INDEPENDENCE
MISSOURI
A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

City Council Study Session Minutes

January 13, 2025 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

COUNCIL SPONSORED ITEMS

Mayor Rory Rowland, Presiding Officer of the City Council, called the meeting to order. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Jared Fears, Brice Stewart, Jennie Vaught, and Heather Wiley. Absent – Bridget McCandless and John Perkins.

1. A Resolution for Senate Bill 5 (*Sponsored by Mayor Rowland*)

CITIZEN REQUESTS

1. Citizen Requests - per Council Rules, Sec 6.4 only "Council Sponsored Items" are eligible.

Judge Garry Helm spoke on the effects this bill has had on the municipal court.

PRESENTATIONS

1. IPL Strategic Plan Implementation

Joe Hegendeffer, IPL Director, gave a presentation on this item.

Vision for an Ideal State for IPL
Business decisions are based both on quality data and qualitative experience.

- Continue to have best reliability in their class of utilities.
- A plan for rates to be competitive with neighboring utilities
- Economic Development Programs that support commercial and industrial growth.
- Employees that want to work for IPL and have the skillsets that support strategic

priorities, which includes succession planning.
- Modern technology to support communication, increase efficiency, and expand customer-enabling services to manage electricity usage.
- The ability to add or replace resources in a cost-effective way.

Priority Areas

- Financial Strategy
- Customer Strategy
- Power Supply Strategic Scenarios
- Operation Strategy

Staffing Resources

- Finance Manager to be hired
- Financial Analyst - target hire for 2025
- Utility Data Scientist - will fill when appropriate

Foundational Strategies

- Update IPL cost of service studies and financial model annually
- Provide customers with rate choices based on how and when they use electricity, to facilitate management of their usage and bills
- Leverage the value of Public Power for Economic Development
- Debt fund capital plan to ease financial burden and allocate long term investment costs appropriately to future customers using those assets
- Pursue outside funding sources, DOE and IRA grant and loan programs to offset investments in innovation

Resource Requirements
Staffing Resources

- Key Account Representative
- will put in 2025/26 budget and discuss proper placement within organization
- Professional Marketing and outreach personnel dedicated to IPL
- currently working with PR firm and PIO to accomplish
- IPL based HR professional to develop cultural alignment program
- discussing with HR organization for alignment of this initiative
- Staff or consultant to evaluate, develop or modify customer programs
- will work over the next 12 months to evaluate programs and make recommendations
- Technology support for AMI, OMS, Website, Mobile Apps and help desk

- will work with COI IT dept and internal resources for IPL to support new tech initiatives

Foundational Strategies

- Technology Enabling Customer Service Tools
- Outage Management Systems integrated with existing tools
- have already reached out to several industry professionals on options
- Billing system enhancements (consolidate bills, historic usage and bill comparison, graphic options)
- this will be an initiative coupled with the implementation of AMI
- Website and Mobile App Customer tools
- this will be enhanced with AMI
- AMI – Project Team identified and will execute RFP Qtr 1 of 2025

Foundational Strategies

- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) - will submit RFP process early 2025 to find right fit of resources to assist with development of a robust and malleable IRP.
- IPL to commit to revisiting and updating IRP every 3 years
- Coal Contracts – refinanced a portion of Iatan II bonds thru MPUA/MEC in 2023 saving us appx $3MM over next 10 yrs, currently looking to refinance another portion in 2025 to save even more.
- Dogwood – in early stages of exploring the possibility of expanding that project to gain capacity/energy for all participants.
- Oneta – targeting increased capacity in 2025 from 45MW to 70MW under current contract. Additionally in discussions on pricing to extend our current capacity contract another 10 years.
- Community Solar – evaluating if and when a contract buy-out would make sense for IPL
- Excellent Reliability – continuing to invest in infrastructure and undergrounding
- Outage reporting and management tools updating – working with a couple of vendors on options that will be brought to council mid-2025
- Implement AMI to bring IPLs data capture and response up to modern day standards – in progress

IPL GOVERNANCE MODEL RECOMMENDATIONS REPLACEMENT OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD (PUAB) WITH A PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD (PUB)

Utility Board Member Composition
• 5 Board Members Total
– 1 member seat would be an ex-officio member with voting privileges and would be a current member of the City Council.
– 3 member seats shall be residents of Independence who have had business or professional

experience and who shall have resided in the City at least two years immediately prior to their appointment.
– 1 member seat may live outside the City of Independence; shall have had business or professional experience; and shall have been Commercial or Industrial rate payers to IPL for least two years prior to their appointments which subscription shall be maintained during their terms in office.

Utility Board Powers
• The new Utility Board would have full powers of approvals for all Independence Utilities concerning items like:
– Yearly Budget Approval
– Rate Adjustments
– Debt Issuance
– Procurement Approvals above $500,000
– Strategic Initiatives

Staff Recommendation • Direction for drafting recommended City Charter changes to be put to a public vote in August 2025 for implementation

2. Transportation for All Plan

Representatives from Olsson Associates gave a presentation on this topic.

Task 1 - Review Existing Plans and Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities (June - Aug, 2023)
Task 2 - Public Involvement and Stakeholder Coordination (Sept - Oct, 2023 & Feb - March, 2024)
Task 3 - Active Transportation Network Infrastructure Planning (Nov 2023-Feb 2024)
Task 4 - Transportation for All Plan (March - May 2024)

Policy, Process & Administration

- City Codes Update
- Public Works Manual Update
- Complete Sidewalk Inventory
- Walking and Biking to School Programs
- Bikeshare Pilot
- Update Complete Streets Policy

Additional Planning Work

- Arterial Street Bike Routes
- Safe Routes to School
- Transit Strategic Plan

- Little Blue Trace Connector Trails

Priority List - Projects

- Safe Routes to School - Priority Projects
- Safe Routes to School - Additional Projects
- Truman Connected Phase 2 & 3 Projects
- Trail Network - Parks Connections
- Highway 40 Separated Bicycle path
- Bus Stop Improvements

3. GO Bond Question 2 Overview: Streets & Sidewalks

The Basics
$55M question
• $30M dedicated to street reconstruction, overlay, and full/partial depth repair
• $15M committed to bridge replacement and repair
• $10M dedicated to sidewalk installation and repair

The Need - Streets
Approximately 600 centerline miles (over 1400 lane miles) citywide
• Annual maintenance budget of $4.75M from the Transportation Sales Tax
• $4.6M for contracted CIP
• $150k for internal operations
• Average PCI score
• 2016 – 63
• 2022 – 50
• 2024 – 53

Transportation Sales Tax

- Allowable uses: "…transportation purposes including but not limited to the construction, maintenance, and repair of city streets, sidewalks, curbs, bridges, culverts, and traffic signals…"

• Sales tax budget estimates
• $4.75M pavement maintenance operations
• $1.75M annual debt service
• $5M matching grant funds

The Need - Sidewalks

- School district bus policy

• Multiple locations with no pedestrian infrastructure

• Selected locations determined in collaboration with school Superintendents

4. Home for the Holidays Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpz8II7gVEU&t=1s

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Boards and Commissions Report

2. ***Please Note:*** *In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in an Executive Session during or after the meeting, in the Council Chambers and move to Conference Room D for the closed meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).*