



GO Bond Committee Meeting

**September 18, 2024 5:30 PM,
17221 East 23rd St. S., Independence, MO 64057**

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from Meeting on August 14, 2024

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Chair/Vice Chair
2. Review Proposed Projects: PowerPoint presentation from Department Directors
3. Review of fiscal impact by the City's Financial Advisor

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

1. The next meeting is October 2, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

GO BOND COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14TH

5:30 p.m.

Start 5:35 p.m.

Zach did an introduction of the Olsson Associates:

Korey Schulz, Team Leader

Shelby Ferguson

Those present: Glenda Bailey, Kate Beem, Larry Blick, GH Callahan, Doug Cowan, Shannon Driskell, Danielle Dupree, Jana Evans, Kelly Freeland, Nick Huff, Richard McKie, Libet Ojeda, Randall Pratt, Mark Simcosky and Lucy Young.

Those absent: Michele Crumbaugh, Dale Herl and Jeff Rogers

Teri Mertell appeared via Teams

City Manager, Zach Walker and Police Chief, Adam Dustman

Olsson is here to facilitate conversations with this group to determine allocation of funds and projects needed to be completed within the City of Independence.

- This will be our first General Obligation bond.
- The committee members' job is to talk with citizens and report back on what the public is asking/needing. They will be going out to the public and having key-topic conversations.
- Committee members should brainstorm on who to speak with, HOAs, non-profits, and key faith-based organizations, who would help us push this out, and why it is key to the future of Independence.
- There will not be anything discussed at the meetings that cannot be talked about outside the meeting.
- We are operating under open meetings law. Minutes will be shared, and the meeting will be online and recorded.
- We welcome feedback and ideas
- The objective is to gather the data information, present it to everyone, and have them go out in the community to discuss with citizens.
- Create as much consensus as possible.
- This will be on the April, 2025 ballot
- Need to establish a winning approach
- Better understanding of current state of community
- Identify and prioritize projects

- Establish a funding source: GO bond; revenue bonds
- Engage Independence residents and voters

Timeline:

Initiate June – August 2024

Engage – August – December 2024

Campaign – March – April 2025

We will have a public survey asking about resident priorities

Key partner is the public

- Engage them at specific times
- Important audience
- Round out our understanding of the City's future
- Review body/'gut check'

Public survey

- Roadshow presentations
- Three in-person public open houses
- Webpage/comments (City's website)

** We will need to provide information in more than one language

Committee Role:

How was this group formed? City Councilmembers/Mayor appointments

Our sounding board

- Key voices with multiple impacts on project prioritization and funding limits
- Advocates – spread the word and use your networks
- Keep the entire community in mind
- Report back during committee meetings what you're hearing from the community
- Three CAC meetings through December 2024
- All public engagement events

Ground Rules

- Stay mentally and physically present
- Let everyone participate
- Think before speaking, state views and ask genuine questions
- Explain reasoning and intent
- Focus on interests, not positions (don't try to 'prove your point')
- Remember we are a team

This is a recommending committee to the council; not a binding committee.

Next meeting late September/early October

Final programming meeting November 2024

The city will send out a doodle poll for meeting dates of the committee. We will target an October meeting date.

COMMUNITY

Initial Allocations – High Level

- Street Reconstruction and Overlay \$60M
- Bridges and culverts \$15M
- Curbs and sidewalks \$20M
- Historic sites \$10M
- Park improvement program \$20M
- New Community Center/Recreation Complex \$75M (construction, not operation)
- Public Buildings \$50M (Justice Center, Animal Shelter)

GO Bonds are regulated by State Law

At the next meeting, we will discuss how this money will be distributed and how the money we have now is different.

Member would like to make sure we show what we can afford

Should be for general community benefit; not specific to certain areas or neighborhoods

Finance questions will be discussed at the next meeting

We want to dream big, but we will have to make decisions to narrow down what we can pay for. We need to determine the criteria for what will be done.

Citizens will be very curious what this will do to their property taxes and financial amount to the City. Members would like to be transparent with this information.

Members would like to be able to say what the fiscal impact would be on a medium household in Independence.

Olsson's role is to listen to the committee members and what they are hearing from the public as to their opinions and views on what needs to be done and what is important to them.

There will be items on the list that are a 'must' or in dire need, such as bridges. This list will be discussed.

This week, Zach will send an executive summary through Olsson that will be put on the website as to what is being considered.

Committee to look at what else is out there that isn't on the list.

Member questions:

- What happens if this doesn't pass?
- What do they tell the public will happen if it doesn't pass?
- What is the impact?
- Olsson will prepare an FAQ with topics like this.

Will there be other grants or supporting funds for any of this?

- That is an option
- The committee can identify programs for matching grants and discuss this with the public as well.

Olsson will have a report by the next meeting discussing funds for operations such as the Community Center.

Individual exercises for the committee members were given out.:

Question 1 – What are your top three priority categories from the seven that were shown?

Question 2 – When you think of areas of improvement, what areas or project needs come to mind first?

Question 3 – What are the three challenges Independence will face with this process?

Members were given a QR code or asked to go to MENTI.com and enter code 6334 0602 to answer these questions.

Things we need to consider/group to speak with:

- How do we get to the younger voters?
- Need to engage with 40+ group from city exchange.
- Engage in local colleges and universities
- The list will be sent out before the next meeting.
- Healthcare organizations
- HOAs – any HOAs less represented (Remington Estates, Villas, Drumm Farm, Glendale, Stewart Heights, Golden Acres, Manor Oaks, Kentucky Hills, Tomasha, Milton Estates, Cliffs, Country Meadows, Susquehanna, Sycamore Hills, Canterbury Estates,
- Social Media/website
- PTAs/School Board
- Rotaries/Civic Organizations
- Habitat for Humanity
- Historical Interest Groups
- Possibly get this out at Santa-Cali-Gon

Meeting adjourned 7:14 PM

Susanne Holland, City Clerk

