

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEST PLAINS CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Monday, July 15, 2024
5:00 p.m. Closed Session
5:30 p.m. Regular Session

CLOSED SESSION

The West Plains City Council met in closed session on July 15th, 2024, in the board room at city hall, 1910 Holiday Lane, with the following members present: Councilmember Greg Collins, Councilmember Johnny Murrell, Councilmember Jessica Nease, Councilmember John Niesen, and Mayor Michael Topliff.

I. Preliminaries

Mayor Topliff called the meeting to order.

II. Adjourn to Closed Session

RSMo 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded.

Councilmember Nease made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion passed.

	Aye	Nay	Not Voting	Not Present
Councilmember Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Murrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Niesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Topliff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The mayor and council members discussed personnel items with city administrator Sam Anselm and HR Director Beccie Williams.

The mayor and council members discussed the appointment of Chris Sterner to the position of Fire Chief. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilmember Niesen. Motion passed.

	Aye	Nay	Not Voting	Not Present
Councilmember Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Murrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Niesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Topliff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III. Adjourn to Open Session

At 5:28 p.m., Councilmember Nease made a motion to go into open session, seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion passed.

	Aye	Nay	Not Voting	Not Present

Councilmember Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Murrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Niesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Topliff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OPEN SESSION

IV. Preliminaries

Mayor Topliff gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes for the June 17, 2024 regular meeting
- b. Bid – Sewer Jet Truck
- c. Bid – Hwy 160/Independence Overpass
- d. Bid – Paving Sanitation
- e. Approval of Civic Center Board Member:
 - i. Cassidy Denton to fill the expired term of Eric Judd, September 2024 - September 2027
- f. 342 E. Olden Site Development Plan

Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve the consent agenda seconded by Councilmember Murrell. Motion passed.

VI. Recognition of Guests

- a. Matt Wallace from KPM CPA’s spoke and presented the financial audit results of the City of West Plains.
- b. Cammie Storm – Did not speak
- c. Nick Hackworth – Did not speak
- d. Erin Rigdon – Spoke in celebration of the first Pride event and thanked the city for a safe space for the attendance of over 900 individuals. The group intends on optimizing growth and supporting local businesses.
- e. Kathleen Morrissey – Thanked the city for the Old Time Music Festival support and discussed a plan to change the annual date of the festival to the 3rd weekend of October beginning in 2025. The group will hold a mini festival downtown called Festival Preview on September 7th, 2024.
- f. Jeff Tune – Discussed a proposed East Dixon Pocket Park off Dixon Street east of Washington Avenue.
- g. Ernie Renegar – Spoke in opposition of the proposed street closures intersecting Washington Avenue, specifically the Dixon Avenue intersection heading east off Washington Avenue, citing parking, emergency vehicle traffic, and homeless camping.

VII. Resolutions

- a. Resolution 2024-17 – A resolution approving a five-year contract with Axon Enterprise Inc. relative to the replacement and operation of body-worn cameras for the police department along with data storage and, further, authorizing the city administrator to execute such agreement on behalf of the City of West Plains. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve seconded by Councilmember Murrell. Motion passed.
- b. Resolution 2024-18 – A resolution closing certain streets in the downtown central business district to vehicular traffic for the purpose of providing a greater level of walkability and safer pedestrian access. Councilmember Nease recused herself from discussion and voting. Councilmember Niesen made a motion to approve with an amendment to the resolution to also include the first approximately ninety-six feet (96’) heading east off Washington Avenue onto Dixon Street, seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion passed.

- c. Resolution 2024-19 – A resolution authorizing the City of West Plains, Missouri to execute a mutual aid agreement by and between the City of West Plains, Missouri, and the Missouri Public Utility Alliance. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve seconded by Councilmember Murrell. Motion passed.
- d. Resolution 2024-20 – A resolution authorizing the sale of certain real estate from the City of West Plains, Missouri to Gary’s Tire & Automotive, LLC. for a purchase price of \$19,100.00 and, further, authorizing the city administrator to execute the warranty deed and all other documents necessary to complete the conveyance of such property. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion passed.
- e. Resolution 2024-21 – A resolution of the City of West Plains, Missouri authorizing the city administrator to execute an agreement with Olsson Studio for a comprehensive safety action plan relative to transportation safety. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve seconded by Councilmember Niesen. Motion passed.
- f. Resolution 2024-22 – A resolution of the City of West Plains, Missouri authorizing the city administrator to execute an agreement with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT) for construction engineering contract for the Highway 160 overpass. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion passed.

VIII. Ordinances

- a. Bill 4772 to become Ordinance 4772 – Second Reading. An Ordinance vacating an alley between North College Street and East Olden Street and further reserving a utility easement within the area to be vacated. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve seconded by Councilmember Niesen. Motion passed.

	Aye	Nay	Not Voting	Not Present
Councilmember Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Murrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Niesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Topliff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- b. Bill 4773 to become Ordinance 4773 – Second Reading. An Ordinance to repeal and replace the existing purchasing policy (Ordinance 4710) for the City of West Plains, Missouri. Councilmember Nease made a motion to approve seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion passed.

	Aye	Nay	Not Voting	Not Present
Councilmember Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Murrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilmember Niesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Topliff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IX. Council Action

X. City Administrator’s Report

City Administrator Sam Anselm stated that the city pickleball courts are complete and have updated lighting. The monthly food truck festival will be held Thursday, July 18th, at the West Plains Civic Center.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.