



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Monday, June 16, 2025  
5:00 PM

Pre-Council

City Hall  
Conference Room  
1A/1B  
701 E. Broadway  
Columbia, MO

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buffaloe called to order at approximately 5:02 p.m.

**Present:** 6 - Buffaloe, Foster, Waterman, Peters, Carroll, and Sample

#### Water and Light Advisory Board Applicant Interviews

Mayor Buffaloe provided an overview of the commission and its duties. The questions asked included why the applicant was interested in serving on the board, how the applicant understands the duties of the board, and an acknowledgement of the time commitment needed to serve on the board. She asked about the experience the applicant had on utility infrastructure projects and how it can support the work of the board. She asked for examples of the applicant considering complicated issues. She asked about balancing sustainable practices with financial constraints. She asked the applicants their views on the current rate structure, as well as the factors the applicants would consider regarding rate adjustments. Both participants had the opportunity to ask questions to the Council.

The applicants interviewed included:

Ryan Westwood

Larry Skaer

#### Pedestrian Study

**Attachments:** [Street and Intersection Pedestrian Safety Study Presentation](#)  
[Columbia Pedestrian Safety Study DRAFT](#)  
[Pier Cities with Median Ordinances Memo](#)  
[DRAFT Maps](#)

Shawn White, a principal with CBB, presented the Street and Intersection Pedestrian Safety Study. He noted that Missouri has approximately 1,000 traffic related fatalities annually. He added that about a third of Columbia's fatalities are pedestrian fatalities, with about 80% of those being at night. In the study, the firm reviewed where fatalities occurred. He noted that Stadium & Worley was an area with increased pedestrian injury, and highlighted some examples.

Shawn discussed the Safe System Approach, adding that it isn't often just the failure of one system that leads to a fatality. He noted the number of programs at the state and federal level looking to address pedestrian safety. He noted that Columbia follows national standards for pedestrian safety, and that Columbia was the first city in Missouri to adopt Vision Zero.

The study recommendations included maintaining designated pedestrian areas so they have safe places (e.g. sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.), ensuring temporary traffic control set up to warn drivers that pedestrians will be present, and ensuring pedestrians use temporary pedestrian refuge as necessary when crossing. Shawn discussed driver speeds related to drivers being aware of their surroundings as well as survivability, with higher volume roads posing more of a risk.

Ms. Carroll voiced a concern of pedestrians being able to cross the street with the short time signals. Shawn noted federal regulations with the signal timers, adding that in areas near certain businesses, such as senior centers, more time may be allotted.

The presentation included example cities with median ordinances, including Springfield, MO, Sioux Falls, SD, Abilene TX, Bismarck ND, and San Angelo TX. The recommendations included restrictions put on individuals' ability to be in the median if the speeds are higher than 35 MPH, the traffic daily volume is 15,000, or the medians are less than 6 ft wide.

Mr. Foster asked about the age of the pedestrian fatalities in Columbia and about the jurisdiction as some of the roadways highlighted are MoDOT maintained. Ms. Peters noted that on College Ave. the university put up a wall to limit pedestrian traffic. Ms. Carroll noted that the City has a significant population of nondrivers, including seniors and low income residents - she noted that there are often pedestrians in unexpected places due to roll carts in bike lanes and the incomplete sidewalk network. She noted that individuals using mobility assistance may have to navigate in the roadway if the sidewalk they are using abruptly ends.

The Mayor noted that this study is still a draft - she added an interest in seeing if the map provided could also overlay our existing sidewalk network. Ms. Carroll hoped to use this discussion to initiate communication with MoDOT related to the crosswalk timers on their roadways within city limits. The Mayor asked about when staff would like the feedback from Council. Shane Creech, Public Works Director, noted that they were seeking feedback for next steps and the timing is at the discretion of Council. Ms. Peters expressed an interest in an education component to help students better understand who has the right of way in an intersection. The Mayor asked that Council to provide feedback and questions to staff within the next few weeks.

### Council Budget Priorities

**Attachments:** [FY26 Council Budget Priorities Presentation](#)

Matthew Lue, Finance Director, reviewed the Council budget priorities first discussed in April. He reviewed the FY 2025 Council Priorities, including Housing, Public Safety, Social Services, and Infrastructure. The current Council priorities include Housing, Social Services, Technology, Infrastructure, Organizational Excellence, and Public Safety, noting that it may be beneficial to narrow this list to three main objectives. He noted that it would be a tough budget year. Mr. Foster agreed that Council needed to narrow the list down. The Mayor noted that she felt like it was a given that employees were the top priority. She also noted that infrastructure isn't a one year project. She asked De'Carlton Seewood, City Manager, how he evaluates budget requests through the lens of these priorities. De'Carlton noted that, if cuts are needed, he doesn't want to cut items that Council has specified as a top priority. Mr. Foster asked about how infrastructure is differentiated from our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ms. Peters added that it would be beneficial to know how we are defining these items so Council will know what they are prioritizing.

Ms. Carroll noted that many of their priorities seem linked, like housing and social services. She noted concerns about budgets for nonprofits, adding that nonprofits are often partners with the City to provide social services.

The Mayor noted that a risk assessment of the potential federal funding cuts could help inform their priorities. She added that more agencies may seek support from the City in the event of federal cuts. De'Carlon added that, if approved, some of the items included in the H.R. 1 could lead to cuts, citing CDBG funding as an example. The Mayor asked about analysis to maintain programs that may be at risk of losing federal funding. Mr. Foster stressed that staff would need to be nimble when facing potential cuts. He noted that we should strive to ensure everyone who lives in the city should feel safe, have opportunities, and adequate infrastructure wherever they live in the community. He asked if there was a way to tease apart public safety from organizational excellence. De'Carlon noted that approximately 50% of the general fund budget was public safety.

Ms. Peters asked for clarification on the technology priority. De'Carlon noted that the City has a robust IT team who are able to develop products, allowing for cost savings. He noted that technology focused on what is needed to make the City a better equipped, better informed organization. Ms. Peters offered her priorities as public safety and social services.

Ms. Carroll noted social services and housing remain a key priority for her. She added that as times get lean for government, they also get lean for residents. She asked about a timeline for a public safety tax. Ms. Sample agreed with Ms. Peters that no project should be left unfinished. She noted housing and infrastructure as priorities for her. Mr. Waterman noted that public safety and employees should be top of the list, but agreed with Ms. Sample on the infrastructure. He felt that housing could be considered a component of infrastructure as well.

De'Carlon clarified that all the current list were priorities, but staff was looking for feedback on which items Council prioritized the highest. He noted that, if considering the general fund, infrastructure primarily meant public works projects as the utilities were in separate funds. Ms. Carroll discussed prioritizing incentives for infill as it relates to affordable housing and asked if the City was able to do so as currently situated. De'Carlon noted that we do not have a sustainable way to do so.

## **II. ANY OTHER ITEMS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS**

None.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:54 p.m.