

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY**  
**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**  
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130  
**Wednesday, September 24, 2025**  
5:30 p.m.

**AGENDA**

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At the Special Session of the City Council of University City held virtually on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, Mayor Terry Crow, Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:32 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  
Councilmember Lisa Brenner  
Councilmember Dennis Fuller  
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John Mulligan, Jr.; and Director of Finance, Keith Cole.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Hearing no requests to amend, Councilmember Fuller moved to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilmember McMahon, and the motion carried unanimously..

**D. PROCLAMATIONS (Acknowledgement)**

None

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

None

**G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

None

**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](mailto: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.

Mayor Crow acknowledged one written comment was received in advance of this meeting.

**I. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

**J. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. A Public Hearing related to 2025 Annual Property Tax Rates

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 5:33 p.m., and after acknowledging that there were no written or verbal comments, the hearing was closed at 5:33 p.m.

**K. CONSENT AGENDA - (1 voice vote required)**

None

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

None

**M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - (Roll call vote required for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings)**

None

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

***Resolutions - (Voice vote required)***

1. **Resolution 2025-12** - A Resolution Approving 2025 Annual Property Tax Rates

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

***Bills - (No vote required for introduction and 1<sup>st</sup> reading)***

None

**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)

**P. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)**

**Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**R. EXECUTIVE SESSION - (Roll call vote required)**

**S. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Tieman moved to adjourn the Special Session, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and closed the Special Session at 5:35 p.m..

LaRette Reese  
City Clerk, MRCC

**From:** [Tom Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Council Comments Shared](#)  
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COMMENTS OF TOM SULLIVAN  
CITY COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY CITY  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse, University City.

Once again, the City Council is shutting out the public from what should be an open meeting.

I hope the City Council chamber will be kept in the city's historic City Hall. You might recall, City Manager Gregory Rose told Elliott Davis the chamber will be moved to the Trinity Building to make it more handicap accessible. Then he said he really didn't say that, and a decision has not been made.

I want to again mention there are streetlights out in various places in the City.

There are still tree branches from the May tornado that have not been picked up.

There are still numerous dumpsters on the east end of the City that have damaged or missing lids. In some cases, this seems they could be a health hazard.

Also, the old Cicero's space has now been vacant for over 7 years. The City's development efforts have not been successful in getting a tenant for what is probably the most visible location in the Loop.

These are all reasons why University City is now a third-tier city.

Thank you for considering my comments.

At the May 12 Council meeting this year, I brought up the issue of street light poles missing the cover for the electrical connections at the bottom -- in what are called "hand holes." This is where the light can be hooked up to a main electrical line. The cover goes over the opening in the poles.

These can be dangerous situations as the covers provide protection from the high voltage wires. On some covers it says, "DANGER, HIGH VOLTAGE." In an article of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, it was once written: "Open hand holes and broken hand hole covers at the bottom of street light poles expose the public to dangerous live wires."

Years back, a 7-year-old boy was electrocuted in the city when he became curious about the wires in one of the street light poles that lacked a cover. The editor of the Post-Dispatch at the time, wrote a scathing column titled, "Shrugging Off A Child's Death." He called the death an intolerable disgrace to the community.

There has also been instances where workers have been electrocuted when working on the wires.

At the July 14 meeting, I again addressed the Council about the missing protectors. The city put tape around one of the street light poles but left three others. Since the meeting, one of the poles had tape put around it. But I found another pole with a missing protector. That leaves three poles without protectors that I know of: in front of 739 Westgate, the southwest corner of Leland and Clemens, and in front of 6840 Vernon.

The missing protectors are on poles I just happened to see when out walking. It has to be assumed others can be found around the city.

\* \* \*

Also, there continue to be street lights out in the city as the city manager refuses to do his job. As I mentioned months ago, there is a "streetscape" light out at Olive and Kingsland. Across the street, there are three lights out, which causes a patch of darkness.

As Chief Holmes makes clear in his website message, adequate lighting deters potential criminal activity. The dark patch on Kingsland promotes criminal activity.

On Chamberlain, just east of Kingsland, another light is out. A street light is out on Loop North at the alley by Heman. Another light is out on Midland. There are lights out on Olive, west of Pennsylvania.

As far as I am concerned, it is the city manager's job to see the lights are all working -- not citizens. If there is a light out on Olive, a citizen can hardly be expected to pull over and read the tag with a

flashlight while cars are whizzing by at 60 mph. On some poles, the tag is 20 feet high from the ground. Should a citizen be expected to take a ladder out to get a tag number?

The city manager is paid nearly \$200,000 a year. There is also a deputy city manager, department directors and 10 inspectors, three of whom are paid more than \$80,000 a year. Something is wrong if all these people combined are unable to keep the street lights working.

\* \* \*

Dumpsters with damaged or no lids continue to be a problem. In addition to being untidy, it's a health issue -- especially when it rains and any number of things can drain out. It's difficult to understand why this isn't corrected. The alley behind All Saints on Clemens points out the problem and others.

One dumpster has no lids. One has damaged lids. There are branches that need to be picked up and there is about 20 feet of electrical wire hanging down from a pole. Presumably, it's dead wire.

\* \* \*

Also, there is still a pile of branches on Cates by Westgate that need to be picked up. They seem to be the result of the tornado. I told the city manager about them around July 1 and mentioned them again at the July 14 Council meeting. The tornado was three months ago this week.

Also, you might have seen where County Executive Sam Page was indicted on four charges related to unlawfully spending public money on a ballot measure. This is the same thing the city of University City did with Proposition F and what the school district did with Proposition U. Maybe you should consult criminal defense attorneys. You might need one.

Thank you for listening to my comments. \*\*\*