



**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
GLADSTONE, MISSOURI
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026**

PRESENT: Mayor Les Smith
Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore
Councilmember Tina Spallo
Councilman Spencer Davis
Councilman Cameron Nave

City Manager Bob Baer
Assistant City Manager Austin Greer
City Clerk Kris Keller

ABSENT: City Attorney Chris Williams

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

Mayor Smith opened the Regular City Council Meeting Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:30 pm.

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

Mayor Smith 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 Smith requested that all attendees stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Moore requested removal of Item No. 12 from the Agenda because the certified results of the April 7, 2026, election were not available from the Clay County Board of Election Commissioners.

Item No. 5. On the Agenda. Approval of the March 23, 2026, Closed City Council Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026, Closed City Council meeting as presented. **Councilmember Spallo** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Nave, Councilman Davis, Councilmember Spallo, Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and Mayor Smith. (5-0)

Item No. 6. On the Agenda. Approval of the March 23, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

Councilmember Spallo moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026, Regular City Council meeting as presented. **Councilman Davis** seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Nave, Councilman Davis, Councilmember Spallo, Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and Mayor Smith. (5-0)

Item No. 7. On the Agenda. FUTURE LEADERS ACADEMY RECOGNITION.

Mayor Smith recognized participants of the 2026 Future Leaders Academy and explained that the program offers community members a series of weekly evening classes that introduce participants to key City departments, including Police, Community Development, Finance, Public Works, Fire/EMS, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts. He noted that the following individuals graduated from the program: Larry Newport, Shirley Quackenbush, Andrea Johnson, Gracelove Simons, Jacob Dobbs, Jason Berve, Jim Oldebeken, and Nick Smith; each was presented with certificates. The Mayor thanked the participants for their commitment to learning about municipal government. He noted that several Councilmembers were graduates of the program and encouraged participants to consider future service on Boards and Commissions. Participants provided positive feedback and expressed appreciation for the time and effort contributed by each department. The Mayor also announced that, beginning next year and as space allows, a portion of academy slots will be made available to City employees interested in learning about other departments.

Item No. 8. On the Agenda. INTRODUCTION OF PAST MAYORS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Mayor Smith introduced Rick Moore as past Mayor and Councilmember. He also recognized R.D. Mallams, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a family matter.

Item No. 9. On the Agenda. MAYOR’S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.

Mayor Smith reflected on the past year’s progress, emphasizing that “it is our time” in Gladstone and highlighted strong community engagement and economic activity. He reported the following highlights of his 2025-2026 term as Mayor:

- The highly anticipated opening of General Mills, La Tierra Taco Factory, whose products are distributed nationally.
- A positive year for Gladstone small business startups and expansions.
- Reported on major infrastructure efforts, some of which have been underway over the past two years, including a \$14 million water project (water tower repainting), planned replacement of 3.5 miles of water lines, and repair or reconstruction of 30 lane miles of roadway, along with Missouri Department of Transportation’s ongoing second phase of the M-1 Highway restoration project. He expressed appreciation to the Public Works Director Tim Nebergall for overseeing numerous concurrent projects.
- AJ Barn Event Center project, which complements the Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum, was reported ahead of schedule, with potential completion as early as June 1. He described the project as a significant community asset that will serve the residents and other community members for years to come. He expressed his appreciation to all who contributed to the project, including community volunteers and professional staff.
- Praised the City’s 185 employees for their professionalism and recognized individual staff achievements this year; Jennifer Stafford, “MVP” and Fire Chief Mike Desautels “Coach of the Year” while also noting the passing of several current and former employees.

- Highlighted the City’s robust calendar of community events, including Food, Art, Drink; Whiskey Fest; Gladfest; Theatre in the Park; Linden Square concerts; activities at the Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum; and upcoming World Cup watch events and Freedom Fest, which all bring the community together.
- The ongoing development of the City’s park system, including the recent groundbreaking at the new inclusive Flora Park with partners like Variety KC and a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund of Missouri. The opening of the new dog park last year, and the new 72nd Street pickleball courts.
- Acknowledged the City’s long-standing challenges with public transportation and described the new GEST Transit service as a major step toward improved local mobility, supported through regional collaboration among the “Northland Five” cities (Gladstone, Liberty, North Kansas City, Parkville, and Riverside). He reported that City Manager Bob Baer and Assistant City Manager Austin Greer positioned Gladstone as the leader in the Northland by facilitating this service.
- Cited that improvements at the Atkins-Johnson Barn, Flora Park, and the North Oak roundabout and corridor will enhance safety and improve traffic flow, and noted these projects are key components of the City’s future. He also recognized Mayor Pro Tem Moore’s efforts in developing the Glad Green Team to beautify the City, as well as the Future Leaders Academy for contributing to making Gladstone an even better place to live.

Mayor Smith praised the mix of experienced and newer Councilmembers and concluded that Gladstone is a City on the move—grounded in community, respectful of its heritage, and focused on the future. He recognized and honored Pete Hall and Gary Lint who both passed away this year and stated that they were instrumental in building many bridges in Gladstone. In closing, he thanked everyone for being part of the journey. He presented flowers to his wife and expressed appreciation for her support.

Councilman Nave thanked Mayor Smith for his mentorship and guidance this past year and expressed his excitement for the upcoming year.

Councilman Davis thanked the Mayor for his leadership over the past year, noting that he led with both experience and compassion. He acknowledged the City’s many accomplishments and initiatives that began during the Mayor’s term and highlighted the Mayor’s steady guidance through several challenging situations. He also expressed appreciation for the Mayor’s mentorship of less experienced Council members and stated that the Council is stronger as a result of his service.

Councilmember Spallo stated that the Mayor exemplifies the qualities of a true public servant and a genuine friend. She noted that his dedication and commitment to serving others have guided the City through a challenging yet successful year. She added that the future remained bright under his outstanding leadership and concluded by thanking and congratulating him.

Mayor Pro Tem Moore thanked the Mayor for a year of strong leadership, stating that he met the challenges faced by the City with thoughtful deliberation and insightful guidance. She noted that his leadership sets a high standard for the coming year. She expressed gratitude for his time, talents, and commitment to the Council and the City. She also remarked on the Council’s strong composition and stated that she looks forward to the year ahead, which she expects to be highly successful. She concluded by again thanking the Mayor.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item No. 10. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 26-09, An Ordinance authorizing the execution of certain documents in connection with the refinancing and assignment of a project previously financed by the City under the provisions of Article VI, Section 27 of the Missouri Constitution, as Amended, and Sections 100.100 to 100.200, inclusive, of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, as Amended; and authorizing the execution of certain documents and taking of certain other actions in connection therewith.

Councilmember Spallo moved **BILL NO. 26-09** be placed on its First Reading. **Councilman Davis** seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Nave, Councilman Davis, Councilmember Spallo, Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and Mayor Smith. (5-0) The Clerk read the Bill.

Councilmember Spallo moved to accept the First Reading of **BILL NO. 26-09**, waive the rule and place the Bill on its Second and Final Reading. **Councilman Davis** seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Nave, Councilman Davis, Councilmember Spallo, Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and Mayor Smith. (5-0) The Clerk read the Bill.

Councilmember Spallo moved to accept the Second and Final Reading of **BILL NO. 26-09** and enact the Bill as **Ordinance 4.727**. **Councilman Davis** seconded.

Roll Call vote: “aye”, Councilman Nave, Councilman Davis, Councilmember Spallo, Mayor Pro Tem Moore, and Mayor Smith. (5-0) **Mayor Smith** stated **BILL NO. 26-09** stands enacted as **Ordinance Number 4.727**.

Item No. 11. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 26-10, An Ordinance declaring the results of the Gladstone General Municipal Election held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, as certified by the Clay County Board of Election Commissioners; declaring that candidates Les Smith and Tina Spallo have each been elected to three year terms on the Gladstone City Council and Cameron Nave has been elected to a two year term on the Gladstone City Council.

City Manager Baer noted that this item should be removed from the Agenda because the certified results of the April 7, 2026, election were not available from the Clay County Board of Election Commissioners.

Item No. 12. On the Agenda. CITY COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE: Les Smith, Tina Spallo, Cameron Nave.

This item was removed from the Agenda because the certified results of the April 7, 2026, election were not available from the Clay County Board of Election Commissioners.

Item No. 13. On the Agenda. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND OATH OF OFFICE.

Mayor Smith presided and opened nominations for the office of Mayor of the City of Gladstone. **Councilman Davis** made a motion to nominate Mayor Pro Tem Moore for Mayor. **Councilman Nave** seconded.

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

The Oath of Office was administered by the City Clerk.

Councilman Smith handed the gavel to **Mayor Moore** to complete the meeting.

Mayor Moore expressed appreciation to the Council, stating that she respects and admires each member and is grateful for their confidence and support. She stated that she is humbled by their belief in her and pledged to do her best as Mayor. She added that, by working together, the Council can make the coming year a successful one for Gladstone.

Item No. 14. On the Agenda. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM.

Councilmember Spallo made the motion to nominate Councilman Spencer Davis as Mayor Pro Tem. **Councilman Nave** seconded. The Vote: “aye”, Councilman Nave, Councilman Smith, Councilmember Spallo, and Mayor Moore. (4-0)

Item No. 15. On the Agenda. Communications from the Audience.

There were no communications from the Audience.

Item No. 16. On the Agenda. Communications from the City Council.

Councilman Nave shared his experience at the Peace Pole dedication at Chapel Hill Elementary and stated it is a great the partnership between the Gladstone Rotary Club and North Kansas City Schools.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis reminded the audience about the Clay County 250 Coin challenge and encouraged participation. He directed the audience to the Clay County 250 website for more information.

Mayor Moore reported that the City celebrated Arbor Day by planting a maple tree in Central Park with assistance from Oak Hill Day School students. She also shared that she attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Oak Hill Day School’s new addition. Lastly, she noted the excitement surrounding the recent opening of the La Tierra Taco Factory.

Item No. 17. On the Agenda. Communications from the City Manager.

City Manager Baer thanked former Mayor Smith for his leadership, guidance, and friendship. He congratulated Mayor Moore and informed Council that he is looking forward to another great year.

Item No. 18. On the Agenda. Other Business.

There was no other business.

Item No. 19. On the Agenda. Adjournment.

Mayor Moore adjourned the April 13, 2026, Regular City Council meeting at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Kris Keller, City Clerk

Approved as presented: _____

Approved as modified: _____



Jean B. Moore, Mayor