



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Clerk

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 15, 2025

Re: Options related to Broadcasting/Streaming City Council Meetings

Impacted Ward: Citywide

### Executive Summary

At the October 20, 2025 Pre-Council Meeting, the Council asked for additional information regarding the ability to broadcast/stream more city council meetings.

### Discussion

Currently, regular city council meetings, a few work sessions, and the occasional pre-council meeting are live-streamed via Granicus and broadcast to 80-1 on cable TV. A majority of the remainder of the meetings are recorded and the audio recordings are generally placed on the website within 1-2 days.

Conference Room 1A/1B, where a majority of the non-live-streamed and non-broadcast meetings are held, is limited in its capacity at this time. Upgrades to the Council Chamber and Conference Room 1A/1B are planned for 2026, but the exact timing is dependent upon contract negotiations and execution, procurement of necessary equipment, and the installation of the equipment.

Option 1: Continue as is until the upgrades are made to Conference Room 1A/1B, which would allow the meetings to be held in Conference Room 1A/1B, and upload the audio to the website later, usually within 1-2 days.

Option 2: Add a static video feed. This would allow the meetings to remain in Conference Room 1A/1B, and the video would be uploaded to the website later, after going through a closed captioning process. This would increase transparency, but accessibility would still be limited since the audio is not ideal.

Option 3: Utilize YouTube or some other software to live-stream a static video feed with closed captioning provided by that software, and upload the video to the website later.

Option 4: Move all meetings to the Council Chamber and handle them like regular council meetings as that room is set up for live-streaming and broadcasting on the cable channel. Based on current capacity, the added cost would be \$98 per hour for closed captioning services. In reviewing the meetings held in 2024 and 2025, the estimated added cost would have been \$2,989 and \$3,626, respectively. In addition, if there are back to back council meetings, a 5-10 minute break will be needed to address logistical issues, i.e., change in

closed captioner, ensuring the new video feed is ready, assisting those with presentations for the regular meeting, etc.

Option 5: Revisit this issue once the improvements are made to Conference Room 1A/1B because the improvements should allow for vastly improved audio and video outputs.

Options 1, 2, 3, and 5 would allow for the less formal and more conversational meeting atmosphere to remain.

Options 2 and 3 would increase transparency, but would likely not significantly improve accessibility because the closed captioning would be limited to the quality of audio, which might be hard for the software to translate.

Option 4 would allow for increased transparency and accessibility, but would result in a more formal meeting setting.

#### Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The anticipated cost varies depending on the option, but likely less than \$5,000 per year.

Long-Term Impact: The anticipated cost varies depending on the option, but likely less than \$5,000 per year.

#### Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

##### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

##### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

#### Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------|--------|
|      |        |

#### Suggested Council Action

Provide direction on how to proceed.