

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, February 9, 2026
6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Regular Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, February 9, 2026, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

In addition to the Mayor, the following members of 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 Interim City Manager Brooke A. Sharp, City Attorney John Mulligan, Jr., Lee Szyzborski of MGT, and David Lowell, Senior Project Manager for Navigate Building Systems.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Crow stated that during the Study Session, the Interim City Manager asked that Item K (4), Ratification - MGT - Budget Consultant, be moved to the City Manager's Report.

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

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

D. PROCLAMATIONS (Acknowledgement)

None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 26, 2026, Draft Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Fuller, it was seconded by Councilmember McMahon, and the motion carried unanimously.

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 of the Council Chamber. Please complete and place the form in the basket at the front of the room.

The public may also submit a written comment ahead of the meeting. 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 as 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 if your comment is on an agenda or a non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the comment provided will not be recorded in the official record.

Citizen Comments

David Sandel, 6910 Washington Avenue, U City, MO

Mr. Sandel stated that last week, he was notified by the Stormwater Commission that his business, iNeighborhoods, had been awarded a sole-source contract to complete the Stormwater Monitoring System along the River des Peres, which is fantastic. This is fantastic, so tonight he wanted to share some of the history, highlights, and challenges surrounding this project.

In April of 2022, he and another U City High School graduate, who used to work together as dog catchers, decided to work on developing a flash flood detector that, when completed, was placed by Groby Road. On July 22, 2022, they got their first flood alert at 1:30 in the morning, which in fact resulted in the big flood. Thereafter, they continued building the system and made numerous attempts to inform the Stormwater Commission about the work they were doing. Mr. Sandel stated that those attempts turned into a two-year stent that only materialized after they made a presentation at a public meeting where the link, graphics, and actual live data coming from the river were presented on the screen. From that point on, they started working together, developed a strong collaboration, and began to develop more features for the system.

One of those features was the Code Red Alert. It consists of a link that can be retrieved on your phone that allows you to see four live camera feeds and the analytics from the River des Peres. That connection can also be mirrored on your TV, where you can see a full screen of everything going on at the River. This capability exists today, but it is the Stormwater Commission's Monitoring Committee that decides if the technology and its features should be provided to the public or is a standard Code Red Alert with a message.

Mr. Sandel stated recently that they were on a webinar with the University of Michigan, which has studied flood monitoring for three years with Intel and three government agencies. At the end of that webinar, what the University concluded was that U City's system had some unique features that made it far more interesting, and that it was more cost-effective. This is a big win for U City and the Commission, and while they both look forward to continuing their work together, one of the big challenges is that it has taken so long to get this done. There needs to be a way to accelerate the final phases of funding, which will allow them to replace the old equipment with the new equipment.

The Commission is currently working on these proposals, and it would be fantastic to get all this done by the spring so that they can present it to the Commission and the Council, rather than waiting for another year to go by. Mr. Sandel stated their future developments are far more than what anyone has heard about, and he thinks residents will be very delighted to hear about the story of two dog catchers that beat the University of Michigan and Intel.

Jerrold Tiers, 7345 Chamberlain, U City, MO

Mr. Tiers stated that recently there was a big snowstorm, and he could not have asked for better service in his area, which is near the high school on Jackson. He stated that he has been living in U City for forty years and does not think he has ever seen a better snow removal process. So, his compliments and thanks go out to the City and all the workers who made that happen.

Mayor Crow thanked Mr. Tiers for the compliment and stated that his comments might be the highlight of tonight's meeting.

I. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Smotherson stated that the correct date of the big flood was July 26, 2022, which he vividly remembers because he woke up at 4:30 in the morning with sewage backing up in his basement.

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

K. CONSENT AGENDA - (1 voice vote required)

1. Replacement Trash Transfer Trailer (Fleet)
2. Firehouse No. 2 Kitchen Repair/Replace
3. Contract with Monster Tree Service for the Annual Tree Trimming Project - PRF26-10-0019
4. Ratification - MGT - Budget Consultant; *(moved to City Manager's Report)*

Councilmember McMahon moved to approve Items 1, 2, and 3 of the Consent Agenda, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Ratification - MGT - Budget Consultant

Ms. Sharp stated that staff is recommending that Council ratify her actions to sign an agreement for a budget consultant. Shortly after Mr. Rose announced his retirement, the Director of Finance announced his resignation, which happens to be at the beginning of the City's budget season. She stated that after speaking with staff in the Finance Department, she quickly learned that they were not 100% equipped to assist her in preparing the budget. Therefore, since the City already had a Master Services Agreement with MGT for interim services, she reached out to them, and they were able to identify a candidate to act as an interim consultant. This individual is a retired City Manager who has also served as a Comptroller and Treasurer in areas with much larger budgets. The City's budget process is slated to begin on January 31st, so she signed the ratification based on the need for the consultant to gain access to the necessary documents so that she could get started immediately. Ms. Sharp stated that while she does not anticipate needing the full \$100,000 for this position since the consultant will be working approximately 20 hours a week, she made the request to ensure that they would have enough funding to cover her three months of service.

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

Councilmember Smotherson asked if Council could be provided with a breakdown of each department's budget request on an individual basis, rather than receiving the entire package all at once? Ms. Sharp stated that the Charter requires the City to submit its budget by a certain date, and since they are on such a tight schedule, she is not sure at this point whether they will be able to do that. So, she would like to give his request some thought and get back to him with an answer.

Voice vote on Councilmember Clay's motion carried unanimously.

2. City Manager Updates

City Manager Executive Search Update by Lee Szymborski

Mr. Szymborski stated that he has been with MGT and its predecessor, GovHR USA, for about twelve years, performing executive recruitment extensively in the St. Louis area and throughout the Midwest. Prior to that, he was a City Administrator and Deputy City Manager. So, what he thought he would do this evening is talk about the process and the calendar they have developed for recruitment and opportunities for input from the public.

Milestone Dates:

- **Stakeholder Meetings** - This afternoon, he conducted meetings with several members of Council, and tomorrow will be a full day of meetings with staff, the Mayor, and Council as a whole. These meetings are designed to help him gain an understanding of the community, the organization, the challenges, and opportunities everyone believes will be presented to the next City Manager. Tomorrow at 7 p.m., there will be a community forum at Heman Park. He stated there will also be another opportunity for people to weigh in on the best attributes you want us to look for through an online survey in a couple of weeks.
- **Online Survey** - By next week, there should be another opportunity for people to weigh in on the attributes they want MGT to look for, which will be available for two weeks.
- **Recruitment Profile** - Garnered from the stakeholders' input.
- **Position Announcements** - Next week, the recruitment process will kick off. Since this is a national search, this process will include a number of different formats and personal contacts with folks he knows in the field to give them a heads up about this opportunity.
- **Application and Resumes** - The deadline for submission will be the end of March.
- **Resume Portfolio** - In mid-May, he will meet with the Council to present a portfolio consisting of eight to twelve resumes for their consideration. It will be Council's job to narrow that group down to several applicants they would like to interview.
- **New City Manager** - The goal is to have your new City Manager retained by mid-July of this year.

Councilmember Clay thanked Mr. Sandel for his presentation and the very pleasant exchange they had earlier today. He stated that he and Councilmember Smotherson sent something out to the folks in their Ward informing them about the community engagement forum, and was curious to know what they should expect? Mr. Sandel stated that for the most part, it will be similar to the meetings he conducted today. But, what he will be looking for from a community perspective is what they see as some of the City's challenges and opportunities, both in the short-term and long-term, and then within that context, what they think would be the appropriate attributes in terms of hard skills and soft skills that the next City Manager should possess.

Q. Councilmember Fuller asked if the community engagement forum would be live-streamed?

A. No, it will not be livestreamed.

Mayor Crow posed the following questions to Mr. Sandel:

Q. How do you see the number of vacancies throughout the St. Louis area impacting this search?

A. *It's typical to see several vacancies in larger metropolitan areas, and in this case, he is aware of vacancies in Kirkwood, Webster Groves, and Crestwood, so he is not unfamiliar with these kinds of challenges. The opportunity is to make sure applicants are aware of the unique circumstances that U City presents versus what you know about the other communities. U City has a great story to tell, and Mr. Rose has been a great ambassador for his role as City Manager. So, that's what you really have to pitch because all of those things go far in terms of communicating to the world of city management and elsewhere, what a strong community and organization U City represents. Mr. Sandel stated that he's not saying this to comment on any of the communities with open positions, but in the greater world of things, some communities don't tell as great a story as he thinks U City has, and he can say that because he has been involved with U City for several years.*

Q. I presume that Ms. Sharp and her staff will receive enough information on your online survey to market it to our citizens, because if it's only going to be available for two weeks, we need to get that message out?

A. *I will mention the survey at the community forum. However, what I didn't explain is that the survey will also be available to your employees, and in order to have a clear breakdown of who is responding, participants will be asked to identify what constituency they are related to.*

3. Ruth Park Driving Range Proposal

Ms. Sharp stated staff is recommending that Council consider an engineering and design proposal from Horner Shifrin. David Lowell, Senior Project Manager for Navigate Building Systems, the City's representative assisting with this project, is here to provide an update and answer any questions.

Mr. Lowell stated that there has been some deterioration through erosion at the driving range portion of the golf course, and there have been some failed attempts to fix it. He stated that they obtained all of the old documents pertaining to this issue, provided them to all of the applicants, and are recommending the proposal from Horner Shifrin, which takes a holistic look at getting the range repaired and back in service.

Councilmember Clay stated that perhaps he's missing something, but he thought some of the things being focused on in this proposal were addressed in previous repairs? Ms. Sharp informed Councilmember Clay that while she would not say his statement was incorrect, the City was simply not provided with a thorough explanation of what occurred last year. She stated that there was a request for dirt to be relocated from the Market at Olive development to the driving range, which did happen, but unfortunately, there was no plan in place, and it made a bad situation even worse. Conversations about the stockpile of dirt resulted in the dirt being spread further than it should have been, and that created additional issues: erosion, and the disturbed area being increased beyond what had initially been submitted in the plan. So, this proposal will take a holistic look at everything and tell us not only what we need to get the range back open, but to keep it open.

Mayor Crow stated he believes that two of the challenges most folks will want to deface are Pershing Avenue and the Driving Range.

That said, and because of how long this has taken, he's certain that everyone would like to move forward with this project appropriately and with a little bit of well-paced speed. Councilmember Brenner moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

None

N. NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions - (Voice vote required)

None

Bills - (No vote required on introduction and 1st 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

P. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (Continued if needed)

None

Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Crow stated that he hopes everyone will join them tomorrow night at the Community Center for Lee's presentation on the City Manager's search and Q & A with citizens.

Councilmember Fuller moved to adjourn the City Council meeting, it was seconded by Councilmember Tieman, and the motion carried unanimously.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk, MRCC