



**MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
GLADSTONE, MISSOURI  
APRIL 8, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jean Moore  
Mayor Pro Tem Tina Spallo  
Councilman Bill Garnos  
Councilman R.D. Mallams  
Councilman Les Smith  
  
City Manager Bob Baer  
Assistant City Manager Austin Greer  
City Attorney Chris Williams  
City Clerk Kris Keller

**Item No. 1. On the Agenda.** Meeting Called to Order.

**Mayor Moore** opened the Regular City Council Meeting Monday, April 8, 2024, at 7:30 pm. Mayor Moore invited all to attend the official ribbon cutting and dedication of the newly renovated City Hall on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 10:00 am.

**Item No. 2. On the Agenda.** Roll Call.

**Mayor Moore** stated that all Councilmembers were present and there was a quorum.

**Item No. 3. On the Agenda.** Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Mayor Moore** asked all to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. She thanked the VFW Post 10906 Color Guard: Carla Gleaton, Charlie Cram, Gordon Harris, Jim Zimmerman, Joe Liles, and Jim Cox.

**Item No. 4. On the Agenda.** Approval of the Agenda.

The agenda was approved as published.

**Item No. 5. On the Agenda.** Approval of the March 25, 2024, Closed City Council Meeting Minutes.

**Councilman Mallams** moved to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2024, Closed City Council meeting as presented. **Councilman Smith** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Smith, Councilman Mallams, Councilman Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Spallo, and Mayor Moore. (5-0)

**Item No. 6. On the Agenda.** Approval of the March 25, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

**Councilman Mallams** moved to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2024, Regular City Council meeting as presented. **Councilman Smith** seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Smith, Councilman Mallams, Councilman Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Spallo, and Mayor Moore. (5-0)

**Item No. 7. On the Agenda. INTRODUCTION OF PAST MAYORS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

**Mayor Moore** recognized Carol Rudi and Rick Moore, former Councilmembers and Mayors.

**Item No. 8. On the Agenda. MAYOR’S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.**

**Mayor Moore** reflected on her prior term of service as Mayor that ended in 2021 and reported the City remains strong. She shared the following highlights of her 2023-2024 term as mayor:

- Parkside at Hobby Hill, 76<sup>th</sup> and North Oak has an estimated completion date of mid-June 2024.
- North Kansas City School District’s Early Education Center expanded their footprint in the center to house their Technology Center and Class Act Coffee, providing their high school students with hands-on entrepreneurship experience.
- Police Headquarters 20,000 square foot addition and renovation was completed in the fall 2023. The new facility features a Co-Located Emergency Communications Center for Gladstone, Clay County, and Liberty, promoting information exchange and assistance during high-volume or crisis events. The Police Department also upgraded all dash and body cameras to enhance services.
- The Fire Department welcomed a new Fire Chief, Mike Desautels, this year and received two new fire engines, a ladder truck, two ambulances, radios, and communication system upgrades. Thanks to the 3% recreational marijuana tax for Public Safety, there is now a dedicated replacement schedule for Fire/EMS apparatus and major equipment.
- City Hall began a renovation funded through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, it will provide greater safety for employees, comply more fully with ADA regulations, and better serve the needs of residents.
- North Kansas City School District extended the contract agreement through the year 2031 for the Community Center. The Community Center will see improvements including; a new video board, starting blocks, a new pool filtration system, and pool deck repairs through part of the City’s 2024 Certificate of Participation or COP projects. Approximately \$500,000 has been invested in outdoor pool improvements and renovations this past year.
- Multiple trail projects were completed and the Linden Connector Trail’s design work is being planned. In collaboration with the City of KCMO, a new dog park is being designed at 76th and Antioch Road. Tennis courts at NE 72nd and N. Euclid are scheduled to be converted into pickleball courts and a new restroom will be added to this site as well. Oak Grove Park had two shelters replaced as well as new landscaping and it will be the site for the City’s newest, exciting art addition, to be installed this summer.
- A concerned group of citizens came together a year ago to address the trash problem in our City. This led to the creation of the Glad Green Team. They meet twice a month to clean different areas of the City and the goal is for Gladstone to be recognized as a trash-free-place. She encouraged all to join in volunteering for a positive impact on our community.
- The City faced a challenge this summer to find an alternative to the expensive fixed route bus service contract offered by KCATA. After a successful trial, the City signed a contract with IRIS for 1/3 of the cost. The service is free for Gladstone residents within the City or to the nearest bus stop outside the City limits. IRIS is popular in Gladstone and offers new transit options.

- The City is financially stable and has a balanced budget. Despite the pandemic, sales and tax revenues have increased and are expected to continue growing. The finance team, led by Director of Finance Accurso, is credited for their diligent oversight and ability to maximize available funds.
- Through the communities generous contributions, the Mayor's Christmas Tree event raised \$29,000.00 benefiting families and children served by Feed Northland Kids and Gladstone Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
- Hiring and retaining staff is always a priority and the City strives to make Gladstone a great place to work. The Human Resources Department will hold a job fair to showcase Gladstone and available employment opportunities. Efforts are being made to enhance codes enforcement and engage residents through improved communications systems.
- Exciting improvements are planned for North Oak, thanks to a \$3.5 million federal grant and additional funds investment from our recent COP bond issuance. Flora Park, a well-worn park will be updated. The \$1 million investment, in conjunction with Variety KC, City funds, and community support, will provide an all-inclusive playground experience for children with disabilities. The comprehensive water master study is complete, and \$14 million has been allocated for water infrastructure improvements over the next 3-5 years. Plans to build an event facility and replace the existing barn at the Atkins-Johnson Farm have also been finalized, with \$2 million allocated from the recent COP.

**Mayor Moore** expressed her gratitude to the residents for their support and to the business owners for their investment and loyalty. She thanked the Leadership Team for their professionalism and dedication, especially to City Manager Bob Baer, for his exceptional guidance. She stated that she was grateful for all City employees who always prioritize the well-being of the residents. She shared that it was a privilege and honor to serve as the Mayor and is thankful to the Council and everyone who supported and advised her throughout her journey.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item No. 9. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 24-13**, An Ordinance declaring the results of the Gladstone General Municipal Election held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, as certified by the Clay County Board of Election Commissioners; declaring the candidates Spencer Davis and Jean B. Moore have been elected to three year terms on the Gladstone City Council.

**Mayor Moore** reported that the Bill could not be read, because the certified results were not available from Clay County.

## **Item No. 10. On the Agenda. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE: R.D. MALLAMS**

**Councilman Smith** expressed his admiration for Councilman Mallams and for his leadership in the community.

**Councilman Garnos** shared that it was an honor and privilege to serve with Councilman Mallams on City Council. He reflected back on their endeavors together and the contributions Councilman Mallams made over the years. He thanked Councilman Mallams wife Toni and stated that none of them could serve without the support of their spouses. He expressed his sincere thanks to Councilman Mallams.

**Mayor Pro Tem Spallo** stated Councilman Mallams is an intelligent and trustworthy leader and as a mentor, he taught and inspired others. She reported years ago, that he and his wife Toni, gave her a road map on how to run a campaign.

**Mayor Moore** said that the evening was bittersweet as she and Councilman Mallams completed their time together on Council. She thanked him for his leadership during his time as Mayor and praised him as a dear friend and valued colleague. She wished him well and shared that he will be missed.

**Councilman Mallams** thanked everyone for their positive comments and expressed gratitude to his friends and family for their presence and support. He shared the military hail and farewell ceremony, welcoming new members and saying goodbye to those moving on. He congratulated Mayor Moore on her reelection and welcomed Spencer Davis to a rewarding position as a Councilmember. He acknowledged Mayor Pro Tem Spallo for assuming the responsibilities of becoming Mayor. He stated the City Council has been a great team for ten years, rarely having less than unanimous votes. He shared the accomplishments of the numerous projects over the years and reported that the City is in good hands. He thanked his wife, community, and leadership team for their vision, commitment, and support.

**Mayor Moore** presented the Key to the City to Councilman Mallams for his years of service and a gavel recognizing his position of Mayor for two separate terms. **Mayor Pro Tem Spallo** presented him with the Gladstone flag.

**Item No. 11. On the Agenda. CITY COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE: Spencer Davis and Jean B. Moore.**

There was no Oath of Office.

**Item No. 12. On the Agenda. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND OATH OF OFFICE.**

**Mayor Moore** presided and opened nominations for the office of Mayor of the City of Gladstone. **Councilman Smith** reported that it was his honor and privilege to nominate City Councilmember Tina Spallo for Mayor. **Councilman Garnos** seconded.

**Mayor Moore** stated the motion has been made and seconded to nominate **Mayor Pro Tem Spallo** as Mayor and called for a vote. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Smith, Councilman Mallams, and Mayor Garnos. (4-0)

The Oath of Office was administered by the City Clerk.

**Councilmember Moore** handed the gavel to **Mayor Spallo** to complete the meeting.

**Item No. 13. On the Agenda. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM**

**Mayor Spallo**, presided and opened the nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Gladstone.

**Councilmember Moore** nominated **Councilman Smith** to fill the position of Mayor Pro Tem. **Councilman Garnos** seconded.

As there were no further nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tem to come before the City Council **Mayor Spallo** called for a roll call vote.

Roll Call vote: “aye”, Councilman Smith, Councilman Mallams, Councilman Garnos, Councilmember Moore, and Mayor Spallo. (5-0)

**Councilman Smith** was voted in as Mayor Pro Tem.

**Item No. 14. On the Agenda. Communications from the Audience.**

Jim Oldebeken, 400 NE 76<sup>th</sup> Terrace, reported that he was dressed in colonial-period attire for historical purposes. He expressed his concerns about the decline in the country's values and provided examples of government entities not following laws. He also mentioned the low voter turnout in Gladstone and the formation of a group in Clay County dedicated to organizing a meaningful commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He praised Richard Haass's book on the Bill of Obligations and emphasized the significance of the Oath of Office for appointed and elected officials in upholding the Constitution. He encouraged reading and studying the Declaration of Independence. He stressed the importance of citizen community involvement and exercising First Amendment rights. Finally, he acknowledged the Council's sacrifices and offered his congratulations.

Kim Murch, parcel number 179 Rosewood lot, Gladstone. Mr. Murch thanked Councilman Mallams for representing the City well for the past ten years and wished him the best in his retirement.

Frank White, Jr., Jackson County Executive, congratulated Mayor Spallo for her new role as Mayor. and praised her for her successful career at Jackson County.

Phillip Spallo congratulated his sister on behalf of their family in her position as Mayor.

**Item No. 15. On the Agenda.** Communications from City Council.

**Councilmember Moore** shared that one of her last duties as Mayor was the celebration of Arbor Day with the Oakhill Day School children. Two trees were planted in the downtown area.

**Councilman Garnos** congratulated Mayor Spallo, Councilmember Moore for her re-election, and Spencer Davis for his election win.

**Mayor Pro Tem Smith** thanked Councilman Mallams for his respected presence and congratulated Mayor Spallo. He commended Spencer Davis for his election win and acknowledged Councilmember Moore for her leadership and dedicated efforts in improving the City as Mayor.

**Mayor Spallo** recognized Councilmember Moore as a remarkable leader. She also welcomed Spencer Davis to the Council. She shared her journey of becoming a Councilmember and expressed gratitude to her Jackson County colleagues, her family, and the citizens of Gladstone for their trust and support. She vowed to carry out her duties as Mayor diligently and to represent the community effectively.

**Item No. 16. On the Agenda.** Communications from the City Manager.

City Manager Baer announced the opening of the 2024 season at the Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum. He encouraged people to visit the Museum's website for more information on events. He shared the upcoming Walk N' Wag event on April 20, 2024, which will benefit the Gladstone Animal Shelter. In addition, he announced a career fair will be hosted by the Human Resources Department at the Gladstone Community Center on April 26, 2024. He expressed gratitude towards Councilman Mallams for his advocacy and thanked his wife, Toni, for her support. He recognized Councilmember Moore for her successful term as Mayor and for her re-election to the Council. Finally, he congratulated Mayor Spallo for her election as Mayor and to Councilman Davis on his election win.

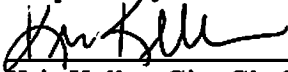
**Item No. 17. On the Agenda.** Other Business.

There was no other business.

**Item No. 18. On the Agenda.** Adjournment.

**Mayor Spallo** adjourned the April 8, 2024, Regular City Council meeting at 8:32 pm.

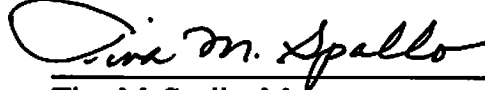
Respectfully submitted:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Keller, City Clerk

Approved as presented:  \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as modified: \_\_\_\_\_



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Tina M. Spallo, Mayor