. The Parks Commission discussed the possibility of utilizing these funds and recommended that Council give the City permission to apply.

He stated the grant to reconstruct the baseball field was only made available a few years ago, and they are just completing that process. So, the Jack Buck Field, which was redeveloped into a softball field, has not been moved to Millar Park.

Councilmember Brenner posed the following questions to Mr. Girdler:

Q. One of my concerns with having a dog park next to the softball field relates to safety. Has staff evaluated the feasibility of having a dog park in this area?

A. *For that very reason, staff has discussed closing that portion of the park during a softball game; however, we believe that an enhanced dog park would probably be utilized more than the softball field. But if you like, I would be more than happy to reevaluate it again and submit the findings to the City Manager.*

Q. So, this is something you believe the community would utilize?

A. *The City's existing dog park is very popular.*

Councilmember Clay stated he really never noticed this fence, and perhaps that's because this is not an issue he has much interest in. But it seems like the use of this fence is reliant on a number of things happening that are kind of speculative at best, so it seems like it might be easier to just take it down. Would it be difficult to take it down? Mr. Girdler stated the only difficulty would be the posts, which have been cemented into the ground, but they could use a tractor to pull them out. So, it could be dismantled.

Councilmember Smotherson stated that moving the fence may be unimportant to some people, but it is absolutely important to him because he grew up in Heman Park and played baseball on those fields. So, he cares about what the City's parks look like, and right now, people don't have a clue about what's going on at Jack Buck Field. It's been three years since the flood, and we are still speculating about what to do with that area. What you should be considering is the safety aspect of combining the baseball field with a dog park. It's time for all of this to be over and done with. Councilmember Smotherson stated he believes that if you complete the softball field, move the scoreboard, and make it attractive, it will draw the attention of teams to the field.

Mayor Crow stated this is not an issue where he has a preference one way or the other, but it has been three years, and he is growing tired of this issue being brought back up over and over again. Nevertheless, he still believes this is a conversation for the Parks Commission, not the City Council, and he guesses that his colleagues would like to have this resolved with great clarity by the end of the year. Is everyone in agreement with that?

Councilmember Smotherson stated he would be amenable to that suggestion, and the remaining members of Council agreed.

P. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)

Suzanne Schoomer, 7 Princeton Avenue, U City, MO

Ms. Schoomer stated that she goes to the Dog Park almost every day, and it is woefully underused, maybe because it is not terribly attractive. And as far as she knows, no one has requested or even mentioned a dog walk, and she does not see the need for one.

Ms. Schoomer stated that she would like to double down on Councilmember Smotherson's request to improve issues associated with the arts at Heman Park.

Charles Price, 1565 Quendo Avenue, U City, MO

Mr. Price stated that he is here representing the Rabe Park Association, which has been working in fellowship with several members of Council.

As a result of the tornado, U City has an opportunity to compete with Forest Park. But first, we need to take advantage of what we already have in our parks by making them accessible for people with disabilities, fixing the telephone poles, basketball courts, parking, and all the issues identified by Councilmember Smotherson, so that we can start drawing people to these activities. Those are the things we would like Council to address first, and then if we have the opportunity to bring in Pickleball and soccer, let's bring them in. As Ms. Schoomer suggested, we already have things that we can build upon and be proud of, so let's take care of what we have before we start spending our tax dollars on dog walks and parks.

Mr. Price stated that if the City has been successful in receiving park grants every year, then he would agree that there should be a list of priorities that is followed so that citizens and associations like his can see exactly where their dollars are going. Because the thought of losing \$700,000 in revenue from the driving range is astonishing and leads you to question what else we are missing?

Several members of the Rabe Park Association are here tonight because they want to be an active voice in what goes on in this community by supporting Council, and in return, having Council support their organization.

This association appreciates what the Council has been doing, and if you continue to make these kinds of advancements, U City could soon take part in something like Shakespeare in the Park.

Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Tieman stated he and his wife were on their way to the Muny, and she literally said, "*Whatever you do, don't take Pershing*". The improvements being made to Pershing have taken an inordinately long time, and he suspects that he and his wife are not the only ones who have prayed, "*How long, Oh Lord, How long?*" Councilmember Tieman stated he hopes staff will assess what happened with this project and implement a plan to make sure this simply does not happen again.

Councilmember Smotherson thanked Mr. Rose, Chief Hampton, and Captain Lemons for allowing their officers to participate in National Night Out. The work they put into this event was amazing, and they did an absolutely fantastic job.

R. EXECUTIVE SESSION - (Roll call vote required)

Motion to go into a Closed Session according to Missouri Revised Statutes 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action, or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives or attorneys.

Councilmember Clay moved to close the Regular Session and go into a Closed Session, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Councilmember Tieman, Councilmember Brenner, Councilmember Fuller, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember Clay, and Mayor Crow.

Nays: None.

S. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and closed the Regular Session at 7:51 p.m. to go into a Closed Session on the second floor. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 8:26 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk, MRCC

From: Hannah Briick <hannah.bisch@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 10, 2025 9:56 PM
To: Council Comments Shared; Liam Briick
Subject: Aug 11 Public Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council,

My name is Hannah Briick and I reside at 1079 Wilson Ave with my husband, Liam.

I have shared with the city council before about the difficulties of living a normal life on Wilson Ave. In late July, Liam left town for a two-week backpacking trip with the scouts. He had volunteered as a scout leader for years and loves sharing his passion for the outdoors on trips like these.

He left town on July 19. We had been anxious for months leading up to the trip about his leaving town in the height of flood season, and unfortunately, our fears were realized when I awoke in the early hours of July 21 to flash flood warnings. Liam was filled with dread from hundreds of miles away while I initiated our flood emergency plan alone.

Additionally, since the last meeting, we experienced an unexpected family emergency which kept us away from home for an extended period of time, including during this evening's meeting. I have wished too many times that we could be dealing with just one life emergency at a time, but the threat of flooding is always there, and it makes managing the rest of our lives so much more complicated. We cannot comfortably leave town to attend to family matters or volunteer for the community without anxiety and a real threat to our property.

I am filled with gratitude for the outpouring of support I receive each time I speak to the City Council. I know that each of you has a strong desire to help. We are anxious to see this process continue to progress so that we can move on and manage our lives more easily. Continued updates about progress are always appreciated.

Warmly,
Hannah Briick

LaRette Reese

From: Frank <jane.franko@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 12:03 PM
To: LaRette Reese
Subject: Citizen Comment EDRST FY26 Funding 8-11-2025

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To Mayor and City Council
From Frank Ollendorff, 8128 Cornell Court, 63130

I request that you honor predecessor City Council's it's 1203on record commitment to construction of shaded lighted sidewalks on both sides of Olive from Skinker to I 170 by allocating \$2.4Million at this meeting. Please note: this item must be removed from the consent calendar.

