

**CITY OF FULTON COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 2025**

The Council of the City of Fulton, Missouri, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 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; Marissa Peneston, Deputy Clerk; and Dall Hedges, Deputy Police Chief. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Myers at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was noted by the Deputy Clerk, and members of the Council present were: Alan Combs; Bill Hinchie; Brad Leuther; Lauren Nelson; Mary Rehkla; Jeff Stone; and Mike West. Bob Washington was absent.

Staff present were: Dustin Dougherty, Chief Financial Officer; Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities; Sharlene McArtor, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Sam Shults, Assistant Director of Administration; Russ Sing, Fire Chief; and Jordan Lewis, Audio/Video. Also present were Fulton Sun Editor Emily O'Leary, Anthony Thomas, Dave Lorentz, Steve Wendling, Ryan Delashmutt, Andy Huey, AJ Sticker, and other guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rev. Williamson.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.

Anthony Thomas (706 Canterbury Drive, Apt. D) shared that after reviewing the minutes from the last meeting, he noticed a one-sided discussion about the airport and wanted to present a citizen's perspective. He asked the council how many airport users are from Fulton and pointed out that while utility rates have increased, airport fees have stayed the same. He suggested this should be considered, as the airport is taking resources away from city services for citizens.

Dave Lorentz (5179 Chandler Rd) shared that as a business owner he supports the Fulton community, and acknowledged that the airport's break-even rates don't contribute surplus to the general fund but believes the rates are fair compared to neighboring areas. He highlighted that he chose to live and operate his business in Fulton due to the airport, but cautioned that poor decisions about airport rates could drive businesses away.

Steve Wendling (510 East Green Meadows Road, Columbia, MO 65201) expressed concern about the Airport Advisory Board no longer being active and highlighted the board's past efforts to increase airport revenue, such as boosting fuel sales. He also shared his interest in entering a land lease with the city for an 80-year-old hangar and hopes to arrange a meeting with the Mayor.

Ryan Delashmutt (3405 County Road 328) thanked the council for not passing the last bill about the airport. He questioned the automatic CPI increase of up to 5% per year mentioned in the bill. He asked for clarity regarding the \$200,000 depreciation and requested the CFO explain these numbers for better understanding. Finally, he expressed support for a rate increase if it's justified and thanked the council for improved snow removal.

Andy Huey (1801 Huey Place) asked the council if any of them know the history of the airport or know who they are affecting with airport rate increases and shared his personal history with airport leases. He discussed his commitment to the airport, highlighting the investment he's made in the hangar, and asked the council to look at the big picture, when his lease is up, the structure goes back to the city. He acknowledged that inflation has increased but noted the city will get their buildings back.

AJ Stricker (1231 Branch Rd, Holt Summit, MO 65043) shared how he is a long-time aviation professional with over 25 years in airborne law enforcement, and has been using the airport since 1980. He emphasized the value of the Fulton airport, noting it as a "jewel" with potential for growth. He suggested adding more hangars, extending the runway by 1,000 feet, and accommodating jet traffic to improve the airport's capability. He praised the airport's maintenance team and acknowledged the support from government grants.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) City Council Meeting Minutes: January 28, 2025 and February 11, 2025

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

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY DOA REPORT.

Motion was made by Councilman West and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla, to approve the DOA Report as presented. Motion passed with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Motion was made by Councilman Hinchie and Seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla, to approve the January Financial Statement as presented. Motion passed with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Councilman Hinchie: Noted that the Public Safety Commission will meet this Thursday.

Councilman West: Reported that the Human Rights Commission Fair Housing Poster Contest is open and ready for submission, it is for children Kindergarten through 5th Grade.

Councilwoman Rehkla: Thanked all the visitors for coming and sharing their opinions.

Councilman Stone: Shared that the Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be March 17th and invited everyone to attend.

Councilman Leuther: Mentioned his appreciation for the increased signage near crosswalks. He also shared how citizens can get more than one recycling bin for a small fee.

Councilman Combs: Reported the Planning and Zoning Commission met earlier today and their recommendation will be brought to council next month.

Councilwoman Nelson: Noted that the Public Utility Board met this week and discussed the cold temperatures we experienced. It was determined to give a four-week grace period with no shut-offs and waiving late fee penalties for all city utility customers, for the February billing period.

Mayor Myers: Shared that the Callaway County Head Start director sent him a letter for their 100-Man Lunch event, where children are able to eat with local members of the community.

Motion was made by Councilman Leuther and Seconded by Councilman Combs to change the proposed rate increase from 10% down to 5%.

Councilman Leuther explained his reasoning for proposing a 5% rate increase noting that while a higher increase might be suggested, such as 10% or 20%, it wouldn't fully address the airport's depreciation costs. He emphasized the potential for growth at the airport through investments in hangars, jet fuel, and extended runways, which could generate additional revenue and attract more FAA funding. The 5% increase aims to cover some of the increased costs while maintaining the airport's attractiveness and potential for further development, benefiting the community economically, even if not all citizens directly use the airport.

Councilwoman Nelson discussed a proposed 5% rate increase, noting other rate increases across the city were implemented this year, impacting residents. She argued that a 10% increase is reasonable, and emphasized the 10% increase is backed by research and was deemed fair based on rising costs, and highlighted the need to address depreciation, which won't be fully covered by any increase. Finally, council members touched on the need to find a way to ensure the city has the funds necessary to make improvements, particularly at the airport, while managing depreciation and securing matching funds for grants. They concluded by emphasizing the importance of long-term planning and budgeting to ensure sustainable growth.

Roll call vote is as follows.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Councilman Combs – Yes | Councilwoman Rehkla – No |
| Councilman Hinchie – No | Councilman Stone – Yes |
| Councilman Leuther – Yes | Councilman Washington – Absent |
| Councilwoman Nelson – No | Councilman West – Yes |

Four affirmative, three opposed (Hinchie, Rehkla, and Nelson), one absent (Washington) motion fails.

Motion was made by Councilman Nelson and Seconded by Councilman West to place Bill No. 1745 as amended for Second Reading at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Councilman Combs – No | Councilwoman Rehkla – Yes |
| Councilman Hinchie – Yes | Councilman Stone – Yes |
| Councilman Leuther – No | Councilman Washington – Absent |
| Councilwoman Nelson – Yes | Councilman West – Yes |

Motion carried with five members of the Council voting in favor, two opposed (Combs and Leuther), one absent (Washington).

ORDINANCES PRESENTED FOR SECOND READING:

No. 1742: Amend and Update City Code Provisions

An Ordinance repealing Sections of Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 1, of the Fulton City Code, updating residency requirements and property transfers procedures, and enacting new legislation in lieu thereof.

Motion was made by Councilman Hinchie and Seconded by Councilman West to place Bill No. 1742 for Third Reading at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

Motion was made by Councilman Hinchie and Seconded by Councilman West to place Bill No. 1742 for Final Passage at this council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

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

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councilman Combs – Yes | Councilwoman Rehkla – Yes |
|------------------------|---------------------------|

Director Doyle reemphasized that utility customers will have a grace period for their February 2025 bill.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 3573: T-Mobile's Hometown Grant

A Resolution of the City of Fulton, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to file and sign all necessary documents in relation to an application for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant for Carver Park improvements.

Motion was made by Councilman Stone and Seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to pass Resolution 3573 at tonight's council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

Resolution 3574: Amendment 1: Phase 1B Services – Wastewater Treatment Plant BNR Improvements

A resolution authorizing the mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to execute all necessary documents in relation to an amendment for the Phase 1B services associated with the City of Fulton's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) Improvements Project between the City of Fulton, Missouri, and Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City, Missouri, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilman Combs and Seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to pass Resolution 3574 at tonight's council meeting.

Councilman West asked for clarification on this project, Superintendent of Utilities Dunlap explained that this is the second of three phases.

Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

ORDINANCES PRESENTED FOR FIRST READING:

No. 1744: Schedule of Fees and Charges ("Rate Book") Amended – Parks & Rec.

An Ordinance amending the 2025 Schedule of Fees and Charges for the City of Fulton's Parks and Recreation Department and establishing an effective date.

The council requested removing the subsection of fee waivers from the ordinance, but supported up to a 20% waiver for 501(c)(3) nonprofits with superintendent approval. At this time, they are seeking a clear policy for legitimacy, fairness, and consistency concerns.

Motion was made by Councilman Stone and Seconded by Councilman Hinchie to remove Section One Subsection Three (Parks & Recreation Legends Facility Fee Waiving Policy) from Bill No. 1744. Motion carried with all members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

Motion was made by Councilman Leather and Seconded by Councilman West to place Bill No. 1744 as amended for Second Reading at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Motion carried with all members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

No. 1745: Schedule of Fees and Charges ("Rate Book") Amended – Airport

An Ordinance amending the 2025 Schedule of Fees and Charges for the City of Fulton's Airport and establishing an effective date.

Motion was made by Councilman West and Seconded by Councilman Luther to remove the Ground Lease from Bill No. 1745. Motion carried with all members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).

Councilman Hinchie – Yes
Councilman Leather – Yes
Councilwoman Nelson – **Yes**

Councilman Stone– Yes
Councilman Washington – Absent
Councilman West – Yes

Bill No. 1742 having received the affirmative vote of seven members of the Council was declared passed by the President of the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The City Council will not be in session March 11th. The next City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


No Executive Session was needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Motion was made by Councilman West and Seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, one absent (Washington).



Marissa Peneston
Deputy City Clerk



Steve F. Myers
Mayor