SMITHVILLE
missouri

City Administrator's Report

November 13, 2026

Business License Process Update

The Board adopted new regulations for business licensing on October 20, 2026. Significant changes were made to provide consistency with state statute and to address streamlining the permitting process. Changes include:

- The effective dates of licenses were changed from a license year of November 1 to October 31 to a license year of January 1 to December 31. Existing licenses were automatically extended until December 31. Implementation of all changes will be effective with the new business license year starting January 1, 2027.
- Providing a uniform and fair process for businesses operating in the City to comply with ordinance requirements and appeal adverse determinations.
- Expansion of enforcement options for staff to ensure compliance by all businesses.
- Changed the method of determining if a business is required to have a license
    - Previously, the ordinance included a long list of covered businesses taken from state statute.
    - New provision assumes all businesses are required to obtain a license except for certain businesses and professions that are exempted by statute.
- Updates to various provisions resulting from state law changes to home occupations.

The cost of a license has not changed but will be reviewed in the future.

Since adoption of the changes, staff has received questions regarding requirements relating to landlords. Staff have requested clarification from legal counsel. In short, landlords are required to obtain a business license; short-term rental operators have been required to obtain a license since the adopted of Chapter 625; and people who own a second home and use it for personal use (e.g., do not rent it out) do not need to obtain license because they are not engaged in a business occupation.

Renewal information has been mailed to current license holders. Staff is also working to identify all landlords and will be sending information regarding required licensing next week.

Hydrant Report Update
Staff continue to inventory and maintain fire hydrants throughout the city. Attached is a memo from Public Works Director Matt Bond with an update on the fire hydrant maintenance program.

Sculpture on the Move
Over the last four years, the City of Smithville has been participating in the Creative Community Alliance's "Sculpture on the Move!" program. The program is dedicated to the development of community arts in the Kansas City, St. Louis and surrounding Missouri region.

The current installation, "Bouquet of Wildflowers" will be removed in March 2027. In January, Parks and Recreation Director Matt Denton will chair a committee comprising representatives from the Smithville Main Street District, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Board of Aldermen. The Committee review submissions and identify their favorites. In March, the City will participate in a "draft" to select the next piece to be installed in Smithville at the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. Installation is anticipated in April.

Discussion Regarding Regulation of Kratom
Work session review of regulation of kratom had previously been identified for November 17. Legal counsel has recommended delaying that discussion awaiting revie the federal level. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has issued a notice of intent to temporarily classify 7-OH as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act. The notice of intent can be found here: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/10/14/2026-20943/schedules-of-controlled-substances-temporary-placement-of-7--hydroxymitragynine-and-mitragynine

The earliest date that a scheduling could take effect would be November 13, and a temporary scheduling order would be effective for at least two years. DEA had previously considered scheduling 7-OH in July but did not take any action after publishing its notice of intent. Based on the close timing between when the new notice of intent can be acted on and the November 17 meeting, discussion has been delayed until December to allow time to see if DEA will issue a scheduling order this time.

Community Conversations: Your City, Up Close
Staff has scheduled a second opportunity for staff to give residents a behind-the-scenes look at City operations and facilities. The next session, scheduled for Thursday, December 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 will introduce participants to City government and include a Budget 101 presentation highlighting the FY2027 Budget. Participants will learn how the City operates, explore the roles of the Board of Aldermen, City

commissions, City staff, and gain an understanding of how City services and operations are funded.

Advance registration is required and dinner will be provided. Participants can sign up here. The registration deadline is November 24.

State Petition Audit
As previously reported, the current timeline anticipates completion of the audit near the end of this calendar year or early in 2027. Results will be presented in an executive session to the Board of Aldermen, with an ability to provide response to the findings and a presentation of results to the public anticipated sometime in February 2027. Staff continue to provide information in response to requests for information and clarification from the auditing team.

City Hall and Board Meeting Schedule
City Hall will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27. The December 1 Board of Aldermen meeting has been cancelled.