CITY OF MALDEN

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL SESSION
CITY HALL- 607 N DOUGLASS ST, MALDEN MO 63863
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Email: Kayla@maldenmo.com
November 2, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Denton Kooyman called the meeting to order at 6:00 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	ARRIVED AT 6:05
VACANT			

Others in Attendance: City Administrator/ Utility Director Jeff Mitchell, DED/Airport Director Tara Smothers, Deputy DPS Director Tiffany Pflaserer, Mayor Denton Kooyman and City Clerk Kayla VonRuden

1. Invocation

Paster Stewart Allen Clark led the invocation

2. Open Forum

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: By Council Member Santie to approve the Regular Session City Council Meeting minutes of November 2, 2026.
SECOND: By Council Member Dierks

Motion Passed: 5/0

4. Airport- Resolution for Sale of Property

The Council considered a request from Tara Smothers to release certain acreage on the Malden Regional Airport and have also sent the same request to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Discussion identified the property as approximately 1.64 acres located across from the residence referenced during the meeting. The property is being purchased for business purposes.

MOTION: By Council Member Santie to approve Resolution 3287
SECOND: By Council Member Dierks

Motion Passed: 6/0

5. Appointment of Ward 1 Council Member

Mayor Kooyman nominated Valerie Hinkle to fill the vacant Ward One Council seat.

The Council discussed the upcoming election and clarified that both Ward One positions will be on the ballot. One position will carry a one-year term, and the other will carry a two-year term.

MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to approve the appointment of Valerie Hinkle to the vacant Ward One Council seat.
SECOND: By Council Member Santie

Motion Passed:6/0

6. Health Insurance Opt- Out

The Council revisited the proposed employee health insurance opt-out policy.

City Administrator Mitchell stated that the policy language had been discussed with the union representative and that the representative was generally agreeable to the proposal.

The remaining concern involved the annual increase cap for the opt-out stipend.
After discussion, the Council elected to retain the 10% annual increase cap as written in the proposed policy.

MOTION: By Council Member Beckett to approve the Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy
SECOND: By Council Member Jenkins

Motion Passed: 6/0

7. Amendment to Early Retirement Policy

The Council considered an amendment to the City's early retirement policy.

The proposed amendment would establish a rule based on an employee's age and years of service, with the combined total reaching 75. Discussion included a minimum service requirement, and the proposed language was reviewed with the union representative.

MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to approve the amendment to the Early Retirement Policy as presented and discussed.
SECOND: By Council Member Beckett

Motion Passed: 6/0

8. City Clerk Report

City Clerk reported that a Deputy City Clerk had been hired. Tammy Rawlings was identified as the new employee and was reported to be doing well.

The City Clerk also reported that property tax statements had been mailed that day. Residents should expect to receive their statements within approximately one week.

9. City Administrator Report

The City Administrator provided the following updates:

- Street Department: Crews had been trimming tree limbs along various streets and planned to continue the work in City parks after completing the street work.
- Graham Street: Staff planned to inspect a street cut on the north end of Graham Street that may need additional fill.
- Splash Pad: The splash pad was scheduled to be winterized during the week.
- Splash Pad sign: The sign had been installed but was too small to read from the roadway. A larger replacement sign was to be ordered.
- Washington Street Property: Staff planned to mow the property as soon as weather permitted.
- Graham Street Potholes: A work order had been submitted for pothole repairs.

10. Council Liaison Report

Council Member Beckett- Asked about the status of City-owned property that had previously been discussed for possible use. The City Administrator reported that he had not yet received an update. Council discussion indicated support for retaining the property rather than selling it.

Council Member Dierks-None

Council Member Grant- None

Council Member Jenkins- Raised concerns regarding potholes on Graham Street. The City Administrator confirmed that a work order had been submitted for repairs.

Council Member Jenkins also reported standing water along Davis Street toward Decatur Street. Discussion indicated that recent excavation and water/sewer project work in the area may be contributing to the issue. Staff reported that the next phase of the project was expected to address the area as weather permitted.

Council Member Santie- Raised concerns regarding noise and activity at a local assisted-living facility. Police Department comments indicated that calls had not recently increased and that most calls involved non-disturbance matters.
Additional discussion included mobile food vendors and their licensing and inspection requirements. Vendors must obtain a City business license and meet applicable health department inspection requirements. A no-tax-due certificate was also discussed.
Council Member Santie raised concerns regarding motorized scooters being operated on City streets, particularly at night, and encouraged residents to contact the Police Department with concerns.

11. Mayor's Report

Mayor Kooyman congratulated Valerie Hinkle on her appointment to the Ward One Council seat and welcomed her to the Council.

The Mayor thanked the Park Board for hosting the Halloween parade. He noted that the event had a large turnout and discussed the possibility of adding a trunk-or-treat event at the park in the future.

The Mayor reminded residents that Election Day would be the following day and encouraged everyone to participate in the election.

The Mayor announced that Malden High School would hold its annual Veterans Day ceremony on November 11 at 9:00 a.m. The public and area veterans were invited to attend.

12. Other Business Deemed Necessary

None

13. Adjournment

MOTION: By Council Member Jenkins to Adjourn
SECOND: By Council Member Beckett

Motion Passed: 6/0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Attest:

Kayla VonRuden

Kayla VonRuden- City Clerk

Denton Kooyman- Mayor