

## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Public Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Excelsior Springs will conduct a **Council Meeting at 9:00 AM, May 22, 2026** to consider and act upon the matters on the following agenda and such other matters as may be presented at the meeting and determined to be appropriate for discussion at the time.

The tentative agenda of this meeting is as follows.

**City Council  
City of Excelsior Springs**

### AGENDA



City Council Meeting  
9:00 AM  
Friday, May 22, 2026  
Council Chambers at Hall of Waters Building, 201 E Broadway, Ex.  
Springs MO

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#### Call to Order

Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Visitors

This time is reserved for public comment addressed to the City Council. Each speaker is limited to 5 minutes. Any agenda item which has a Public Hearing should be reserved until the Public Hearing is opened and comments on such item will be taken at that time.

#### CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

1. Open Public Hearing for Public Comment Regarding the Proposed Ordinance and Ballot Question Regarding Transient Guest Tax
2. Close Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Ordinance and Ballot Question Regarding Transient Guest Tax
3. Consideration of Calling an Election on August 4, 2026 to Submit to the Voters a Proposition Authorizing a Five Percent (5%) Transient Guest Tax for the Promotion of Tourism - Ordinance No. 26-05-06

Remarks - City Manager

Remarks - City Council

Remarks - Mayor

Adjourn

Representatives of the news media may obtain copies of this notice by contacting the City Manager's office, 201 East Broadway. Phone (816) 630-0752.

If any accommodations are required in order to attend this meeting (i.e. qualified interpreter, large print, reader, hearing assistance), please notify the City Manager's office no later than 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

**Date and Time of Posting: AMENDED AGENDA POSTED Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at  
3:00pm**



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**Board/Commission Members**  
**City Council 5/22/2026**

TO: City Council  
FROM: Sonya Morgan, Historic Preservation Commissioner  
DATE:  
RE: Consideration of Agenda

Motion to Open the Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Transient Guest Tax

None



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**Board/Commission Members**  
**City Council 5/22/2026**

TO: City Council  
FROM: Sonya Morgan, Historic Preservation Commissioner  
DATE:  
RE: Consideration of Agenda

Motion to Close the Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Transient Guest Tax

None



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**City Manager's Office**  
**City Council 5/22/2026**

TO: City Council  
FROM: Melinda Mehaffy, City Manager  
DATE:  
RE: Consideration of Agenda

TO: City Council  
FROM: Melinda Mehaffy  
DATE: May 13, 2026  
RE: Hotel Motel Tax

The City of Excelsior Springs is seeking approval to move forward with a Hotel Tax to support Tourism Development in our community. The proposed tax would be levied at a rate of 5% on the charges for all sleeping rooms paid by transient guests of hotels, motels, Bed & Breakfast establishments and short-term rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.). The proposed purpose and potential uses of the tax would be used solely to promote tourism in Excelsior Springs. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Regional Marketing Efforts:** Expanding our advertising reach across key markets to drive overnight stays and extended visitation.
- **Support for Tourism Events:** Enhancing existing events and launching new signature experiences that increase hotel occupancy (e.g. Wine Festival, CEC Conference, BBQ Weekend).
- **Public Art Installations:** Adding interactive, photo-worthy art pieces and sculptures to create more visitor engagements downtown and in adjacent neighborhoods.
- **Trolley Transportation Expansion:** Improving routes and schedules to connect The Elms, downtown businesses, and other attractions more effectively.
- **Incentives for Conferences & Events:** Creating a local incentive program similar to Liberty's model, offering reimbursable gift certificates or amenities to attract group bookings and event planners.
- **Tourism Infrastructure Enhancements:** Wayfinding signage, beautification, visitor amenities, and tech tools like digital kiosks.
- **Local Hospitality Training & Workforce Development:** Providing customer service training and hospitality certifications that elevate the level of service offered to our guests.

While final oversight has not yet been determined, funds would be collected and managed by the City of Excelsior Springs. To ensure transparency and strategic impact,

it has been discussed that a Tourism Advisory Commission would likely be established. This body would help guide how funds are prioritized and distributed. Representatives could include a Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Inc. representative, a Chamber of Commerce representative, an Elms Hotel and Spa representative and a resident of the City of Excelsior Springs.

Examples of other Missouri communities with successful hotel tax programs include Liberty, Gladstone, Smithville, Washington, Parkville, North Kansas City, Warrensburg, Weston and St. Charles.

The proposed hotel tax represents an opportunity to invest in the continued growth and long-term vitality of Excelsior Springs without placing the financial burden on local residents. Because the tax is primarily paid by visitors staying in local lodging establishments, the revenue generated can be reinvested directly into initiatives that strengthen tourism, support community events, enhance marketing efforts, improve visitor experiences and promote economic development throughout the community.

1. ES - ord - call election - Transient Guest Tax

**ORDINANCE NO. 26-05-06**

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING AN ELECTION ON AUGUST 4, 2026, TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A FIVE PERCENT (5%) TRANSIENT GUEST TAX FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM**

**WHEREAS**, Section 67.1003, RSMo, authorizes certain cities to impose, upon voter approval, a tax on the charges for all sleeping rooms paid by the transient guests of hotels and motels situated in such city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Excelsior Springs deems it advisable and in the best interest of the City to submit to the qualified voters the question of whether such a tax shall be imposed for the sole purpose of promoting tourism;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Pursuant to Section 67.1003 RSMo, a tax is hereby imposed on the charges for all sleeping rooms paid by the transient guests of hotels, motels, bed-and-breakfast establishments, and short-term rentals situated in the City of Excelsior Springs at a rate of five (5) percent for the sole purpose of promoting tourism. The proceeds of such tax shall be used by the City solely for the promotion of tourism. Such tax shall be stated separately from all other charges and taxes.

**Section 2.** The question of whether to impose the tax described in Section 1 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the City at an election to be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. The ballot of submission shall be in substantially the following form:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

**CITY OF EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MISSOURI  
August 4, 2026**

Shall the City of Excelsior Springs impose a tax on the charges for all sleeping rooms paid by the transient guests of hotels and motels (including bed-and-breakfast establishments and short-term rentals) situated in the City of Excelsior Springs at a rate of five (5) percent for the sole purpose of promoting tourism?

- YES
- NO

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:**

If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "YES." If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the box opposite "NO."

**Section 3.** The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to notify the election authority of Clay County, Missouri, of the adoption of this Ordinance no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2026.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

**INTRODUCED IN WRITING**, read by title two times, passed and approved this 22nd day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:

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Sonya Morgan, Mayor

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Shannon Stroud, City Clerk

REVIEWED BY:

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Melinda Mehaffy, City Manager