



Sikeston Scanner

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Declining Sales Tax Remains Municipal Concern

The status of the world economy is a concern shared by people across the country. The Missouri Department of Revenue reports sales tax proceeds, the primary funding source at all levels of government, continues to decline. Sikeston's City officials continue to face the issue of balancing operating costs with levels of public service. "To fully understand the correlation of sales tax proceeds to City services," commented City Manager Doug Friend, "basic knowledge of tax mechanisms and operating costs are needed. The City of Sikeston has multiple revenue sources: taxes, charges for service, licenses and permits and grants. Tax receipts (property and sales) provide 69% of the City's total revenue. Of that amount, sales taxes provide 71% of the total tax receipts collected by the City."

Sales taxes are approved by a vote of the citizens. Sikeston's citizens have authorized restricted sales taxes such as the ½ - cent (\$.005) Transportation Sales Tax that is used exclusively for expenses associated with construction, maintenance and repair of municipal streets and stormwater drainage systems. This is opposed to unrestricted sales taxes such as the one voters approved in 1977. This unrestricted 1-cent (\$.01) sales tax funds general municipal operations.

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TENTATIVE AGENDA

SIKESTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:00 PM – August 3, 2009

Sikeston City Hall, 105 E. Center Street, Sikeston, MO

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE
- III. OPENING PRAYER
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- VI. BUSINESS ITEMS:
 - A. Second Reading & Consideration of Bill 5797, Subdivision Replat Request, Fairgrounds Addition
 - B. Other items as may be determined
- VII. CITY OPERATIONS REPORT
- VIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

Meeting dates and times are subject to change

Monday, August 3

4:30 PM – Library Board of Trustees

5:00 PM – City Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 4

11:30 AM – DED Executive Board

Monday, August 10

Noon – Housing Authority Board

5:15 PM – Park Board

Tuesday, August 11

4:00 PM – BMU Board of Commissioners

4:00 PM – Tourism Advisory Board

Thursday, August 20

11:30 AM – Strategic Plan Implementation Commission

Monday, August 24

11:30 AM – LCRA Commission

Monday, August 31

7:15 AM – Special City Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 1

4:00 PM – Planning & Zoning Commission

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

LABOR DAY – CITY OFFICES CLOSED

Tuesday, September 8

11:30 AM – DED Executive Board

4:00 PM – BMU Board of Commissioners

4:00 PM – Tourism Advisory Board

COMPOST SITE SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 1: 8 AM – Noon

Saturday, August 15: 8 AM – Noon

Wed., September 2:

7:30 AM-11:45 AM & 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

Boards & Commissions Selection Process Begins

In September 2009, 34 Sikeston Board & Commission terms will expire. Of these terms, 18 new appointments will be required. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Board of Adjustments, Board of Appeals, Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board, Industrial Development Authority, Library Board of Trustees, Park Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, Public Safety Advisory Board, Rental Ordinance Appeals Board, Tax Increment Finance Commission, Traffic Committee and SEMO University - Sikeston Campus Advisory Council. Residents seeking appointment to these or other board and commission positions are asked to complete and submit a Resource Bank Application. Applications can be accessed and filed electronically from the City's website, <http://www.sikeston.org>. Application forms are available at Sikeston City Hall and the Sikeston Public Library. Applications received by the August 21 deadline will be submitted to the City Council during their August 31 Special Meeting. (Applicants should have no outstanding taxes or unpaid fines.)

A brief description of the City's boards and commissions with their term, area of responsibility and meeting date/time, follows:

Board of Adjustments: 5-year term. The Board of Adjustments is a quasi-judicial body created by State Statute and City Ordinance. Its purpose is to make rulings on appeals resulting from decisions made by a zoning officer and to grant relief from the literal enforcement of the zoning ordinance in certain hardship situations. The Council, other than by appointment, does not interact with the Board of Adjustments. The decisions of the Board can only be appealed to state courts. The Board meets on an as-needed at 4:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Members must be a citizen of Sikeston.

Board of Appeals: 3-year term. The International Property Maintenance Code, as adopted by the City of Sikeston, establishes minimum requirements and standards for all existing premises, structures and buildings, and fixes the responsibility of owners, operators and occupants. The Board of Appeals hears all appeals relative to the enforcement of this code. It meets on an as-needed basis. Members are required to be either a registered architect or registered engineer, or be from the following professions: licensed general contractor, electrical supplier, licensed heating and cooling contractor, plumbing supplier, licensed plumber, building supplier, licensed electrician or licensed real estate broker. (Should qualified candidates not be available from these professions, Council may duplicate or substitute a field.)

Enhanced Enterprise Zone Board: 5-year term. This board advises Council on designation of enhanced enterprise zones and any other advisory duties as determined by the City Council. After designation of an enhanced enterprise zone the board reviews and assesses zone activities, and submits reports as required by law to the State of Missouri. It meets on an as-needed basis.

Industrial Development Authority (IDA): 6-year term. Organized under Chapter 349 of State Statutes, the IDA is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes and solicits industrial and economic development projects. Members must be taxpayers who have resided within Sikeston for five years prior to their appointment. No director shall be an officer of the county or city. The IDA meets on an as-needed basis.

Library Board of Trustees: 3-year term. Trustees serve as a liaison between the Library and the community, and have oversight responsibility of Library operations. Members must be citizens of Sikeston. The board meets at 4:30 PM on the first Monday of each month.

Park Board: 3-year term. This Board advises City Council on issues related to park services, facilities and necessary funding. It meets at 5:15 PM on the second Monday of each month in the Clinton Community Building.

Planning & Zoning Commission: 4-year term. Advisory in nature, the Planning & Zoning Commission is charged with developing and adopting the City's comprehensive plan – a plan for the City's physical development that includes recommendations for the use of land, general location of streets, public grounds and public utilities. The Commission develops and submits recommendations for the City's annual street and stormwater improvement program, provides recommendations related to all zoning issues and recommends approval of subdivisions within the City. It meets at 4:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month. This meeting time is subject to change to accommodate scheduling of public hearings.

Public Safety Advisory Board: 3-year term. Advisory in nature, the board recommends programs to enhance public cooperation and acceptance of DPS. Applicants must be a registered voter of Sikeston. The Board meets at 7 PM on the third Monday of every other month.

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Boards & Commissions, Continued

Rental Ordinance Appeals Board: 3-year term. This Board was created to help preserve the quality of Sikeston's housing inventory and to protect its neighborhoods from neglect and deterioration. The Appeals Board is charged with hearing and making a determination on appeals resulting from the application of Sikeston's Rental Property Standards as outlined in the Section 8 Guidelines for Housing Quality Standards. Members must be a resident for one year prior to their appointment. Members consist of landlords, tenants, construction trade professionals and citizens at-large. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Commission: 4-year term. Advisory in nature, the TIF Commission is convened to study the economic viability of proposed development projects seeking to use tax increment financing. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

Traffic Committee: 3-year term. The Committee hears requests and makes recommendation to Council on traffic-related matters. Meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

SEMO University – Sikeston Campus Advisory Council: Three year terms commence on January 1. The Advisory Council provides input to the SEMO Board of Regents on curriculum at the Sikeston Campus. Meetings are held at 10:30 AM on the last Wednesday of each quarter.

Questions regarding the City's boards and commissions may be directed to Linda Lowes, Director of Governmental Services at 471-2512 or lloves@sikeston.org.

SACC Spirit Award...

To encourage on-going community betterment, the Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the SACC Spirit Award. This program recognizes area businesses that demonstrate superior attitude, customer service and community spirit. It also recognizes homeowners who maintain their homes in a manner that reflects positively on their neighborhood and our community.



Business of the Month: Kenny Rogers Children's Center



Home of the Month – Mrs. Mary Lou Armour
1810 Ables Road - Sikeston