



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, January 9, 2023
5:00 PM

Work Session

Council Chamber
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Mayor Buffaloe called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Transit Staffing Discussion

Shane Creech, Director of Public Works and Mike Sokoff addressed Council in regards to the chronic staffing shortages which have required long periods of mandatory overtime from the Transit operators. Coupled with an increase in demand for Paratransit services, Go COMO believes it is necessary to combine daily fixed bus route service until operator staffing levels improve. Creech indicated no bus stops are being eliminated. There are currently six individual routes that will be combined into three routes serving the same stops at a 90-minute interval, instead of the current 45-minute loop. It will be the same service Transit currently operates on Saturday, but with existing weekday service times.

Creech showed the Council a slide of what areas the current routes serve. The new 90-minute routes will combine red with green, gold with blue, and orange with black. Public Works recommend these changes begin in early to mid February.

Creech went on to explain that this transit operator shortage is not just a local issue but a nationwide issue as well. He discussed the challenges, operational needs and paratransit requirements and challenges.

Creech said there are six Commissions that have been consulted for their input as an RFP is prepared for a transit study. The Commissions were given until Dec. 31 to submit suggestions to the PTAC chair for review. The study is expected to be underway by early Spring 2023.

Council and Staff discussed hopes of what to accomplish which included reducing overtime and improving recruitment and retention.

II. ANY OTHER ITEMS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Buffaloe adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.