

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, February 23, 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 23, 2026, 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 Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember John Tieman
Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Lisa Brenner
Councilmember Dennis Fuller
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance was Interim City Manager Brooke A. Sharp, City Attorney John Mulligan, Jr.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Mayor Crow stated that he would like to remind everyone that yesterday, February 22, 2026, was the 50th anniversary of the End of Watch for University City Patrolman Francis J. Graham, who was killed protecting the City in 1976. On behalf of Council, he would like citizens and residents to know that his sacrifice has not been forgotten. May his family find comfort in knowing that they are still standing with them.

D. PROCLAMATIONS (Acknowledgement)

None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 9, 2026, Draft Study Session Meeting Minutes (Uniformed Pension) was moved by Councilmember Brenner, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. February 9, 2026, Draft Regular Meeting Minutes was moved by Councilmember McMahon, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Karen Palmer is nominated for appointment to the Arts & Letters Commission as a fill-in by Councilmember Lisa Brenner, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Barbara Santoro is nominated for appointment to the Library Board as a fill-in by Councilmember Dennis Fuller, it was seconded by Councilmember Tieman, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse, U City, MO

Mr. Sullivan stated now that there is an Interim Acting City Manager, it's time for the City to give some attention to the problems that were ignored by the previous City Manager. The Interim City Manager seems to be energetic and presumably will be applying for this job, but if she is going to be Gregory Rose 2.0, she should not be selected. He stated that the New City Manager should be someone who pays attention to details and gets things done, not someone who hangs a do not disturb sign on their office while problems within the City are ignored. Here are some of the ongoing problems:

- Streetlights
 - Four at Olive and Kingsland
 - One on Chamberlain
 - Several other lights are out around the City
- Missing covers at the base of streetlight poles where high voltage wires connect to the streetlights
- Numerous dumpster covers that need replacing in the east end of the City
- Hanging utility wires

Mr. Sullivan stated that there is a long list of needed improvements around the City, and when problems get neglected, they only get worse and become more expensive to resolve. That's what happened with the roof at the No. 2 Fire House, which had been leaking for more than 10 years. Spring will be a good time to start addressing these issues. Thank you.

Hanna Brick, 1079 Wilson Avenue, U City, MO

Ms. Brick stated that the understanding both she and her husband have is that the buyout continues to move along with the City's continued attention and support. Per the last update to homeowners, the process appears to be in the penultimate step before offers are made to buy out their homes. They are eager for continued progress and anxiously await more information about how final numbers are calculated for a fair purchase price of their homes. She stated that when she last spoke at the end of January, she shared that the USGS monitoring gauge of the River Des Peres near University City, MO, experienced a weather-related malfunction leading to inaccurate data reporting. It appears that the gauge is functional once again and that regular reporting has resumed, despite a gap in data for a period in January. Liam and I once again turned to this data reporting on February 15th during the heavy rains experienced on that day. To their surprise and great concern, at that point the gauge had not been repaired and was not reporting real-time data.

The data has since been updated with back-dated reporting; however, without this data in real-time, they were left with a gap in critical information at a time when they needed it. She and her neighbors call on the City Council to continue a partnership with USGS to ensure the equipment and data reporting are functional as often as possible, as many of them rely on this data to make decisions about their safety during heavy rains.

Ms. Brick stated that since the last meeting, they discovered that 1083 Wilson Ave., which is included in HMGP's and FEMA's list of homes, is up for a foreclosure auction on March 4th. Concerned about how the sale of this property could impact how she and her neighbors move through the buyout process, they contacted the Economic Development Manager & Interim Planning & Zoning Director, Becky Ahlvin, and the lawyers overseeing the auction to garner additional information about this situation. The lawyers informed them that they were not aware of the property's flooding history or its involvement in the buyout, and Ms. Ahlvin informed them that every property owner had submitted all the necessary paperwork for the buyout. Unfortunately, this left them with numerous unanswered questions:

1. If the home is auctioned to a new owner, will the new owner be included in the buyout?
2. If they cannot or choose not to be included, does this property dropping off the buyout list impact the timeline for her and her neighbors to sell their homes and move on?
3. Does the City want a single property remaining on Wilson Ave. following the planned demolition of all the other properties on the buyout list?
4. Would the property retain any resale value as the only home on the block with a significant flooding history, or will this history likely remain undisclosed to future buyers?

Ms. Brick stated that she and her husband hope the members of City Council and Ms. Ahlvin will continue to act as their advocates in this process and seek answers to the questions they have raised. As always, they remain dedicated and committed to supporting the process as homeowners and look forward to continued communications. Thank you.

Adam Brok, 7458 Williams, St. Louis, MO

Mr. Brok stated that he has some questions and concerns regarding the temporary parking restrictions on the south side of the 7000 and 7100 blocks of Forsyth Avenue, between Big Bend and Asbury.

To recap this situation, Mr. Brok stated that a Petitioner who represents an organization that owns the property at 7018 Forsyth submitted a request to the Traffic Commission in September of 2021 seeking permission for her and her colleagues to park on the north side of Forsyth because they were using their parking lot as an event space during COVID. The north side of Forsyth was already a part of the Residential Parking Permit Program, so she requested that the end time for the parking restriction be changed from 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. so that folks attending the organization's events could park there. He stated that while he is unsure of what happened to those specific requests, the Commission's suggestion to the Petitioner seems to have been that the south side of the street be included in the Residential Parking Permit Program, too, although it is unclear why, because the Petitioner and her colleagues are residents of Forsyth. As a result, the Petitioner submitted a new request asking that the south side of the street be included in the Residential Parking Permit Program, asserting that residents have been unable to park there because all of the open spots are used by Wash U students and staff during the day.

Mr. Brok stated that a part of the petition process requires petitioners to obtain signatures from 75% of the owners of record. However, in this case, the Petitioner submitted a spreadsheet that listed properties and the names of people who provided e-signatures. The City Attorney seemed to suggest that the electronic signatures could potentially be acceptable as long as the Petitioner documented the e-signature verification process to him and Mr. Girdler, the Director of Public Works. It is unclear whether or not that actually happened, since there are no records to verify that any action was taken.

Furthermore, one name on the list belonged to a Wash U student who is not the owner of record, and to the best of his knowledge, was not authorized to make decisions for the owner. Nevertheless, at the March 2024 Traffic Commission meeting, the Commission passed a motion to put up signs on a temporary 90-day basis, limiting parking to two hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, when the signs were eventually posted in September of 2024, they stated "*Residential parking only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday,*" which was different from what the Commission had authorized. Mr. Brok stated that he made the City aware of the discrepancy shortly after they were installed in September, and again, at the February 2025 Traffic Commission meeting, at which time the City Attorney said that they should be removed. Yet, the signs remained until the beginning of this year when the new signs were authorized by the City Council at their October 27th Study Session.

So, that's kind of where things stand today. First and foremost, Mr. Brok stated that his concern is whether this whole matter came before Council because the Petitioner, who is not a resident, was seeking expanded access to on-street parking for her and her non-resident colleagues rather than making the south side of the street residential only, which is something that the Council kind of alluded to during their meeting. Because this does not help to achieve their intentions of expanding on-street parking, and in fact, it only makes matters worse since now they are not legally allowed to park on the south side. Mr. Brok stated that he thinks it's also important to note that no residents have reported having any parking issues on the south side, and there has been no data collected, no studies, or assessments of the temporary parking restrictions before, during, or after implementation. So, there is no way to assess whether or not the intervention has had the intended consequences, other than the fact that the new signs were posted during Wash U's winter break, and students who had legally parked in front of their residence came back home to parking tickets on their cars.

Lastly, as a matter of logistics, the Ordinance for the parking permit program requires an occupancy permit and a vehicle registration that matches the name on the occupancy permit. But again, roughly 90 to 95% of the residents on that street are students, and most of them don't own a car, so the occupancy permit and registration would not match. Thank you.

I. COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

K. CONSENT AGENDA - (1 voice vote required)

None

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

1. City Manager Updates

None

2. Interfund Borrowing from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Fund in the amount of \$600,000

Ms. Sharp stated that staff is recommending that Council approve an interfund loan borrowing \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Fund, which will be processed as a loan with a repayment schedule.

After assuming the role of Interim City Manager, Ms. Sharp stated that she was immediately alerted to the fact that the Solid Waste Fund was continuing to struggle with cash flow and was unable to meet payroll. She stated that she has had brief conversations with the previous City Manager and understands that there was a recent rate increase and another increase scheduled for March; however, she does not believe that will help with this issue. She also understands that a loan was ratified in January for \$300,000, and that the initial plan was to ask Council for additional loans on a monthly basis as needed.

Ms. Sharp stated that she elected not to follow that plan based on the belief that a \$600,000 loan would cover four payroll cycles, give her two months to dive into the fund to determine what is going on, and then report back to Council with her findings. She stated that she has pushed the repayment schedule out to June or July for the first payment, since it does not appear to be reasonable to expect it to be made next month.

Councilmember Brenner stated that during Council's discussions about the rate increase, she remembers Councilmember Fuller stating that a quarterly rate increase might be a big hit for some people on a limited budget. As a result, Council asked about the possibility of changing the City's quarterly billing system to monthly billing, which is something she also thinks should be considered, since paying a lower amount per month might help with getting these bills paid.

Councilmember Clay asked Ms. Sharp if she believed delinquencies were contributing materially to the deficit between expenditures and revenues? Ms. Sharp stated that last week Deputy City Manager Crabel explained the process being utilized for delinquencies and collections, which she does not think is being enforced. So, yes, she does believe delinquency and the way it is being handled might be contributing to this issue. Essentially, while a resident might submit a letter expressing their intent to adhere to a specific payment arrangement to reduce their balance, she does not think it is actually being tracked. She stated that Mr. Crabel also alerted her to the fact that one route had about 200 delinquency notices requesting payment arrangements. So, those are some of the issues that she would like to dive into to get a better understanding of whether this is a cash flow or collections issue.

Councilmember Smotherson posed the following questions to Ms. Sharp:

Q. Are these delinquencies being managed by a company or in-house?

A. *They are being managed internally, which is very distinct from how I've seen non-payments handled.*

Q. One consideration might be to hire a company that could handle these delinquencies more efficiently?

A. *Yes, that's something I will take under consideration to see if it is a feasible option.*

Mayor Crow asked Ms. Sharp if her intent was to report back to Council on this issue in two months? Ms. Sharp stated that is correct.

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

- 1. RESOLUTION 2026-01** A Resolution in Recognition of the Indispensable Role of Municipal Government in the Democratic Republic
(Requested by Councilmember John Tieman and seconded by Councilmember Dennis Fuller)

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

Councilmember Tieman read the following statement into the record:

"My Resolution is lengthy. Therefore, I will summarize. I have been going back and forth -- for a variety of reasons -- about writing a Resolution about what should be self-evident: that a well-functioning city government is indispensable.

Ours is the government people call when someone's sidewalk cracks. I've joked with people that I was elected to fix your cracked sidewalk, not fix your cracked republic.

This Resolution is functional and structural. This Resolution states the obvious. Sadly, many believe we've reached a point where we need to recommit ourselves to the most fundamental functions and structures of the democratic republic. Put simply, this is the way we've always done business. This is the way we will continue to do business. This is not partisan. Representative democracy functions best when elected officials at all levels work together, and not when higher levels of government impose unilateral restrictions, shift burdens downward, or substitute political ideology for community-driven decision-making. The Resolution says that recent actions of state and federal leaders directly obstruct University City from effectively serving. These actions impact infrastructure, housing, public safety, and support for vulnerable residents. There are direct threats to human rights and women's rights, as well as open statements that are racist, anti-Semitic, and homophobic. Our public library is threatened. There is climate change denial. Violent, disproportionate, and near-military use of force against immigrants violates the most elemental of human values.

Honorable Mayor, there is much more in this Resolution. I urge folks to read it online. In sum, there is an erosion of federalism, a weakening of democratic norms, an intentional shift of burdens and unfunded mandates onto our local governments. This undermines the vibrancy and resilience of this community while ignoring the will of the people that this Council is sworn to serve. Sadly, we've reached a point where we need to say and say out loud – we respect the Constitution, and we respect the norms of governance. This is how we have always done business, and this is how we will continue.

I sincerely thank you, Honorable Mayor, and I thank my colleagues for their patience and their support."

Voice vote on Councilmember Tieman's motion carried unanimously.

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)

Stephen Glickert, 7750 Blackberry, U City, MO

Mr. Glickert stated that he sent pictures of several despicable conditions in the usual areas, asked for Council's assessment, and received nothing. He asked who was responsible for those areas, and received nothing. There were 50 violations on one street and 65 violations on a section of Plymouth, and these conditions exist every day. It is a budgeted item for which the City provides terrible service. But this is typical of the pitiful job that's being done with respect to zoning.

He stated what's really disturbing about this is that the City is about to embark on a revitalization program on the very street where there are six Habitat for Humanity homes. These homeowners go through a stringent process to get approved and are on the hook for their mortgage insurance, taxes, and are also required to put sweat equity into their homes. And what did the City do? They allowed them to become surrounded by ten mini junkyards, a structure that's collapsing, and an abandoned lawn tractor. Is this what you're going to do to people with your new revitalization program? Let the person next door to these new investments have two junk cars sitting out front? There are now 98 derelict or unlicensed cars parked on people's lawns that the City Manager, department heads, and the inspectors have missed. Is that acceptable?

Is this what we are going to have happen across the whole community now? Have you not seen the pictures? Did anyone even go and look at the areas? That's why he's termed this situation "SCCRS," which is an acronym for Smotherson, Clay, Crow, and Rose Specials, because he has been bringing up these same issues for seven and a half years with zero results.

Mr. Glickert stated that he's come before Council 40 times on these issues, sent countless emails, hundreds of pictures, with no results, and now you don't even respond. It's pathetic and totally unbelievable. After five years of excuses, Council finally put a plan in place three years ago that required additional expenses for cars, employees, and software, but with results like this, where is the return on the community's investment? All you've done is fleeced us to pay for this and screwed over those residents on the northeast side of the community, especially those in the Habitat homes that have to live next to this stuff. It's a shame, instead of offering them a lifeline; you took your heels and pushed them back under the water. That's disgraceful. You need to start doing your job.

Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Crow stated many of you may know that we lost one of our residents this past week, Mary Schuman, who died at the age of 77. She passed away peacefully at her home on February 15, 2026, after a two-year battle with breast cancer. She was surrounded by her family at the time of her passing.

Mary grew up in Minot, North Dakota, and later moved to St. Louis, where she attended St. Louis University, became a dedicated wife, mother to three wonderful boys, and volunteered on innumerable civic boards and commissions. She served two, four-year terms on this Council, chaired two mayoral campaigns, and served seven years on the Arts & Letters Commission. She also spent twenty-two years advocating for children through the court-appointed special advocacy program. Mayor Crow stated he hopes that Mary will always be remembered for her activism and commitment to so many worthy causes, as well as the wonderful community of U City.

She is survived by her husband, Ken, three sons, Kevin, Brian, and Stephen, and their families. A memorial service for Former Councilmember Schuman will be held this Saturday, February 28th, at Our Lady of Lourdes. Services will include a visitation starting at 9 a.m., a Mass starting at 11 a.m., and a reception immediately thereafter. Mayor Crow extended Council's sympathies to the Shuman family and thanked them for sharing Mary with this community.

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

R. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for joining and adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk, MRCC

From: [Hannah Bisch](#)
To: [Council Comments Shared](#); [Liam Briick](#)
Subject: 2/23 comment
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 11:36:50 AM

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

Good Morning,

Please see below a written comment for tonight's meeting.

Thanks!
Hannah Briick

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council,

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

Our understanding is that the buyout continues to move along with your continued attention and support. Per the last update to homeowners, the process appears to be in the penultimate step before offers are made to buy out our homes. We are eager for continued progress and anxiously await more information about how final numbers are calculated for fair purchase prices of our homes.

When I last spoke at the end of January, I shared that the USGS monitoring gauge of the River Des Peres near University City, MO experienced weather-related malfunction leading to inaccurate data reporting. It appears that the gauge is functional once again and that regular reporting has resumed, despite a gap in data for a period in January. Liam and I once again turned to this data reporting on February 15 during the heavy rains experienced that day. To our surprise and great concern, at

that point the gauge had not been repaired and was not reporting real-time data. The data has since been updated with back-dated reporting, however without this data in real time, we were left with a gap in critical information at a time we needed it. We and our neighbors call on the City Council to continue partnership with USGS to ensure the equipment and data reporting are functional as often as possible, as many of us rely on this data to make decisions about our safety during heavy rains.

Additionally, since the last meeting, Liam and I discovered that our neighbor's property at 1083 Wilson Ave is up for foreclosure auction, scheduled for March 4. We contacted Economic Development Manager & Interim Planning & Zoning Director Becky Ahlvin to request information about how this situation may impact the HMGP FEMA Flood Buyout which includes 1083 Wilson in its list of homes. We additionally contacted the lawyers overseeing the auction and they were not aware of the property's flooding history or its involvement in the buyout.

Our chief concern is that the sale of this property may in some way impact how we and our neighbors move through the buyout process. We understand from our communication with Becky that all property owners have submitted all necessary paperwork for the buyout. If the home is auctioned to a new owner, will the new owner be included in the buyout? If they cannot or choose not to be included, does this property dropping off the buyout list impact the timeline for us and our neighbors to sell our homes and move on? Does the city want a single property remaining on Wilson Ave following the planned demolition of all the other properties on the buyout list? Would the

property retain any resale value as the only home on its block and with its significant flooding history, though the history would likely remain undisclosed to future buyers?

We hope the members of the City Council and Becky Ahlvin will continue to act as our advocates in this process and seek answers to the questions these issues have raised. We remain dedicated and committed to supporting the process as homeowners and look forward to continued communication as we move through the final steps.

Warmly,
Hannah & Liam Briick