



**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
GLADSTONE, MISSOURI
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025**

PRESENT: Mayor Tina Spallo
Mayor Pro Tem Les Smith
Councilmember Jean Moore
Councilman Bill Garnos
Councilman Spencer Davis

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 Spallo opened the Regular City Council Meeting Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

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

Mayor Spallo 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 Spallo 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, Jim Cox, Gordon Harris, and Jim Zimmerman.

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

City Manager Baer requested that Item No. 9 First Reading of Bill No. 25-10, be removed from the Agenda, because the official results had not been received by the Clay County Board of Election Commissioners for the April 8, 2025 City Council election; therefore, no action can be taken. **Mayor Spallo** stated that Item No. 9 will be removed.

Item No. 5. On the Agenda. Approval of the March 24, 2025, Closed City Council Meeting Minutes.

Councilmember Moore moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2025, Closed City Council meeting as presented. **Mayor Pro Tem Smith** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Davis, Councilman Garnos, Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Smith, and Mayor Spallo. (5-0)

Item No. 6. On the Agenda. Approval of the March 24, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

Councilman Davis moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular City Council meeting as presented. **Councilmember Moore** seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Davis, Councilman Garnos, Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Smith, and Mayor Spallo. (5-0)

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

Mayor Spallo recognized former Mayors and Councilmembers, including: R.D. Mallams, Rick Moore, Barry McCullough, and Art Hammen. Also present were former City Clerk Cathy Swenson and former City Manager Kirk Davis.

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

Mayor Spallo shared that Gladstone has made incredible progress over the past year and is continuing to build an exciting future. She emphasized that none of it would be possible without the support of the community. She reported the following highlights of her 2024-2025 term as Mayor:

- April 7th, the City broke ground on the dog park at Happy Rock Park, thanks to a partnership with the City of Kansas City. It will be a five-acre space at 76th Street and Antioch Road that will have designated areas for small and large dogs, water stations, and waste stations. She reported it is scheduled to open later this year and will be a wonderful addition to the City’s outstanding recreational facilities.
- Investments have also been made in essential infrastructure. Over the past years, approximately four miles of water main have been replaced and millions have been allocated toward upgrades to the water system including: \$9 million for the water treatment plant, \$2 million for inspections and improvements to the water towers, and \$3 million to replace key transmission lines. The restoration and repainting of both the Antioch and Linden water towers has begun with completion expected by the end of this summer.
- Over the past year, the Atkins-Johnson Farm’s corn, sunflower, and pumpkin crops at the Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum have flourished, and brought well-deserved notoriety to Gladstone’s one and only historic site. The sunflower fields attract regional visitors and photographers, the corn is a metro-wide dinner staple, and the pumpkin fields are a popular destination for families looking for the perfect pumpkin. To foster year-round engagement with the public, the City has committed to replace the deteriorated barn with a new 6,100-square-foot event space. This facility will host educational and community events during the week and serve as a wedding venue on weekends. Construction starts this summer, with completion expected by spring 2026.
- Continuing the commitment to public safety. The newly renovated Police Headquarters is fully operational, also serving Gladstone, Liberty, and Clay County dispatch center. In 2024 alone, the Police Department responded to 19,540 service calls, earned national accreditation for the 23rd consecutive year, and implemented upgrades, including new body and dash cameras.
- The Fire Department has been equally active—responding to 4,641 calls last year and adding two (2) new fire trucks into service. They also upgraded outdated gear with safer, non-PFAS equipment, and hosted a new Halloween event for local families, which was a huge success.
- In total, the City invested approximately \$1.7 million in emergency services equipment in Fiscal Year 2024—because the safety of citizens will always be the top priority.

- Exciting growth across the business community. The economic development efforts have led to the opening of Parkside at Hobby Hill, a dynamic mixed-use development; a major expansion and renovation at Walmart; and the arrival of NYX Lounge, a beautiful new urban winery downtown. Longtime favorites like Summit Grill and Stone Canyon Pizza have committed to staying through 2029, and new businesses like El Mercado Fresco, Over Flow Coffee, and the expanded Animal Clinic of the Woodlands are helping shape the City's future.
- As the City grows, it continues to focus on beautifying the city. The Gladstone Green Team, led by Councilmember Moore, is back in action, organizing monthly clean-ups. A new Home Repair Grant program was launched to assist residents, the sculpture "Monarch Girl" was unveiled at Oak Grove Park, and the downtown area was lit up with new festoon lighting to create a warm and inviting atmosphere.
- The City's efforts have been noticed in numerous areas; the Police Headquarters and City Hall Expansion Project received a Silver Award from *Officer Magazine* for its cost-effective design. The City's disc golf course is now the fourth most played in Missouri, with over 44,000 players in 2024. Public Works made major progress, replacing 17,800 feet of curb, 6,000 feet of sidewalk, and improving 30 lane miles of roadway—resurfacing 11 miles with over 9,500 tons of asphalt. Additional projects are underway, including a partnership with MoDOT on the Missouri Route 1 Corridor Upgrades, including full reconstruction, resurfacing, storm drainage improvements, and trail extensions, scheduled for completion by 2026.
- Communication is another key part of the mission. The City expanded the social media outreach, updated the website, launched a monthly newsletter, and will soon release the spring edition of Gladstone Magazine, themed "Stronger Together: Infrastructure, Innovation, and Involvement."
- The voice of the citizens continues to guide the City's direction. In the 2024 Community Survey, 92% of residents rated Gladstone as an "excellent" or "good" place to live, and 88% said the same for raising children. We were proud to receive ETC Institute's "Leading the Way Award," placing Gladstone in the top 10% of cities nationwide for service quality and value.
- Looking to the future: Flora Park is being transformed into an all-inclusive space for children of all abilities, thanks to \$250,000 grant from Variety KC and a \$30,000 private donation. After a four-year break, the City is excited to welcome back the Gladfest Parade this fall, promising the biggest and most spirited celebration yet.

Mayor Spallo shared that together, we are building a city that is stronger, smarter, and more connected than ever. She thanked everyone for the honor of serving as Mayor over the past year and shared that leading the city alongside the council team has been both humbling and deeply rewarding. She expressed pride in all they have accomplished together. The Mayor also thanked the City staff for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. She called staff the best any resident and City Council could ask for. She expressed gratitude to fellow council members for their vision, leadership, and teamwork. She thanked her wife for her and unwavering support, and the residents for their trust, involvement, and the opportunity to serve the City. She expressed daily gratitude and optimism for the future, saying, "*Let's keep going. The best is yet to come.*"

Councilmember Moore shared how proud she is of Mayor Spallo and said it was an honor to serve alongside her. She noted that the Mayor's love for the City was evident in everything she did throughout the past year.

Councilman Davis reflected on how quickly the year passed and all that was accomplished. He expressed deep gratitude for being part of the City and City Council, and for the unwavering support of his fellow council members. He also thanked Mayor Spallo for setting a strong example of leading with purpose and integrity.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith expressed his admiration of Mayor Spallo. He expressed his pride in her and the job she did as Mayor this past year.

Councilman Garnos concurred with the comments made by Council regarding Mayor Spallo. He congratulated her on an outstanding first term as Mayor, expressed that Gladstone is a better place because of her leadership over the past year, and thanked her for her service.

Mayor Spallo thanked her fellow councilmembers for their kind words, expressed her deep respect for each other, and shared her hope to have the opportunity to serve as Mayor again in the future.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item No. 9. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 25-10, An Ordinance declaring the results of the Gladstone General Municipal Elections held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, as certified by the Clay County Board of Election Commissioners; and declaring that no candidate has been elected to the City Council in said election creating a vacancy in the office.

This Item was removed from the Regular Agenda.

Item No. 10. On the Agenda. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND OATH OF OFFICE.

Mayor Spallo nominated Councilman Smith for the position of Mayor.

Councilman Garnos seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Davis, Councilman Garnos, Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Smith, and Mayor Spallo. (5-0)

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office.

Mayor Smith thanked the Councilmembers and reflected on his past role as Mayor and the lasting impact the former City Manager and City Clerks had during his previous terms. He expressed his appreciation for the current City Manager and City staff and that projects in the next year will continue. He noted that building consensus among the Council will lead to meaningful progress for the City and shared his hope to make the community proud.

Item No. 11. On the Agenda. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM.

Councilman Davis nominated **Councilmember Moore** for Mayor Pro Tem. **Councilman Garnos** seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Davis, Councilman Garnos, Councilmember Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Smith, and Mayor Spallo. (5-0)

Mayor Smith congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Moore.

Item No. 12. On the Agenda. Communications from the Audience.

Jinny Kyle, 7006 N. Walnut Street, expressed her gratitude to **Mayor Smith** for purchasing and installing new shelves at the Museum store.

Item No. 13. On the Agenda. Communications from City Council.

Councilmember Spallo shared that the Neighborhood Grant program is progressing very well; with \$20,000 worth of grant applications ready to be awarded. She thanked Alan Napoli for helping to get the group going again. She also reported that the Neighborhood Commission is excited to have the opportunity to award three (3) residents that will benefit from this grant.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore commended former **Mayor Spallo**, for doing a stellar job engaging students at Linden West Elementary School during the Arbor Day observance. Third and fourth grade students performed songs, and a representative from the Missouri Department of Conservation attended and gifted saplings to the children. In celebration of Arbor Day and in recognition of the City of Gladstone status as a Tree City, two (2) trees were planted at Hobby Hill Park. She also reported attending the Capital Improvement Committee meeting on April 10, where Director Nebergall updated the Committee on completed projects of the past year and outlines plans for the upcoming year. The Committee approved five (5) year funding plans for both Transportation Sales Tax and Capital Improvement Tax. Additionally, she attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at NAWA (Northland Animal Welfare Society) and the opening of the "Rainbow Bridge." She also shared the news of the unexpected passing of a local business owner, Andy Lock, co-owner of Summit Grill. She described him as a great leader whose passion was reflected in all the restaurants that he and his partner established, and noted that he will be greatly missed. She expressed gratitude that the restaurant chose to open in Gladstone and was pleased to share that it will continue to operate in the community.

Item No. 14. On the Agenda. Communications from the City Manager.

City Manager Baer stated that on behalf of him and the City staff, it was a pleasure serving with Councilmember Spallo as Mayor and appreciate her leadership, guidance, sense of humor, and calming demeanor through some of the tough times. He reported a great year and that she will be missed in that position. He addressed Mayor Smith and stated we look forward to a new year with his leadership, institutional knowledge, and enthusiasm to achieve excellence. He added that this year and will be a great year with all that is to come.

Item No. 15. On the Agenda. Other Business.

There was no other business.

Item No. 16. On the Agenda. Adjournment.

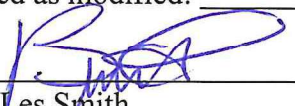
Mayor Smith adjourned the April 14, 2025, Regular City Council meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Kris Keller, City Clerk

Approved as presented: 

Approved as modified: _____


Mayor Les Smith