COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
April 13, 2026
11:30 a.m.
Busch Municipal Building, 840 Boonville Avenue
Councilman Denny Whayne Room (4th Floor)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Monica Horton, Abe McGull, Callie Carroll, Brandon Jenson, Bruce Adib-Yazdi, Craig Hosmer, Heather Hardinger, Derek Lee, and Jeff Schrag.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Jordan Paul, City Attorney; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; and Kristina D'Andrea, Executive Secretary.

GUESTS: None.

Mayor Schrag called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m., and roll call was conducted. Present: Abe McGull, Callie Carroll, Derek Lee, Monica Horton, Brandon Jenson, Bruce Adib-Yazdi, Heather Hardinger, Craig Hosmer, and Jeff Schrag. Absent: None.

A draft of the November 4, 2025, minutes were presented for consideration, and Mayor Schrag asked if anyone had any changes or questions. Councilmember McGull moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2025, meeting as presented. Councilmember Horton seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Carroll, Lee, Horton, Jenson, Adib-Yazdi, Hardinger, Hosmer, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mayor Schrag noted the purpose of the meeting was to consider a potential appointment to the Board of Public Utilities to fill the unexpired term of Steve Edwards who moved outside City Utilities' service area. He read Section 16.2 of the City Charter, which outlined eligibility requirements for board members, including residency, professional experience, and a minimum two-year subscription to at least one City-owned utility (excluding transit), which must be maintained throughout the term. He also referenced the Proposed Voting Procedures for City Council, included in each Councilmember's binder.

Councilmember Lee asked that the Board of Public Utilities requirements be emailed to City Council.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi inquired about board membership eligibility for individuals who resided outside City Utilities' service area but owned multiple businesses within the service area. Jordan Paul, City Attorney, responded the intent of the City Charter was for board members to be City Utilities customers who resided within the service area. He added he consulted with City Utilities' legal team, and they concurred with this interpretation.

Councilmember Hosmer inquired about notification processes. Ms. Cotter explained the application process, noting applications were accepted year-round and maintained on file. She added the Public Information Office (PIO) distributed media releases to local outlets announcing the interview date for the Board of Public Utilities and encouraging applications. Mayor Schrag asked Ms. Cotter to coordinate with the PIO to expand public education efforts in the future. It was also recommended that information regarding Boards and Commissions vacancies be provided to the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Neighborhood Association Council. Ms. Cotter noted that educational materials on City boards and commissions would be available at upcoming Mayor's Community Conversations, providing an opportunity to engage citizens on City board service.

Councilmember Jenson asked whether the resignation was related to the current board audit and whether Erin Danastasio could continue serving on the Citizens' Advisory Board if nominated. Ms. Cotter responded Mr. Edwards moved outside the service area, and the City Charter did not restrict members from serving on more than one City board, and that would be up to the Committee of the Whole. Mayor Schrag noted the Planning and Zoning Commission was the only board with specific service restrictions.

Councilmember Jenson inquired about the total number of applications received from residents outside the city limits. He requested a list of names be provided for him, along with reasons for any disqualifications.

The Committee moved forward with interviews of the candidates for the Board of Public Utilities. The same seven questions were asked of each candidate (Exhibit A).
The candidates who resided outside city limits but within City Utilities' service area were interviewed in the following order:

11:50 a.m. - Greg Snyder
12:00 p.m. - John Chastain
12:10 p.m. - Dr. Charles Woodall
12:20 p.m. - Erin Danastasio
12:40 p.m. - Thomas Douglas

Ms. Cotter distributed the ballot for one appointment to fill the seat vacated by Steve Edwards.

Councilmembers Jenson and Hosmer expressed support for increasing diversity in the applicant pool and on the Board of Public Utilities. Committee members discussed the importance of broader representation across all boards and commissions. Mayor Schrag asked Councilmember Jenson whether the Plans and Policies Committee should review a robust plan to support diversity across all boards and commissions, and he responded affirmatively. Ms. Cotter noted she was currently conducting a board audit for presentation in May to the Plans and Policies Committee.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi moved to postpone the vote to allow for an additional round of media outreach to obtain more applications while retaining the current applicants in the candidate pool. Councilmember Horton seconded the motion, and the motion failed by the following vote: Ayes: Jenson, Adib-Yazdi, Hosmer, and Horton. Nays: McGull, Hardinger, Lee, Carroll, and Schrag. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Erin Danastasio received five votes during the first-round vote (Exhibit B). This met the voting requirements for at least five votes and the highest total number of votes in that round.

Councilmember Jenson moved to adjourn. Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Carroll, Jenson, Lee, McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Horton, Hardinger, Hosmer, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:23 p.m.

Prepared by Kristina D’Andrea

Approved by members at the May 5, 2026
Committee of the Whole meeting