



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET®

## WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on September 12, 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 Officer 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, Communications Manager Jessica Winter, and City Attorney John Hessel.

### TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (TDD) UPDATE

Chief Administrative Officer Hawes provided an update on the TDD. For more than 175 years, our City has grown, and our streets have been updated and repaired, but many have reached the end of their life cycle and no longer meet the needs of our community. Prop. T provides the funding required to fund transportation-related street and sidewalk improvement projects. The City conducted an online survey of residents in late August or early September. The survey's purpose was to better understand area residents' perceptions of and priorities for the City.

Majorities gave high marks to the City in three areas:

- Police protection 92%
- Safe bike and pedestrian railroads crossing 60.6%
- Road and Sidewalk safety 51.3%

Fewer than half rated the City highly on other items in this section:

- Safe bike lanes on busy roads 46.7%
- Maintenance and repair of non-residential streets 44.5%
- Residential sidewalk maintenance and repair 42.6%
- Residential street maintenance and repair 42.5%

Residents of Kirkwood have voiced their concerns, identifying the condition of our streets and sidewalks as the most pressing issue facing our City. Respondents were told that the City of Kirkwood is proposing a one-half-cent sales tax on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot to fund street and sidewalk maintenance and repair—the one-half-cent sales tax paid by everyone who shops in Kirkwood, including non-residents. The sales tax would allow the city to more than double the annual resurfacing capacity and for upgraded curb and gutter projects throughout the City. This funding helps maintain streets and sidewalks to meet current and future needs. Missouri state law requires that Prop. T funds are used only for transportation-related projects and maintenance in Kirkwood. We can fund the important street and sidewalk improvements without increasing property taxes by utilizing the one-half-cent sales tax.

A TDD web page is being constructed with explanations of the ballot measure, identification of the need, and why TDD is preferred over other funding means, such as property tax. Alphabetical listing of pavement condition indices for each City of Kirkwood maintained street. A color-coded map indicates the PCI rating of every city-maintained street. List of streets to be resurfaced in the first three years (2026, 2027, and 2028) following implementation of the TDD. There will also be a TDD question and answer section. This is time-sensitive. A one-page informational flyer will be distributed at



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gatherings such as Greentree Festival and Police Open House. On October 14<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, the City will have an informational Open House. The website will go live in October 2024.

Some discussions took place as follows:

- Concerns that some residents stated they can't afford the one-half cent sales tax increase.
- A question was raised about how the survey was accessed and if the survey was open to all residents of Kirkwood.
  - The survey was open to all residents of Kirkwood, and the City received 1459 responses.
- A question was raised about how the company tracked survey responses.
- Concerns about some of the colors on the color-coded map look similar.
  - The colors will show up clearer and brighter on computer and phone screens
- A question was raised about how funds will be used to slow traffic.
- A question was raised asking if any statistics on safety/slower traffic studies have been done.

**MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING**

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

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 closed.

**MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING**

Motion was made by Council Member Rheinnecker and seconded by Council Member Zimmer 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” |



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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