

City Council Workshop Minutes
Monday, June 30th, 2025; 6:30 P.M.
The Centre, 1200 Holloway St., Rolla, MO

Presiding: Mayor Louis J. Magdits IV

Council Present: Mattias Penner, August Rolufs, Andrew Behrendt, Nathan Chirban, Steve Jackson, Aaron Pace, William Hahn, David Shelby, Tom McNeven, Kevin Greven, Michael Dickens, and Tina Balch

Note: Councilman Jackson joined at 7:04 p.m.

Department heads: City Administrator John Butz and Parks Director Floyd Jernigan

A. History and Current Operations of the Recreation Centre.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., Mayor Magdits called the workshop to order. He explained that no formal action would be taken during this session, which was intended primarily to educate the six newly elected Council Representatives of the 28-year history and current operations of the Recreation Centre.

The process of building a recreation center started with the need to replace a failing outdoor pool and a desire to build a community center with gym space. A citizen committee was formed, and two ballot measures were presented to enact a tax and build a recreation center as well as to pay off bonds related to same. Over the years it became clear that the building's design was not conducive to generating sufficient revenue to cover all operating and capital costs.

Contracting with Power Wellness to manage The Centre in 2020 was anticipated to yield promising results with medical integration. However, shortly after the agreement was finalized, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, drastically altering the operating landscape. What had been a net income loss ranging between \$200,000 and \$400,000 has today become over \$600,000.

Although federal ARPA funds helped offset the immediate revenue shortfall, several ongoing challenges have continued to impede financial recovery. These include persistently high attrition rates, a lack of corporate support, delays in the launch and adoption of the medical integration program, and a growing list of costly maintenance issues. Collectively, these factors have prevented The Centre from reaching its goal of becoming a self-sustaining operation.

Specific possible action plans were briefly explained, each with a brief overview of their respective pros and cons. A more comprehensive discussion will be held in an upcoming July workshop, including the possible closing of the facility or parts of the facility, approaching the citizens for ongoing tax support, and/or community partnerships to support operations.

At 8:34 p.m. the workshop was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted: Lorri Powell , City Clerk