



City of Pacific
300 Hoven Drive
Pacific, MO 63069



Official Newsletter of the City of Pacific March, 2020 www.pacificmissouri.com

Appointed Police Chief question on June 2 ballot

City of Pacific voters will decide the question of whether to have an elected or appointed Chief of Police at the June 2 polls. The question is titled “Proposition C” and would provide for the City to change from the current elected City Marshal system to one in which the Police Chief is appointed by the Mayor, subject to consent of the Board of Aldermen. The following is an overview of the issue:

Question: How is the Chief selected now?

Answer: The current system provides for a City Marshal, to also serve as the Chief of Police, to be elected by City voters and serve a term of four (4) years.

Question: What are the qualifications for the current Marshal/ Chief of Police?

Answer: The qualifications are provided for by Municipal Code (Section 200.60) as follows: The Marshal/ Chief of Police shall be twenty-one (21) years of age or older, a resident of the City of Pacific for at least one (1) year before being elected, a registered voter in the City before being elected, shall have no prior felony convictions, shall hold a current State certification for Peace Officer as set forth in Sections 590.110 through 590.180, RSMo., and have completed not less than one hundred twenty (120) hours of instruction approved by the Department of Public Safety and shall have paid all taxes and fees to the City of Pacific and shall not be in arrears for any unpaid City taxes, or forfeiture, or defalcation in office.

Question: Would the current Chief of Police (Matt Mansell) continue to hold office if Proposition C is approved?

Answer: Yes. Chief Mansell was re-elected in 2018 and would serve his current four-year term, which expires in April 2022. The appointed Chief of Police would take office

sometime after April, 2022.

Question: If the Mayor appoints the Chief of Police, can the Mayor also remove the Chief of Police?

Answer: No. Under Missouri law, an Appointed Chief of Police cannot be removed by the Mayor alone. Only the Board of Aldermen may remove a Chief of Police, and only for “just cause.” The Mayor alone has no power to remove any elected or appointed City official. Only the Board of Aldermen has such authority. Further, Missouri law prescribes certain conditions for removal of an Appointed Chief, which are more defined than the conditions for removal

(impeachment) of an elected Marshal.

Question: What is the City’s current policy for hiring and filling vacancies in the Police Department?

Answer: The City has a “promote from within” policy. The City Personnel Manual provides that “it is the policy of the City of Pacific to employ the best qualified person available”

and further that “the City’s policy is to fill vacancies by promotion or transfer within the organization.” The current Police Department command staff personnel have each reached their rank from such promotions.

Question: Can someone outside of the City limits be a candidate for elected Marshal / Chief of Police?

Answer: No. Only a City resident may be a candidate for Marshal/ Chief.

Question: How many municipalities in the St. Louis area have an elected Marshal / Chief?

Answer: Four. St. Ann, Eureka, St. Clair and Pacific. The vast majority of municipalities in Missouri have an appointed Chief of Police.

Mark your calendars!

Municipal Election, **POSTPONED TO JUNE 2**
Board of Aldermen meetings, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Planning and Zoning, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7p.m.

Coffee with the Mayor, **POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Please check City Hall for more information during the Coronavirus emergency.

Please go to [pacificmissouri.com](http://www.pacificmissouri.com) for a Calendar with City meeting dates and other event information

Question / complaint / comment? Call us!

City Hall 636-271-0500. Extensions: Code Enforcement 196; Accounts Payable / Park Rentals 211; City Administrator 213; City Collector 214; Utility Billing and Building 215; Community Development Director 216; City Clerk 217; Court Clerk 218; Building Inspector 219; Deputy City Clerk 223.

City response to Coronavirus

This newsletter was going to print days before the onset of the Coronavirus health emergency. The City has taken numerous actions with respect to this situation:

- City Hall and Police Department lobby closed
- No water shut-offs for non-payment until further notice
- Public hearings and public forums cancelled
- Board of Aldermen meetings to be held in limited fashion
- Residential occupancy program suspended
- Webpage: <http://www.pacificmissouri.com/271/Coronavirus-Information>

Please be assured we will make every effort to continue to deliver services to our citizens during this difficult time.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Parks Master Plan process underway; surveys completed



More than 50 people attended an open house meeting in January to provide input and feedback on Pacific's park system. The meeting was led by consulting firm Planning Design Studio, and more than 200 surveys were filled out that evening and in the weeks that followed. A meeting was planned March 23 to present a summary of the results and present the PDS initial recommendations. Information will be posted on the City website as the planning process continues. The final plan is expected to be presented to Board of Aldermen in late summer, 2020.

Thank you to all who have participated!

Several new voluntary annexations approved

The Missouri Eastern Correctional Center site and north of Route 66, up to located off Old Gray Summit Road known as Longview Meadows. The property owner had received subdivision plat approval earlier in 2019 from Franklin County but then requested annexation into the City of Pacific in order to receive City sanitary sewer service. Meanwhile, property south of Route 66 and west of Dozier Crossing recently was annexed, following a petition for Voluntary Annexation from the Board of Aldermen, subject to certain conditions relating to the development of the subdivision. The property has been platted for 15 residential lots, generally three acres in size on up. The property that was annexed to the

Three properties along Gray Summit Road
Route 66 east; one off Old Gray Summit Road.
The City has completed several new annexations in recent weeks, three of them adjacent to Route 66 in east Pacific, and the other to the west off Old Gray Summit Road. Two of the annexations to the east were previously in the City of Eureka, but were transferred to Pacific following recent action by both cities respecting Boards of Aldermen. The result is that all properties east of

City news in brief...

Did you know that you can pay City utility bills online? Yes!

Please go to www.pacificmissouri.com and click on Online Bill pay to access the portal. The City is also accepting credit cards and debit cards for payment at City Hall during regular business hours. The new systems were rolled out earlier this year.

Customers should be aware that a "convenience fee" applies to electronic payments, whether they are done in person or on-line. The fee is 2.5% of the total transaction, with a minimum of \$1.95 for credit/debit cards. Customers also have an "echeck" option (online payments only). The fee for echecks is \$1.75 per transaction.

Hogan Subdivision Storm Water project authorized by Board of Aldermen

The Board of Aldermen has authorized a \$337,180 contract for construction of certain storm water, curb and gutter and other improvements in a section of Hogan Subdivision. The project includes work primarily along W. Union, Phelan and St. Louis Streets. New curb and gutter and upgraded storm water pipe will be constructed along the route. The project is being paid for in part by funds from the Parks and Storm Water sales tax, authorized by voters in April, 2019.

Work underway to re-line sanitary sewers in Cedars, Hawthorne subdivisions

Work to reline some 2.4 miles of sanitary sewer main began the week of March 9, under a contract approved by the Board of Aldermen in late 2019. Insituform Technologies was the low bidder at a base bid of \$329,912.30 and alternate of \$61,956.60. The project involves re-lining of sanitary sewer main primarily in the Cedars and Hawthorne subdivisions, and includes re-lining of some 70 manholes. The work is expected to reduce inflow and infiltration issues in these areas, and also help reduce the risk of sewer backups.

Flood buyout project back on track

A project to acquire up to 27 properties in the Pacific floodplain is back on track, following recent action by the Missouri Department of Economic Development. The City has now ordered appraisals and title work on the eligible properties, and expects to begin making purchase offers in the next few months. The project is being funded by a mix of federal funding; 75 percent FEMA and 25 percent CDBG, administered by the State of Missouri.

City working on derelict vehicles, property maintenance issues

The City is advising residents of a renewed effort to address derelict vehicles, standard property maintenance and other similar code enforcement issues.

The City has issued 58 citations for derelict vehicles and 19 citations for property maintenance issues since January 1 (as of March 10, 2020).

The recent addition of the Director of Community Development position provides more staffing to work on code enforcement issues, and the City is working on a more comprehensive enforcement program to be rolled out over the next few months. More information will be provided in the City newsletter, website and through other sources.

The City's goal is for property owners to come into compliance with applicable codes, and not to assess fines or other penalties. Typically, owners who comply (ie remove a derelict vehicle or repair a property maintenance issue) will see the issue resolved and face no further action from the City. The City Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2017, included upgraded code enforcement efforts as a priority issue for the community.

The City does accept anonymous complaints on suspected code violations. Please contact Bryan Kopp, 636-271-0500 ext 216 or by email to bkopp@pacificmissouri.com to report an issue.

City works with Post Office to fix addressing error

Several addresses within the City of Pacific that somehow changed to Eureka late last year have been fixed, according to the U. S. Postal Service.

The fix may take up to 120 days to be fully implemented, according to the Post Office.

The fix came about after City officials began investigating the issue earlier this year. Several City residents had complained to the Post Office, City officials and others after noticing that their addresses had changed from Pacific to Eureka. The City of Pacific had no role in this change and had received no prior notifications that it was pending or had been implemented.

Regardless, the City upon learning of the issue investigated through various means and eventually was able to get the issue rectified.

It appears the change originated with a City of Eureka request to have certain addresses, generally in the Allenton area, changed from Pacific to Eureka. The Post Office accepted those changes but apparently similar addresses of numbered streets within the city limits of Pacific were also changed.

The City then discussed with Post Office officials both locally and in St. Louis, and also City of Eureka officials. After several contacts the addresses changed in error were identified and the City was told that these addresses will be fixed by the Post Office.

High grass and weeds are a nuisance; residents reminded to please keep the grass cut

As winter fades and warmer days approach, it will soon be time to cut our grass again. Now is a great time to tune up the lawn equipment and prepare for a jumpstart on the mowing season.

As a reminder, the City's municipal code regulates that grass shall be maintained under seven inches (7") tall. Well maintained yards not only look good, they also help our property values. As the City of Pacific sees both residential and commercial growth, we want our community to look its best for ourselves and our new neighbors.

Help to make Pacific shine and please maintain healthy green spaces clear of tall grass and weeds. Please see Municipal Code Section 225.255 for more information.

Highway 00 and Route 66 east

Two projects extending City water and sewer mains completed

Two projects to extend City water and sanitary sewer mains recently were completed and put into service.

The Highway 00 water main project extended a new main from the existing pump station at 1st Street north under the Interstate 44 bridge to a connection point along Hoven Road, serving the Forest Glen and Osage Hills neighborhoods.

The new water main replaces a section of main that was buried under I-44, a portion of which was not in conduit and could have meant lengthy water service outages in the event of a break under I-44.

KJ Unnerstall Construction, Washington, was awarded the project last fall for \$172,443.00. The KJU bid was the lowest of two bids received for the

project.

The other utility project was extension of water and sewer service to the NB West headquarters site on Route 66, east of the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center. The project required obtaining an easement from the State of Missouri for the prison property, among other easements.

The new mains serve First Baptist Church of Allenton and the neighboring property to the east, along with the NB West Headquarters site, which is under construction. The City and NB West earlier had entered into a cooperative agreement for the main improvements; the City's total cost was \$133,258.24.

Funds for the projects were paid from the City water and sewer funds.

New Police F-150s on the road



The Pacific Police Department recently took delivery of two new Ford F-150 Police vehicles. The new trucks were purchased through the Missouri state contract and were financed through a lease-purchase agreement with First State Community Bank. The total vehicle cost was \$40,848 each, which includes the truck and all equipment. Chief Matt Mansell and Capt. Don Locke (pictured above) said the vehicles have been a very welcome addition to the fleet.

Police Dept. pay improved after recent round of pay raises

Starting pay for City of Pacific Police officers now stands at \$21.25 hourly, following Board of Aldermen action late last year to raise pay for the Department.

The new pay plan puts Pacific pay ahead of at least one area agency, and more on par with other area police departments.

The Board also raised pay for existing officers (\$2.50 per hour) on the lower end of the pay scale. Officers with more tenure received a 2.5 percent increase. Communications dispatch officers also received a boost in pay; with starting pay now at \$14.65 per hour.

The police pay increases were made possible in part by the "Prop P" sales tax revenues, approved by Franklin County voters in 2019. The City also receives a share of the St. Louis County Prop P revenue, which is also dedicated for law enforcement purposes.

City officials point out that the recent pay increases (both 2018 and '19) well exceed the revenues now coming in through Prop P.

Pacific Police starting pay has now increased from \$14.18 hourly in 2017 to the \$21.25 rate in place now. Total police annual payroll (pay + benefits) is now at \$1.70 million, up from \$1.27 million in FY 2018.

City welcomes Bryan Kopp as new Director of Community Development

The City of Pacific welcomes our new Director of Community Development, Bryan Kopp, C.B.O. Mr. Kopp has twenty years experience in the administration and enforcement of municipal codes and is ready to put his experiences to work here.

His duties at City Hall include overseeing the Planning and Zoning, Building and Code Enforcement departments, and working closely with Public Works, Police and General Administration in the everyday operations of the City.

Mr. Kopp has worked on major ground-up projects in St. Louis County including the global headquarters for World Wide Technology in Maryland Heights, and the St Joseph's West Cancer Care, Andrews Academy, and The Meadows at Lake Saint Louis projects. He has worked on numerous other projects including Des Peres Hospital, West County Mall, and multiple Edward Jones campuses.

Mr. Kopp implemented a successful staff development program while serving as a Deputy Director of Community Development for the City of University City. He also served for twelve years on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Association of Building Officials and Inspectors (MABOI), a statewide professional association, and carries twenty-four certifications from the International Code Council including Certified Building Official, Housing Code Official, and Certified Sustainability Professional.



Bryan Kopp, CBO, was hired as Pacific's first Director of Community Development in January, 2020.

Prior to his municipal career, Bryan opened a successful carryout and delivery restaurant. Entrepreneurialism has left him with a great appreciation for the relationship between government and the community, a tenet he still fosters today.

We welcome his unique and well rounded background as we grow into the future. If you have questions for Mr Kopp he can be reached at City Hall, 636-271-0500 x216.

Lisa Lane extension expected to be open to traffic this spring

Work on the Lisa Lane road extension project began earlier this year, with completion expected in spring, 2020.

The project extends Lisa Lane from its existing terminus west of Flier Drive to the intersection with Indian Warpath Drive. The project includes a sidewalk connection in addition to the street and storm water work.

The City requested bids for the project in fall, 2019, and awarded the contract to K.J. Unnerstall Construction, Inc (KJU). KJU was the lowest of seven bidders on the project, at a total base bid amount of \$131,466.10.

Funding for the project will come from the City's new Transportation Sales Tax, approved by voters in 2019, and from funds held in escrow from a previous development

plan on adjacent properties. In addition to improving the City's road network, the City hopes the project will help spur further development in this area.

Get Informed!

The City website allows citizens to receive notifications when certain new items are posted. For example, the full Board of Aldermen meeting packet is posted on the Friday before each meeting. Copies of proposed bills and resolutions, staff reports, and various other information is included in each packet. The City also posts Planning and Zoning Commission meeting packets, and agendas for other Boards and Commissions. Can't find what you're looking for? Send an email to vroth@pacificmissouri.com and we will post it.

Mayor gives annual State of the City address

- Mayor Steve Myers recently presented his "State of the City" address to the Pacific Area Chamber of Commerce and Pacific Board of Aldermen. The address highlights the City's accomplishments over the past years, and targets numerous goals for 2020.
 - The Mayor plans to post a video presentation of the address soon on the City website, www.pacificmissouri.com.
 - The State of the City address presents a comprehensive picture of the City's activities over the past year, including a review of City finances and projects either completed or under construction.
- A few of the financial highlights include the following:**
- Sales Tax receipts up over 8 percent for the second straight year
 - Total City fund balances up over 8 percent from FY 2018
 - Long-term debt decreased by 8 percent in FY 2019.
 - Significant pay raises for Police Officers (\$2.25 / hour raise in base pay) and 2.5 percent across-the-board increases for Public Works and City Hall employees.
 - Nearly \$1 million in funding for Wastewater Treatment Facility (Lagoon) improvements in 2019.
 - Federal grant (\$857,568) for Highway N Phase 4 improvements.
 - Franklin County Transportation grant (\$75,000) for annual Street Maintenance program.
- A few of the project highlights include the following:**
- Purchase of additional seven acres adjacent to (north of) Liberty Field park.
 - Candlewick Lane improvements.
- A few of the economic development highlights include the following:**
- Indian Warpath, W. Union and Hawthorne Subdivision asphalt overlay improvements.
 - New roofing at Community Park.
 - Red Cedar planning project completed.
 - Water and sewer extension, Route 66 east.

And finally, a few of the top goals for 2020:

- Hire Community Development Director (*completed!*)
- Red Cedar project
- Jensen Point electric and security improvements
- Bigfoot Plaza construction
- Derelict buildings clean-up / Upgraded Code Enforcement program
- Parks and Storm Water master planning efforts
- Complete Phase 2 Flood Buyouts
- Upgrade and improve agreement with Brush Creek Sewer District



Mayor Steve Myers frequently opens his office doors to the youth groups of the community. He is pictured here during a recent visit to City Hall from local Webelos Pack 443. The Scouts got a tour of City Hall and the Police Department, including a visit with the Police K-9 Vito. To schedule a youth group tour of City Hall, please contact Mayor Myers at smyers@pacificmissouri.com.