



City Council Study Session Minutes

March 9, 2026 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

WELCOME

Mayor Rory Rowland, Presiding Officer of the City Council, called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Jared Fears, Brice Stewart, Bridget McCandless, Jennie Vaught, John Perkins, and Heather Wiley. None were absent.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Liability Insurance Renewal

This item is related to the City's additional liability coverage. We currently have a self-insured retention of up to a million dollars with a policy limit of \$10M. There have been questions in the past if this was something we wanted to continue to renew or we wanted to go a different route.

Finance Director Melissa Cabrera presented this item.

We went from a \$250,000 self-insured retention in the fiscal year 24-25 to a million 2 years ago which is a substantial increase. During that time, the insurance rates went from about \$803,000 to \$875,000.

James Charlesworth from Charlesworth Consulting took over the presentation. He discussed the City's Liability Exposure, the risk areas, common claims and key points.

He went over Employment practices liability, law enforcement liability, public official liability, and auto liability.

The current liability coverage with Obsidian Specialty. The policy limit is \$10M.

The self-insured retention /deductible is \$1M

He also discussed policy liability risks.

The 2026-2027 Policy Recommendation is a casualty insurance program with Obsidian

Insurance Specialty with a policy limit of \$10M, SIR remains at \$1M, 0% Co-insurance above

retention and 0% premium increase over current.
He also discussed Cyber Liability and some goals moving forward.

Interim City Manager Lisa Reynolds stated that this item would need to be added to the March 16th agenda and since the agenda has already been posted, we would need a motion and vote from the Council to add it to that agenda.

Councilmember Perkins moved to put this item on the agenda for March 16th. Motion seconded by Councilmember Fears.

AYES (7): Mayor Rowland, Councilmember Fears, Councilmember Stewart, Councilmember McCandless, Councilmember Vaught, Councilmember Perkins, Councilmember Wiley

NAYS (0): None

ABSENT (0):

Item will be placed on the agenda for March 16th.

2. Independence Police Department's Pursuit Policy

This item was presented by Interim Police Chief Doug Brinkley. Time and circumstance has brought this item to the Council this evening.

Chief Brinkley discussed recommendations from the 2025 police department assessment performed by the company Legal Liability and Risk Management Institute (LLRMI). Their review covered use of force, training, vehicle pursuit, citizen complaints, search warrants, etc. This discussion will focus on the pursuit part of their review.

The review stated that IPD has a comprehensive policy, but application and supervisory review requires improvement. They also suggested that the pursuit policy be reviewed due to recent incidents including injuries, deaths and citizen concerns. A study from the Police Executive Research Forum recommended that agencies should only pursue for violent crimes or when occupants present a clear and immediate danger to others or the public. They also suggested that police agencies should consider alternatives to pursuits such as using GPS tracking devices, drones and other aviation units. The DOJ study also stated that the pursuit policy should account for exceptional circumstances such as DUIs and reckless drivers where police officer intervention is warranted to protect the public from drivers who possess an immediate hazard or threat to the public.

The Current General Order #1994-026 (vehicle pursuit) was last revised on 3/2/2021.

Types of pursuits:

Discretionary - the officer has discretion to determine whether to engage in or continue the pursuit.

Permitted or supervisory review - Pursuits are subject to supervisory approval or review.

Restricted - Officers may engage in pursuits only in very specific situations, such as when a suspect has committed a violent felony.

Prohibitive - Pursuits are not allowed under circumstances.

Interim Chief Brinkley presented two options.

Option 1 - Keep policy as is and continue to pursue for traffic violations, misdemeanor, DUI offense, Non-violent felony offenses and add more supervisory oversight and pursuit review.

Option 2 - Allow pursuits only for dangerous felonies or when occupants present a clear and

immediate danger to others. This is consistent with national policy recommendations and regional agencies (KCK, KCMO, Lee's Summit, Blue Springs).

Greater oversight/Management

Supervisor must acknowledge and approve continuance of pursuit.

Use of tactical vehicle intervention (TVI)

Mandatory review by professional standards unit (Chief of Police)

Professional Standards Reivews

Annual review of Emergency Vehicle/Pursuit Operations & Policy

Interim City Manager Reynolds gave an update on several moves of departments. Municipal Court will begin relocating the week of March 16th and also the week of March 23rd which means the last Council meeting in this chamber will be next Monday night.

Councilmember McCandless also let the community know that there has been an offer made to a candidate for City Manager.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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).