



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

## **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on September 5, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Present Mayor Gibbons, Council Members Jaksetic, Luetzow, McLean, Rheinnecker, Schaefer, and Zimmer. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Office Russ Hawes, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer David Weidler, City Clerk Laurie Asche, Public Services Director Chris Krueger, City Engineer Rich Holesinger, Planning & Development Jonathan Raiche, and City Attorney John Hessel.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 15, 2024 WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Luetzow to approve the minutes of the August 15<sup>th</sup> Work Session. The minutes were approved, with Mayor Gibbons and Council Member Schaefer abstaining.

### **LIGHTING DISCUSSION**

#### **WITH DR. GOKHALE FROM TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Mayor Gibbons introduced John Burns, who provided a lighting display for the Council.

Dr. Vayujeet Gokhale, Professor of Physics at Truman State University, joined the work session via Zoom to discuss the Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting.

Some discussion is as follows:

Outdoor electric lighting installations at night are over-lit, left on when not needed, and harmful to the environment. Light pollution is a growing global issue that can negatively affect our environment and quality of life. Five principles for responsible outdoor lighting to prevent and reduce light pollution through the proper application of quality outdoor electric lighting.

1. **Useful:** Use light only if it is needed. All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.
2. **Targeted:** Direct light so it falls only where needed. Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is required.
3. **Low Level:** light should be no brighter than necessary. Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.
4. **Controlled:** Use light only when it is needed. Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not required.
5. **Warm-Colored:** Use warmer-colored lights where possible. Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

Almost 60% of light used outside in the United States does not go where it is intended. LED lights are highly efficient and dimmable. If you dim the outdoor lights by 30-40%, no one would notice the change, and the savings would increase. Blue Light at night is not suitable for humans. It messes with the cicada rhythm. Blue light is not ideal for birds, insects, or pollinators. During the day, our eyes are not as sensitive to blue light, and at night, our eyes are susceptible to blue light. A recommendation is to fix the color



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of the light and go to a lower temperature when lights need to be replaced. Then, ensure the new light fixtures are well-shielded, with zero percent light above 90 degrees. Having dimmers on the fixtures will save 30-50%.

Some discussion that took place is as follows:

- A question was raised about whether the same principles are used in stadiums.
  - Yes, it is possible to use the same principles.

### **MSD OMCI DISCUSSION**

Chief Administrative Officer Hawes discussed the MSD OMCI for the Council. MSD is asking municipalities with at least one OMCI taxing district to consider whether they support continuing the property tax at one-quarter of the current rate. If the tax is continued at one-quarter the rate, the Sugar Creek district Kirkwood will receive an annual distribution of over \$53,000 for stormwater projects in the Sugar Creek watershed. This is above and beyond the \$300,000 Prop S distribution of impervious surface fees to start next year. MSD needs an affirmative recommendation from jurisdictions that comprise the bulk of the land area in any given OMCI district to continue the tax at a lesser rate. Sugar Creek is the only district in Kirkwood where Kirkwood comprises most of its location (Kirkwood 74%, Des Peres 26%). Des Peres has recommended continuance at a lesser rate for both the Sugar Creek and Deer Creek districts. A survey of neighboring cities indicates that most are recommending continuance at a reduced rate. MSD requires each municipality that supports having MSD's Board of Trustees consider implementing the reduced OMCI tax to notify them no later than September 13, 2024.

Some discussion took place as follows:

- A question was raised about where the City got \$300,000.
  - The \$300,000 is distributed from the Prop S fund and can be used anywhere within the City.
- A question was raised about whether the \$53,000 could be used elsewhere.
  - The \$53,000 must be used in Sugar Creek.
- A question was raised about the projects for which the \$53,000 could be used.
  - Anything for public benefit to limit flooding.
- A question about utilizing OMCI funds on S. Kirkwood Road for flooding issues was raised.
- A Council member raised concerns regarding Deer Creek and Gravois Creek OMCI taxation.

The City's Stormwater Master Plan is underway, and \$800,000 in OMCI funds are available and earmarked for each Creek district. The City of Clayton and University City are not recommending the continuance of Deer Creek. It was the consensus of the City Council for the continuation of the OMCI tax at one-quarter of the current rate for the Sugar Creek, Deer Creek, and Gravois Creek Taxing Districts.

### **MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING**

Motion was made by Council Member Schaefer and seconded by Council Member Zimmer to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1 – Legal).

Roll Call:



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Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”

The meeting was closed.

### **MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING**

Motion was made by Council Member Zimmer and seconded by Council Member Schaefer to open the meeting.

Roll Call:

Mayor Gibbons	“Yes”
Council Member McLean	“Yes”
Council Member Rheinnecker	“Yes”
Council Member Schaefer	“Yes”
Council Member Zimmer	“Yes”
Council Member Jaksetic	“Yes”
Council Member Luetzow	“Yes”

The meeting was opened.

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

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Laurie Asche  
City Clerk