

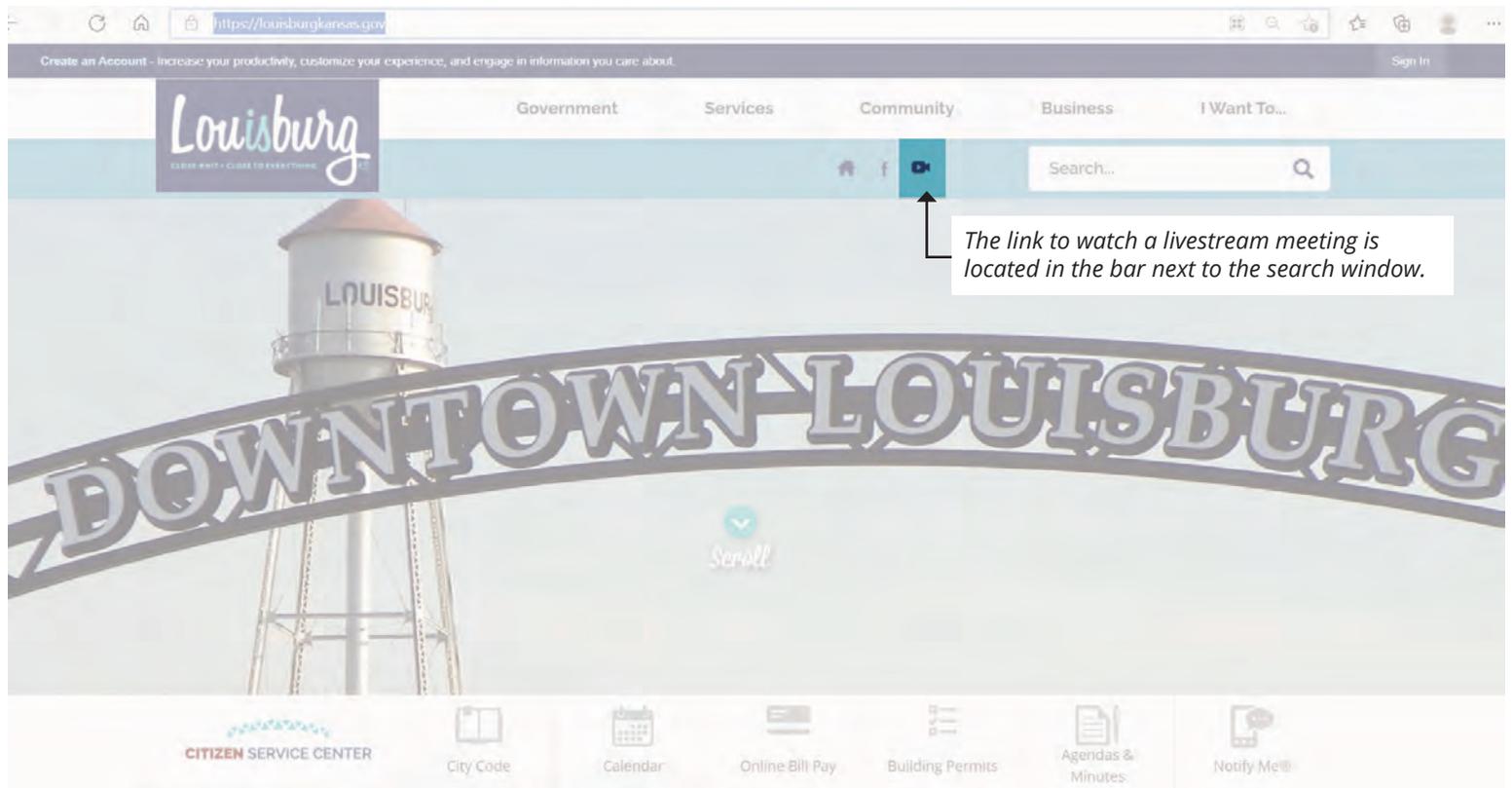
Louisburg

Speaks ^{KS}

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August - September 2021



City meetings now livestreamed

The City of Louisburg has gone live.... livestream that is. City government meetings including city council, park and tree board, planning commission, historic preservation commission and building and zoning appeal are all available via a livestream link. The shortcut to the link, which is a movie camera icon, is available next to the search bar on the city's website: www.louisburgkansas.gov.

The city began to livestream meetings in July. The link will take viewers to the most current meeting that is available to view. Other meetings are listed under the Related Videos heading on the lower right side of the page. As long as a viewer has an internet connection, meetings can be viewed as they happen or watched at a later date.

Mayor Marty Southard said livestreaming provides several benefits to residents.

"We want to be as transparent as possible and encourage more citizens to watch what is happening with their local government," he said.

All livestreamed meetings start at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The city council meets the first and third Mondays of each month unless it is a federal holiday and then the meeting moves to Tuesday. The historic preservation meeting is the first Wednesday, park and tree board meets the second Monday while planning commission meets the last Wednesday. The board of zoning appeals meets as needed but generally prior to a planning meeting.



Mayor

Marty Southard
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Scott Margrave
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Ward 3

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City Hall

Nathan Law
City Administrator
215 S. Broadway
Louisburg, KS 66053
913-837-5371
www.louisburgkansas.gov
Hours: 7 am - 4:30 pm
Monday-Friday

Police Department

Chief Tim Bauer
209 S. Metcalf Rd.
Louisburg, KS 66053
913-837-3191

Fire Department

Chief Gerald Rittinghouse
205 S. Metcalf Rd.
Louisburg, KS 66053
913-837-4700

Louisburg Speaks is published six times a year by the City of Louisburg for its residents. Please direct questions or comments to jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov

The City of Louisburg requires building permits. Please call the Building & Zoning Department at 913-837-5811 before beginning any construction project.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Become a volunteer for the city

Volunteers play a key role in many communities and Louisburg is no exception. Volunteers allow cities to provide extra services or allow for residents to take an active role in the community.

Currently a few of Louisburg's volunteer boards have openings for new faces. This may be your chance to bring about change in our city.

The City has several different boards and commissions that utilize volunteers.

The Planning Commission meets the last Wednesday of each month and is a nine-member board; two members may reside outside the city limits. This commission acts as the chief advisor to the City Council regarding planning and zoning. Per state statutes, planning commissions are responsible for the determination, enforcement and amendment of zoning issues. The commission also approves or denies preliminary and final plats and site plans.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is a five-member board; two may reside outside the city limits. This board meets on an as-needed basis to hear and decide appeals in which there may have been an error in an order, requirement, decision or determination made by the Codes Administrator in the enforcement of the City's zoning regulations.

The Park and Tree Board meets the second Monday of the month and is made up of six voting members and one non-voting member representing the Louisburg Recreation Commission. There is no residency requirement to this board. The board advises the City Council in the planning, maintenance, development and operation of all park areas and facilities owned or leased by the City, formulates park policies and assists in the establishment of fees and regulation of use of city parks and facilities.

The Louisburg Recreation Commission, established in the November 2017 election by a vote of residents living within the USD 416 area that encompasses the city limits, has two members appointed by the Mayor, two members appointed by the

Board of Education and one member, who resides in USD 416, selected by the LRC. The group meets the third Tuesday of each month.

The historical preservation commission meets the first Wednesday of each month. It is made up of individuals who love history and want to preserve the historical aspects of Louisburg. Ideally two members shall have interest, knowledge or training in historic preservation fields such as history, architectural history, engineering, building trades or real estate. Two members may reside outside the city limits.

The Fox Hall/cemetery board meets quarterly to oversee the operations of Fox Hall and the cemetery. The board has five voting members but is not restricted to city of Louisburg residents.

All of these boards have fantastic volunteers who work hard to help the city run smoothly. If you would like to do your part, fill out an application which can be found on the city's website under the Government tab and then Boards & Commissions. If you have further questions, as always please do not hesitate to contact me at 913-908-6384.

One last committee is the Freedom Fest committee that works all year to put on the fantastic Fourth of July celebration in town. This community group always has a need for volunteers. While the other city boards and commissions have appointed members, the Freedom Fest committee is open to anyone that would like to help out with the annual celebration.

We have something for everyone, and we can use your skills, interests and abilities to continue to make Louisburg a better place to live for many future generations.



MARTY SOUTHARD

Government Funding – Revenue and Taxes

Aside from utilities and associated fees, the largest form of revenue that a government entity has is taxes. A number of taxes support City of Louisburg services including: ad valorem or property tax, sales tax, motor vehicle tax, recreational vehicle tax, heavy vehicle tax, commercial vehicle tax, watercraft tax, and franchise tax. If all vehicle-type taxes are combined into one category, four types of taxes remain that provide revenue for the general fund with property tax contributing the most revenue and franchise tax contributing the least. While we may only pay a couple of those taxes once or twice a year, those taxes fund many of the services that otherwise the City could not provide.

Let's take a closer look at how these taxes are factored and collected.

AD VALOREM OR PROPERTY TAX

Property tax is what you pay for owning a house inside the taxing jurisdiction in which you live. For the City of Louisburg, the city tax is added on top of taxes assessed by Miami County, USD 416 and Louisburg Library District No. 1. The process for calculating those taxes goes like this:

- County determines the value of your house and land, along with all other property in the city.
- County provides the estimate of total valuation of all property in the city.
- City of Louisburg builds a budget and determines how much property tax revenue is needed.
- County assesses needed property tax on each property based on a formula specific to use of property and other statutory requirements.
- Property owners receive a property tax statement of taxes owed for the year.

While that is a very general summary of the greater taxing process, there are additional considerations for how your individual property is taxed. Looking only at the City tax portion, the formula for calculating taxes on residential property is:

- Appraised Value of House & Land x Residential Assessment Rate (11.5%*) = Assessed Value (*this number is established by the state constitution)
- Assessed Value x City Mill Rate = Property Tax

Here's an example on property that is appraised at \$250,000:

- House & Land appraised at \$250,000 x 11.5% = \$28,750
- \$28,750 (Assessed Value) x 30 mills = \$862.50

The formula utilizes the "mill rate" to simplify calculating individual property taxes. One mill is mathematically one one-thousandth of a dollar, or \$0.001. The example of 30 mills is equivalent to 0.030. The mill rate is typically an easier number to compare than running a formula on each property. It is also easier to say the City is raising or lowering mill rates than to say the overall valuation of the city has either increased or decreased. Raising or lowering the mill rate adjusts the ad valorem, remember that's property tax, that is used to support the general fund and debt service.

In years when valuations increase a homeowner will pay more in taxes even if the mill rate stays the same. This allows the taxing entity, like the City of Louisburg, to collect more tax revenue without a mill levy increase. All aspects of the budget are reviewed during the annual budget hearing that must occur, as required by state statute, before it is approved by the governing body. An approved budget is filed with the State of Kansas through the County Clerk's office.

At the City of Louisburg, these budget hearings typically include a presentation with a recommendation or explanation of the general fund and other property-tax supported funds. The Council conducts one or more budget workshops prior to the budget hearing with City staff and department heads to determine what projects and expenses should be planned for the next year. That includes discussing whether to take advantage of increased valuations and keep the mill rate the same or lowering the mill rate to offset the valuation increase. In those years when the valuations decline, the Council must decide if the mill rate will stay the same but tax collections will decrease or if the mill rate needs to increase to cover all the expenses.

Budget hearing

The Louisburg City Council will conduct the 2022 budget hearing during its regular meeting Tuesday, Sept. 7 at City Hall.

SALES TAX

The other large revenue source for the City is sales tax that, unlike property or vehicle taxes that are collected annually, are collected monthly by the state based on residents' everyday purchases. Some consider sales tax a hidden tax due to how infrequently shoppers scrutinize their receipts after buying groceries, clothing, etc. Other taxing entities can add their individual smaller amounts of tax to make up the overall sales tax. Of the current sales tax paid within the city limits, the City of Louisburg only collects 1.5 percent of the full 9.5 percent sales tax. The County also collects 1.5 percent while the state gets the remaining 6.5 percent. In 2020, sales tax dollars on local purchases brought in over \$2 million to support the City's general fund, infrastructure improvement fund and the Aquatic Center.

GUARANTEED TAX REVENUE

Ad valorem, or property tax, is the only source of funding that is guaranteed to the City. Taxes received from various motor vehicle tax are dependent on vehicle sales and renewals. Sales taxes can fluctuate up or down depending if residents shop locally or purchase their goods and services outside the city. City staff has to estimate sales tax revenue, sometimes six months or more before receiving the revenue within the budget year.

The City's proposed 2022 budget is taking advantage of the ad valorem increase with a slight decrease in the mill levy, from this year's 34.454 to 32.441 mills next year.

Santa makes plans to visit Louisburg

Santa Claus reached out to Louisburg City Hall staff during Christmas in July and wanted to be sure he could make a stop in our fair city.

Mark your calendars for his visit from 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 at City Hall.

City Hall staff will assist the Jolly Elf and will again take reservations for time slots so children — and parents — don't have to wait in line. The Louisburg Recreation Commission will help Santa's elves with the visit.

Watch for sign-up information on the City and LRC's Facebook pages in early November.

Community events to close city streets

Three events this fall will close city streets.

Broadway from Amity to S. Ninth St. will close for the Labor Day parade starting at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 6.

The Chamber of Commerce's Cider Run will close Broadway along with other streets Saturday, Oct. 2. Watch for more details coming in September including a race route map.

Halloween on Broadway will close the downtown area during the late afternoon on Saturday, Oct. 23 for the annual trick-or-treat event.



It's never too early for Santa Claus to schedule his trips from the North Pole. Last year Santa visits the girls and boys of Louisburg virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic but is planning an in-person trip this year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Louisburg Planning Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Aug. 25
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Fox Hall Board

5 pm Monday, Aug. 30
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historic Preservation Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 1
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Hall closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Tuesday, September 7
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
meeting moved to Tuesday

Louisburg Park & Tree Board

6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 13
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 20
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission

6 pm Tuesday, Sept. 21
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 29
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 4
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historic Preservation Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Oct. 6
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board

6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council

6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 18
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission

6 pm Tuesday, Oct. 19
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Planning Commission

6:30 pm Wednesday, Oct. 27
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

An updated calendar as well as agendas and minutes for city meetings can be found at www.louisburgkansas.gov under the Agendas & Minutes icon. Meetings can be watched via the livestream link on the homepage of the City's website.

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