



City Council Study Session Minutes

October 27, 2025 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Legislative Update

Staff Assistant John Mayfield spoke on this item.

The information for this agenda will be presented through a resolution on the November 17th agenda.

The profiling deadline in Jefferson City is November 1st.

Top Legislative priorities are

1. The City of Independence opposes any changes to Economic Development tools, such as Community Improvement Districts (CID) that would hamper development and redevelopment.
2. The City of Independence opposes any reductions, caps or altering of the local sales tax rate.
3. The City of Independence opposes any utility relocation legislation that requires taxpayers to fund the relocation of cable and streaming infrastructure in public rights of way.
4. The City of Independence supports increased funding for mental health services in Independence, including state funding for the ARCH program.
5. The City of Independence supports legislation that restores the ability for Municipal Court judges to suspend in-state driver's licenses for failing to appear in Municipal Court for Public Safety.

2. IPL Governance Charter Amendment

IPL Director Joe Hegendefffer spoke on this item.

Overview

Recapping Activities to Date

Review of Current Charter Provisions

Review of Proposed Amendments

Next Steps Discussion

Recapping the Conversation

- February 20th, 2023: 2023-24 City of Independence Action Plan Adopted
- April 5th, 2023: Council directed and authorized evaluation of future ownership and governance model for IPL
- November 20th, 2023: Council awarded contract to DKMT Consulting
- August 26th, 2024: Council received recommendations from DKMT
- “Board governance could be public power utility’s greatest strength or weakest link.”
- 70% of municipally-owned utilities the size of IPL use an independent board oversight model
- Gave credence to creation of an independent management board comprised of individuals with strong professional backgrounds and skills
- September 16th, 2024: Council adopted resolution directing City Manager to review the current governance model for IPL along with alternative models presented by DKMT and present recommendations
- June 16th, 2025: Council roundtable held to discuss IPL governance model and possible City Charter amendment
- July 14th, 2025: Council Study Session to seek direction on final proposed Charter amendment and next steps

Proposed Amendments to City Charter

Current Sections 3.12 through 3.18 deleted

- New Section 3.12: Definitions

Defines "public utilities" to include electric, water, and sewer systems, and any other service or facility considered a public utility by law

- New Section 3.13: Governance of Public Utilities

Electric utility controlled by the Public Utilities Board

Water and sewer utilities controlled by City unless transferred to the Board

Maintains public utility advisory board for utilities not operated by the Board

New Section 3.14: Composition of the Public Utilities Board

- Board consists of nine members with specific residency and experience requirements
- Terms are staggered to ensure continuity

New Section 3.15: Appointment of the Board

- Members nominated and appointed by the City Council
- Vacancies filled in the same manner

New Section 3.16: Organization of the Board

- Board elects a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary
- Meetings and records are public
- Quorum and compensation details provided

New Section 3.17: Restrictions on the Board

- Board must be nonpartisan
- Members cannot hold other public offices or be involved in political organizations
- One-year prohibition on employment with the Board after leaving

New Section 3.18: Duties

- Board controls and operates the electric utility

- Manages contracts, property, and assets
- Cannot sell utility properties without voter approval

New Section 3.19: Powers

- Board has broad powers to manage the electric utility, including hiring, purchasing, and contracting

New Section 3.20: Funds

- All utility revenues deposited in the City depository
- Comptroller appointed by the Board and bonded

New Section 3.21: Accounting

- Board follows accounting procedures for private utilities
- Provides regular financial reports to the City
- Annual audit required

New Section 3.22: Sale of Electric Utility

- Voter approval required for the sale or abandonment of the electric utility board has broad powers to manage the electric utility, including hiring, purchasing, and contracting

Staff seeks direction for a proposed amendment and an election date.

INFORMATION ONLY

1. **Please Note:** In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in a Closed Executive Session during or after the 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).