

**CITY OF FULTON COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024**

The Council of the City of Fulton, Missouri, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 18 E. 4th Street.

Present and presiding were: Mayor Steve F. Myers; Courtney L. Doyle, Director of Administration; Kathie Ratliff, City Clerk; and William Ladwig, Police Chief. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Myers at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was noted by the City Clerk, and members of the Council present were: Bill Hinchie; Brad Leuther; Lauren Nelson; Mary Rehkla; Jeff Stone; Bob Washington; and Mike West. Alan Combs was absent.

Also present were: Kyle Bruemmer, City Engineer; Dustin Dougherty, Chief Financial Officer; Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities; Tara O'Shea, Interim Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Sam Shults, Assistant Director of Administration; Russell Sing, Fire Chief; and Jordan Lewis, Audio/Video. Public Utility Board Members present were President Charles Williams and Mike Shindler. Also present was Warren Hollrah, Lincoln Brown, Raphael Sternadori, and Fulton Sun Editor Emily O'Leary.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rev. Williamson.

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.**

Taralynn Williams, a resident on Pioneer Drive, shared concerns about traffic near Head Start and requested more patrols. She also mentioned problematic sidewalks near Westminster College and faster moving traffic near the Free Store.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS (2).**

Mayor Myers stated there would be two public hearings at tonight's meeting to consider the following:

- a. For the purpose of certifying the rate of levy for property taxes for the 2024 tax year within the City of Fulton at \$0.5427 for each One Hundred Dollars of the Assessed Valuation of said property.
- b. To propose the replacement of a roughly 1,100-foot section of storm sewer that is more than 100 years old, dilapidated, and constricts the flow of drainage for an extensive area of the community. The area of storm sewer is bounded by Westminster Avenue to the west, West 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, Nichols Street to the east, and West 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the south. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,546,342. The city proposes to contribute \$810,000 in cash and \$206,342 of in-kind labor by the City's Engineering Department. Grants funds of \$530,000 will be necessary to make up the balance of the project construction and administration costs.

Mayor Myers declared the hearing for the purpose of certifying the rate of levy for property taxes for the 2024 tax year within the City of Fulton at \$0.5427 for each One Hundred Dollars of the Assessed Valuation of said property, open at 6:36 p.m.

There were three calls for anyone wishing to speak in opposition of the matter being considered. No one responded. Next, there were three calls for anyone wishing to speak in favor of the matter being considered. No one responded.

Mayor Myers declared the hearing closed at 6:38 p.m.

Mayor Myers declared the hearing to propose the replacement of a roughly 1,100-foot section of storm sewer that is more than 100 years old, dilapidated, and constricts the flow of drainage for an extensive area of the community. The area of storm sewer is bounded by Westminster Avenue to the west, West 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, Nichols Street to the east, and West 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the south. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,546,342. The city proposes to contribute \$810,000 in cash and \$206,342 of in-kind labor by the City's Engineering Department. Grants funds of \$530,000 will be necessary to make up the balance of the project construction and administration costs, open at 6:39 p.m.

There were three calls for anyone wishing to speak in opposition of the matter being considered. No one responded.

Next, there were three calls for anyone wishing to speak in favor of the matter being considered.

Lincoln Brown from the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission discussed the grant proposal and process. The grant process requires a recent comprehensive plan, and if the city's plan is outdated, a community grant application and community needs assessment must be completed within six months. The previous needs assessment focus areas included affordable housing, transportation, and economic development. He stated that Fulton is no longer classified as a low to moderate income community according to H.U.D. as of August 2024, which impacts funding eligibility; however, surveys were recently completed and the survey area is L.M.I. qualified. Environmental and historical considerations were also discussed, including the need to consult tribal communities for the project.

Warren Hollrah of 311 Carver Drive stated that there is an eligible storm sewer running behind the historic fraternity houses, which significantly affects that area. He expressed strong support for pursuing the grant, believing that it will have a substantial positive impact on the community.

With no other respondents to the call, Mayor Myers declared the hearing closed at 6:52 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Councilman Stone and Seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

- a. City Council Minutes for July 23, 2024.
- b. City Council Minutes for August 13, 2024.
- c. Appointment of Robert Wise to the Historic Preservation Commission for a partial three-year term to expire in June, 2025.
- d. Appointment of Warren Hollrah to the Historic Preservation Commission for a partial three-year term to expire in June, 2026.
- e. ESA Cornhole Tournament at KFTT – September 21, 2024.
- f. Fulton High School Homecoming Parade - September 27, 2024.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (IF ANY)**

There was none.

#### **PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY DOA REPORT.**

Motion was made by Councilman Hinchie and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to approve the July DOA Report. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Nelson and Seconded by Councilman Hinchie to approve the July Financial Statement. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was none.

**COUNCIL CONCERNS:**

Councilman Hinchie had no concerns and noted that the Public Safety Committee (PSC) meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 29 at 5:15 p.m.

Councilman West reported that the Human Rights Commission (HRC) met on 8/26 and finalized the JBF recipient, which will be presented at the council meeting on October 8. The HRC is requesting \$1,500 for next year’s budget. He also mentioned that the commission approved the Celia slave letter, with all members signing it. He had no additional concerns.

Councilwoman Rehklau mentioned that the PSC has several items to review but had no concerns to bring forward.

Councilman Stone shared that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has changed its meeting day to the second Monday of the month at 1 p.m., starting on September 9. He was pleased to welcome two new members to the commission and had no concerns.

Councilman Leuther reported that there was no airport advisory board meeting as the airport is awaiting FAA flight check approval. He urged residents to slow down and be more aware of students, families, and buses on the road, and expressed concerns about traffic at the intersection of Tennyson and Route C.

Councilman Washington mentioned that he couldn’t attend the Park Board meeting. He is looking forward to the historical football game at William Woods on September 14 and noted that the recent book giveaway event at Carver Park was successful.

Councilwoman Nelson announced that the City is hosting a tire recycling event on September 28. She also mentioned that the lead service inventory survey is about to be distributed, with a \$250 gift card being offered as an incentive for participation. She discussed the proposed incremental rate increase, emphasizing that it will not exceed 5% and will be reviewed every two years. Nelson then recognized the Public Utility Board members.

The Mayor added that Tennyson and Rt. C interchange will be discussed on Thursday and that Kyle has initiated discussions with the State. He echoed Councilmember Leuther’s concerns about traffic.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 3548: 2024 City of Fulton Storm Water Grant**

A resolution of the City of Fulton, Missouri, stating intent to seek funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program and authorizing Steve F. Myers, Mayor, and Courtney Doyle, Director of Administration, to pursue activities in an attempt to secure funding for improvements and updates to stormwater infrastructure bounded by Westminster Avenue to the west, West 8th Street to the north, Nichols Street to the east, and West 5th Street to the south.

Motion was made by Councilman Stone and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to adopt Resolution 3548 at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**Resolution 3549: Financial Adjustments**

A resolution authorizing the adjustment of financial records for specified city funds and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Nelson and Seconded by Councilman Stone to adopt Resolution 3549 at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**Resolution 3550: Demolition Services Contract with OWN**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to sign all necessary documents in relation to a contract with the engineering firm OWN of Columbia, Missouri, to prepare bidding and contract documents in order to solicit bids for demolition services on the structure commonly known as 'Mike and Laura's Building,' and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilman Hinchie and Seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to adopt Resolution 3549 at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**ORDINANCES PRESENTED FOR FIRST READING:**

**Bill No. 1723: Amended: Parking on Westminster Avenue Prohibited or Limited**

An Ordinance amending Chapter 110, Traffic & Vehicles. Section 110-340, Parking on certain Streets Prohibited or Limited. Fulton City Code, by Prohibiting Stopping, Standing, and Parking on portions of Westminster Avenue, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilman Stone and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to place Bill No. 1723 for Second Reading at the next regularly-scheduled council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**Bill No. 1724: Crosswalk & Traffic Signal Project Contract with Meyer Electric**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to execute all necessary documents in relation to a contract with Meyer Electric upon approval from the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Transportation Alternatives Program Agreement regarding federal project no. TAP-2700(511), and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilman Leuther and Seconded by Councilman Stone to place Bill No. 1724 for Second Reading at the next regularly-scheduled council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**Bill No. 1725: Annual Incremental Rate Increases for Utility Services**

An Ordinance establishing annual incremental rate increases for the City of Fulton utility services based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Motion was made by Councilwoman Nelson and Seconded by Councilman Stone to place Bill No. 1725 for Second Reading at the next regularly-scheduled council meeting.

Superintendent of Utilities Dunlap explained that they challenged the Public Utility Board (PUB) to develop a strategic plan to build reserves. After thorough review, they found that other cities were using a process based on a minimum/maximum model. They then considered how long it should take to build up reserves, settling on a six-year timeline for electric and gas. For water, which had fewer external impacts, they extended the timeline to nine years. Sewer already had a reserve in place. This approach was data-driven, and they worked

closely with the Chief Financial Officer to calculate costs rather than using arbitrary figures. Solid waste wasn't included in the plan because their trucks are insured, making it unnecessary to involve that department. Dunlap commended the PUB for their effective strategic planning. They decided on a small annual rate increase, combined with a percentage based on the Missouri Consumer Price Index (CPI), not to exceed 5%, would help maintain infrastructure while staying relevant to local economic conditions.

Charles Williams (PUB President) thanked the council for the opportunity to speak, acknowledging the concerns about rate increases. In the past, the PUB would dictate actions without much transparency, but this time, they aimed to be open. Williams emphasized that the changes affect him personally, and he believes the approach is in everyone's best interest.

Councilmembers expressed a desire for more clarity on the ordinance. The Mayor agreed with their concerns, and Director Doyle stated that the requested suggestions would be incorporated and brought back for review.

Dunlap reiterated their goal of not depleting reserves in the budget, highlighting that the current capital budget includes a million-dollar substation project, with funding allocated over the next three years. The focus is on building reserves, not depleting them.

Doyle acknowledged the significant time and effort invested in this plan and again committed to incorporating the council's suggestions into an amended ordinance.

With no further discussion, Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**ORDINANCES PRESENTED FOR SECOND READING:**

**Bill No. 1720: Repealing Fire Resource Truck Agreement**

An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 928-03 (Bill 1029) in relation to the Resource Truck agreement between the City of Fulton Fire Department and local Fire Protection Districts, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilman Hinchie and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to move Bill No. 1720 to Third Reading at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

Motion was made by Councilman Hinchie and Seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to place Bill No. 1720 for Final Passage at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

Roll call vote of the members of the Council was as follows:

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Councilman Combs – Absent       | Councilwoman Rehkla – Yes   |
| Councilman Hinchie – <b>Yes</b> | Councilman Stone – Yes      |
| Councilman Leather – Yes        | Councilman Washington – Yes |
| Councilwoman Nelson – Yes       | Councilman West – Yes       |

Bill No. 1720 having received the affirmative vote of seven members of the Council was declared passed by the President of the Council.

**Bill No. 1721: Tax Rate and Levying of Taxes: Amended**

An Ordinance fixing the tax rate and levying taxes for the calendar year of 2024, on all taxable property in the City of Fulton, Missouri, at \$0.5427 for each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of the assessed valuation of said

property and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilman West and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to move Bill No. 1721 to Third Reading at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

Motion was made by Councilman West and Seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to place Bill No. 1721 for Final Passage at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

Roll call vote of the members of the Council was as follows:

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Councilman Combs – Absent       | Councilwoman Rehkla – Yes   |
| Councilman Hinchie – Yes        | Councilman Stone– Yes       |
| Councilman Leuther – <b>Yes</b> | Councilman Washington – Yes |
| Councilwoman Nelson – Yes       | Councilman West – Yes       |

Bill No. 1720 having received the affirmative vote of seven members of the Council was declared passed by the President of the Council.

**Bill No. 1722: Willow Creek South Plat One - Final**

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to approve the Final Plat for Willow Creek South Plat One.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rehkla and Seconded by Councilman Stone to move Bill No. 1722 to Third Reading at the next regularly-scheduled council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

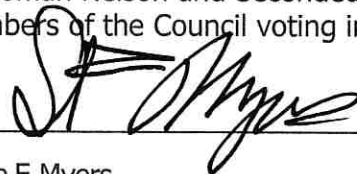
The next City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with a work session scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. The City Council will not meet on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Myers said there was no need for an executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Motion was made by Councilwoman Nelson and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Combs).



Steve F. Myers  
Mayor



Kathie Ratliff  
City Clerk