CITY OF MALDEN

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL SESSION
CITY HALL- 607 N DOUGLASS ST, MALDEN MO 63863
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Email: Kayla@maldenmo.com
October 5, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Denton Kooyman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT
COUNCIL MEMBER COOPER	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER SANTIE	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER JENKINS	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER GRANT	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER DIERKS	X	
COUNCIL MEMBER BECKETT		X

MEMBERS PRESENT: 6

Others in Attendance: City Administrator/ Utility Director Jeff Mitchell, City Attorney Jonce Chidister, Deputy DPS Director Tiffany Pflasterer, Mayor Denton Kooyman and City Clerk Kayla VonRuden

1. **Invocation**
   Dan Hargrave from Stokelan Drive Christian Church led the invocation

2. **Open Forum**
   None

3. **Approval of Minutes**
   MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to approve the Regular City Council Session minutes of September 21, 2026
   SECOND: Council Member Cooper

   Motion Passed: 6/0

4. **Amendment of Early Retirement Policy**
   The City Administrator presented a proposal from a union representative to expand eligibility for the existing early-retirement health-insurance benefit. The current benefit provides up to 18 months of City contribution toward insurance at the premium amount in effect upon separation. Discussion addressed eligibility based on years of service and age, including a proposed alternative for employees with at least 25 years of service and a combined age-and-service "rule of 75." City Attorney Jonce Chidister explained that policy language and bargaining-unit contract amendments would require subsequent consideration and approval.

MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to authorize preparation of revised early-retirement language incorporating the rule of 75 for presentation at a future meeting and discussion with union representatives.

SECOND: By Council Member White.

Motion Passed: 6/1

5. Health Insurance Opt-Out Proposal

The City Administrator proposed offering employees who waive City-provided health insurance a flat $200 monthly payment. The city currently pays approximately $722 monthly ($8,664 annually) per covered employee; the proposed payment would total $2,400 annually, for an estimated annual savings of $6,264 per participating employee.

Discussion addressed coverage through a spouse or other source, qualifying life events for re-enrollment under insurer rules, and possible bargaining-unit amendments. The Council considered preparation of formal policy language for later approval.

MOTION: By Council Member Santie to authorize preparation of a health-insurance opt-out policy amendment for Council review, including applicable re-enrollment provisions.

SECOND: By Council Member Grant

Motion Passed: 6/0

6. City Administrator Report

- Splash Pad: The sign design, featuring a green wave, has been finalized. Two additional splash pad components have not yet arrived; staff is following up.
- Grants: Approval of two grants was reported, including a Blue Shield grant; an application for a third grant was also reported.
- Streets and Signs: Staff were contacted regarding installation of received signs and placement of chat on Cedar Street. A rough trench or street cut near Graham/Ozark was reported for follow-up.
- City Cleanup: A concern about missed or delayed pickup was raised; the Administrator agreed to check on it.

7. City Council Liaison Reports

Council Member Dierks – None

Council Member Grant – None

Council Member Jenkins – Discussed a traffic signal complaint. MoDOT inspected the signal and reported that it was operating properly; repainting the stop line was also discussed. Concerns were raised about trains blocking crossings during school traffic. Council explained that rail operations are regulated federally.

Council Member Cooper – Reported a possible structure on City-owned property. Staff agreed to investigate and advise the Council.

Council Member Santie – Asked about the City Council meeting recordings and postings to the City website. progress on Wells 5 and 6, planned concrete and building work, and removal of hazardous trees in the park. A possible increase in the underground electric service charge was referred for Board of Public Works consideration.

Council Member White – None

Discussion addressed duplicate utility bills mailed by the billing service in place of current bills. Corrected bills were sent, and the late-payment period was extended one week. High seasonal electric bills and customer inquiries were also discussed.

8. **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor requested continued thoughts and prayers for Bo and his family and reported no additional matters.

9. **Other Business Deemed Necessary**

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Council Member Santie to adjourn

SECOND: By Council Member Jenkins **Motion Passed: 6/0**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kayla VonRuden

City Clerk, Kayla VonRuden

Mayor, Denton Kooyman