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St. John adds digital sign at City Hall

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ST. JOHN • Officials hope a newly installed digital sign in front of City Hall will improve communication with residents and maybe save the city a little money.

The sign will inform residents of upcoming council, planning and zoning and board of adjustment meetings possibly reducing the need for placing ads in local newspapers, Public Works Director James Phillips said Monday. In addition to announcing a meeting on the sign, mentioning it on the city's website and posting a notice at city hall would be "adequate public notification" for some meetings, Phillips said.

"How many people really go to the public notices in the newspaper and read that?" he added.

But Police Chief/City Manager Terry Milam said federal laws require notification of public hearings on things like the community development block grant distribution be made in a "newspaper of general circulation" adding: "It depends on what the public meeting is and who's requiring it." He said the city's code review committee will discuss at its meeting next week what information will be posted on the digital sign.

Milam said he is not concerned about the sign, which cost about \$24,000 distracting drivers. Similar signs at Walgreens and Floyd's Tire and Car Care Center were installed for several years, he said.

"We haven't seen a problem with them yet," he said. "It's just one more way of notifying the public and keeping them in touch with what's going on."

In other action, the council decided to cancel its Jan. 21 meeting because of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Tags [Terry Milam](#), [James Phillips](#), [St. John Mo](#)

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