



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, November 17, 2025
7:00 PM

Regular

City Hall
Council Chamber
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was taken with the following results: Council Member JACQUE SAMPLE, Council Member NICK FOSTER, Council Member DON WATERMAN, Mayor BARBARA BUFFALOE, Council Member VALERIE CARROLL, and Council Member VERA ELWOOD were present. Council Member BETSY PETERS was absent. City Manager De'Carlon Seewood, City Counselor Nancy Thompson, City Clerk Sheela Amin, and various Department Heads and staff members were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 6, 2025, October 20, 2025, and November 3, 2025 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Buffaloe and a second by Council Member Foster.

Mayor Buffaloe made a motion to remove R160-25 from the agenda at the request of staff. The motion was seconded by Council Member Waterman, and approved unanimously by voice vote.

The agenda, including the consent agenda with R160-25 being removed from the meeting agenda, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Buffaloe and a second by Council Member Waterman.

II. SPECIAL ITEMS

SI25-25

Recognition of Civic Academy Fall 2025 Participants.

Mayor Buffaloe recognized the graduates of the most recent Civic Academy, which included Russell Boyt, Aaron Powell, Alexandra Bohannon, Amy McMullen, Ben Miller, Caroline Bueler, Caroline Chicoine, Corrina McClee, David Devos, Diamond Tabron, Elizabeth Hornbeck, Evan Hankins, Freddy Heintz, Jordan Barnes, Justice Stanley, Ken Rice, Kyle Owen Sullivan, Liz Aten, Logan Kuykendall, Marcello Sieveren, Marcia Walker, Nigelle Cochran, Stephanie Cooper, and Tony Accurso.

III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC11-25

Board and Commission Applicants.

Upon receiving the majority vote of the Council, the following individuals were appointed to the following Boards and Commissions.

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Puri, Raman, Ward 5, Term to expire December 1, 2028

Rawlins, Randa, Ward 5, Term to expire December 1, 2028

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Avery, Eileen, Ward 5, Term to expire November 30, 2028
Brown, Alec, Ward 2, Term to expire November 30, 2028
Darland, Shelby, Boone County, Term to expire November 30, 2028
Loveless, James, Ward 4, Term to expire November 30, 2028
Shanker, Richard, Ward 6, Term to expire November 30, 2028

COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Sparks, Symonne, Ward 5, Term to expire October 31, 2027

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST ORGANIZATION BOARD

Bush-Cook, Tracey, Ward 3, Term to expire December 1, 2029
Tabron, Diamond, Ward 2, Term to expire December 1, 2029
Trotter, Jeremy (Jaye), Ward 1, Term to expire December 1, 2029

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Belcher-Harris, Reuutasha, Ward 2, Term to expire December 31, 2025
Fabsits, John, Ward 4, Term to expire December 1, 2026

MAYOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND HEALTH

Allen, Allicyn, Boone County, Term to expire November 30, 2028
Coleman, John, Ward 6, Term to expire November 30, 2028
Foulk, Lance, Wad 6, Term to expire November 30, 2028

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMISSION

West, Ethan, Ward 6, Term to expire March 1, 2026

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Kirtley, Patricia, Ward 6, Term to expire October 31, 2026
Madala, Lakshmi, Ward 1, Term to expire October 31, 2026
Snyder, Mia, Ward 1, Term to expire October 31, 2028

Mayor Buffaloe explained the Tobacco Retailer License Review Board would need to be readvertised.

IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC52-25 Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon - Caring for our unhoused neighbors.

Molly Housh Gordon, Pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Board President of CoMo Mobile Aid, and a First Ward resident, commented that among the deep sorrow and fear of the tragic shooting in the downtown on September 28 that had left one dead and two others injured, the University of Missouri System President had stepped up to claim a portion of the narrative by speaking of a terrifying crime wave anchored in a narrative about unhoused people, explained it was important to note that the person charged with the shooting was not a member of the unhoused community, though many now believed he was due to the narrative, pointed out that unhoused people were far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators and the increased criminalizing rhetoric had resulted in increased verbal abuse along with assault by BB and pellet guns from the windows of pickup trucks, stated stories and policies that criminalized the existence of poverty, mental illness, and addiction allowed authoritarians to consolidate control under the guise of restoring safety, warned of the stories that the City Council would be cosigning with any decisions in the future that would control the movements and lives of the unhoused, and believed now was the time to resist authoritarianism by choosing care and telling a better story.

SPC53-25 Douglas Miller and Elizabeth Keach - Speaking in support of Vidwest Studios funding.

Douglas Miller and Elizabeth Keach with Detect Nerd explained Vidwest Studios had provided them with the opportunity to collaborate with other businesses, artists, and creators in the tabletop gaming community, creating connections which would not have been possible otherwise, asked for clarification regarding the letter the City had sent to Vidwest indicating they no longer received funding when the budget showed \$400,000 in cable franchise fees, stated Vidwest provided studio space and industry grade equipment along with training for the use of the equipment for a reasonable membership fee and was a place where collaboration, creativity, and community met, indicated organizations were expected to maintain an active social media presence by producing regular video content, which required access to skilled workers and affordable equipment since not everyone was in a position to attend college or pursue formal training, noted Vidwest removed barriers to entry by providing affordable training and equipment access to anyone from any background at any point in their career, pointed out Vidwest utilized its funds efficiently, returning benefits to the community greater than the amount of funding received, believed many media creators would not be able to continue without access to affordable equipment and training, and felt this was not the time to waiver on support for community media when media access and skills had become so vital to the workforce, economy, and local culture.

SPC54-25 Jessica McNear, Shelter Director, Opportunity Campus - Introduce myself as recently appointed Shelter Director at Opportunity Campus and briefly present with pictures.

Jessica McNear indicated she was the recently appointed Shelter Director of the Opportunity Campus, a program of the Voluntary Action Center (VAC), stated VAC along with Burrell and Clarity Health would be housed in the Cindy Mustard Resource Center, which was anticipated to open in March of 2026, and the Shelter Services Building, which was anticipated to be completed by June of 2026, would include Loaves and Fishes along with Room at the Inn and Turning Point, noted the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) would facilitate an onsite community garden, explained where they were in their capital campaign and how they planned to fund operations on an annual basis, and listed their goals, which included being a cross-system collaborative hub and after-hours resource for the community and reducing hospital ER usage and calls to law enforcement.

SPC55-25 Christine Doerr - What we have to gain from protecting the wooded slopes from bike trails at Gans Creek Recreation Area.

Christine Doerr commented that bulldozing for the bike trail, which had begun in March, had permanently damaged the system of water filtration in the ravines causing filtered water to never make it to the streams, explained most of the land were hills of loess, which was a clay soil very poor at absorbing rain, causing heavy rains to carry clay and silt toward wooded ravines and unfiltered dirty water to go into the streams that fed the Gans Creek due to erosion of topsoil, stated planting trees was not enough, pointed out there were massive benefits to preserving this natural ecology, which was full of native life and mystery, and included providing future generations a place to visit when they needed peace, asked for the construction to be stopped and to not touch the area south of the creek, and demanded a full review by competent and impartial soil scientists.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B265-25

Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to add provisions related to the rights and duties of motorists and pedestrians in major corridor roadways and intersections.

The bill was given second reading by the City Clerk.

Public Works Director Shane Creech and Assistant Public Works Director Lee White provided a staff report, and they along with City Counselor Nancy Thompson and Police Chief Jill Schlude responded to Council questions and comments.

Mayor Buffaloe explained the Council was awaiting feedback from a few boards and commissions, and thus this item would potentially be tabled to the February 2, 2026 Council Meeting.

Dani Perez explained everyone was a pedestrian at some point in the day, but not everyone was a driver, noted over 7,300 pedestrians had died due to a car, felt those deaths were not mere accidents but a failure in policy, stated the proposed ordinance would only police pedestrians as it did nothing to control the behavior of the car or the driver or aid in its visibility, suggested better infrastructure be built even if it inconvenienced and owners and drivers as that inconvenience was a small price to pay to save a life, pointed out sidewalks, medians, and crosswalks were protection, not add-ons or conveniences, understood drivers turned pedestrians were one of the highest types of pedestrians to die in Missouri when on the side of road due to a vehicle breakdown, especially at night, asked the Council to not be derailed by people talking badly about panhandlers when the problem was infrastructure, and reiterated that if they wanted to save lives, they should build infrastructure versus creating an ordinance to police people.

Mark Haim, 1402 Richardson Street, Director of Mid-Missouri Peaceworks, explained he often held signs at street corners, including at intersections with porkchops, commented that while this ordinance might not impede much in the way of discourse at intersections, it was a step in that direction, which was scary, especially during this time in history when civil liberties were under fire and there was a need to allow for discussion, debate, and public displays of concern, and asked the Council to not impinge upon people's ability to express themselves.

Erica, a Second Ward resident, wondered if the First Amendment would be at risk for people utilizing the intersection at Providence Road and Broadway, how many surveys had been received from parents and students of Hickman, whether enforcement of this ordinance would occur close to campus since that was where a lot of the accidents were happening, and if common sense would be used if an officer was having a bad day, expressed concern about someone having to wait more than two light cycles or not being unhoused or disabled as a lot of black students went to McDonalds and Taco Bell in the Hickman area, and asked if the public would be informed of the items in the toolbox mentioned previously.

Matt Schacht, 211 N. Ann Street, stated he had been without a car since 2010, noted the streets were not safe for pedestrians and cyclists as he had been hit twice, sympathized with the public sentiment to make streets safer but questioned its timing and approach, expressed concern for the First Amendment in terms of panhandling or protest when there was not proof of that causing a danger, believed there was a way to differentiate between people creating a hazard with a foot in the roadway versus being fully on the median so that non-dangerous people did not have an unfortunate encounter with law enforcement, felt housing the homeless in jails was more expensive than placing them in a facility as it was likely they would not be able to pay a fine if cited or would not show up for a court appearance, and wondered if it was in the financial interest of the community to enforce the proposed ordinance.

Joseph Anderson, a First Ward resident, stated the proposed ordinance violated several laws and precedents, believed the six-foot median rule was discriminatory as it was

based on ADA design guidelines for construction standards, not criminal enforcement, noted the proposed ordinance punishes the disabled for infrastructure decisions made by the City, felt the two opportunities to cross rule was unrealistic and unconstitutional, expressed concern for criminalizing pedestrians when pedestrians were not left any other choice with the cuts to public transit two years ago, suggested extending bus service into the evenings, providing for better headways, and adding routes on holidays and Sundays if they genuinely cared about safety, pointed out similar ordinances had been struck down in Springfield and St. Louis, and asked the Council to vote no and choose real safety versus criminalization.

Drew McCausland, a reverend at Wilkes United Methodist Church, stated 80 percent of his congregation were from the unhoused and low-income community, noted he knew many people who had spent a lot of time on street corners and medians, including himself as he expressed his freedom of speech and assembly, thought it was shameful that there was a possibility they would vote on this ordinance tonight when there were so many questions without answers, pointed out that the streets were more dangerous when school was in session and criminalizing those standing on street corners would not change that, did not feel they should bow down to those who did not want to look at what they did not want to see because it did not fit their narrative, and hoped criminalizing citizens was not the type of community in which they wanted to live.

Drew Amidei, a Fourth Ward resident, asked the Council to vote no on this ordinance, did not believe there was a good distinction between a student, firefighter, or other community member fundraising and someone trying to make enough to live, felt not letting people access porkchops was a real First Amendment issue as those were popular places to protest, understood a portion of the ordinance allowed for exemptions but did not think the City should be in the business of deciding who received an exemption, noted public infrastructure should be accessible to the public, thought the lack of answers to the Council's questions was shameful as those issues should have been vetted before bringing forth the ordinance for a vote, and reiterated his request that the Council vote no as this would not lead to a safer and more equitable Columbia.

Luke Jensen, a Fourth Ward resident, commented that criminalizing panhandling at the intersections was not a solution as they would still be around, stated he did not believe they could deprive them of some of their only means of getting money, noted he had participated in many protests at medians and porkchops and criminalizing that would reflect badly on the City, pointed out that they should ensure people's basic needs were met if they wanted a safer community, believed there would be many unintended consequences if this ordinance became effective, and asked the Council to vote no.

Samantha, a First Ward resident, asked the Council to vote no on this ordinance, stated the degree of mobility or restriction in the exception clause was very vague, did not feel it should be up to police discretion to determine who was disabled enough to stand or sit at a median, did not believe stopping pedestrians from standing at medians would stop cars from hitting pedestrians as the issue was with cars and not pedestrians, wondered why a community that prided itself on the diversity of thought and opinion would want to restrict people's access to displaying their opinions on street corners, suggested the Council ask the Disabilities Commission to review the ordinance in terms of the exception language, and requested the Council to ultimately strike the ordinance down.

Verity, a First Ward resident, explained the reason she lived in Columbia was because it was a walkable city, commented that she rested, admired the beauty of the area, and talked to people on the streets and sometimes at the medians, stated community happened when giving a water bottle to someone standing at a median on a hot day, did not want to worry about being ticketed if she took the time to write something down between more than two lights, believed panhandlers would just move to other locations if removed from porkchops, and suggested this ordinance be struck down.

Carissa Richardson, an employee of the Boone County Public Defender's Office, stated a majority of her clients were struggling with homelessness or were unhoused, did not

believe this ordinance was centered on safety as it was directed toward exchanges between drivers and pedestrians at intersections and medians, whether that be money, food, pamphlets, etc., noted her clients, if cited, would likely be jailed because they could not afford to pay fines, and any progress, employment opportunity, or bed date for mental health or substance abuse treatment would be gone, pointed out some of her clients were being housed in other counties throughout the State due to the lack of space at the Boone County jail, reiterated this ordinance would not improve safety as the problem was with drivers and how the roads were constructed, not the people standing at medians, and asked the Council to vote against this legislation.

Nathan Ferguson, a First Ward resident, referred to page 11 of the Pedestrian Safety Study where it indicated pedestrians in the medians waiving signs, dancing, etc. was distracting or surprising to drivers, and did not understand how that was distracting as he felt it was ordinary, mundane, and part of everyday life.

Shane Lowe, 1133 Ashland Road, asked the Council to consider a no vote on this ordinance, questioned the purpose of streets and roads, i.e., whether they were a part of the community as a public space or if they were just for the conveyance of vehicles, wondered if curtailing the First Amendment rights of individuals was worth the better conveyance of vehicles, believed the highlighted roads on the map showed where the promises of America would be incomplete in terms of the First Amendment, understood the desire for pedestrian safety, and suggested roads and streets be built around humanity and community instead of the need to shuffle along at the next change in the light.

Susan Maze, a First Ward resident, stated this ordinance was not about pedestrians nor safety, pointed out the ordinance was about controlling the panhandling population and stopping the unsheltered from being, noted politics in Columbia had gotten a lot nastier in the last couple of years with the increase in unsheltered people, explained that in recent elections, many of the current council members had been outspent by a 3:1 margin with the main topic being crime and safety but had still won by about 20 points, and asked the Council to act like leaders.

Luke Fennewald, 710 Glenstone Drive, commented that this ordinance did not make the 763 interchange, which he understood was MoDOT maintained, any safer because the problem was the lack of lighting and crosswalks, not pedestrian and driver interaction, at that location, pointed out there was no feasible way to walk from Moser's to Clark Lane safely, and suggested they focus on lighting and pedestrian infrastructure instead of pedestrian and driver interactions if they were concerned about safety.

Grace Conrad believed this ordinance was a waste of resources, time, and energy, stated concern for the number questions associated with it that should have been resolved prior to bringing it forward, especially when the impacts, such as a ticket, could cost people more than a bad day, felt the logistical issues should give them pause, noted the better path forward was through infrastructure, and asked the Council to vote no.

Samantha, a First Ward resident, stated this issue was due to drivers and the lack of crosswalks, sidewalks, and median spaces, noted Columbia was not a walkable or accessible city, believed her unhoused neighbors were no different than those in the houses next to her, felt that criminalizing the unhoused for trying to find a way to exist in a world that was already hard made their lives and the community worse, noted that putting them in prisons made it harder on her as a taxpayer as her money would go toward prisons instead of expanding medians, creating crosswalks, and constructing sidewalks, which were desperately needed, was offended by the idea that a person in a median would be more of a distraction than another driver, pointed out violence was not caused by the unhoused population but was instead caused by students coming into the population with their drama, problems, and violence among each other, and asked the Council to vote no on this ordinance because it did nothing to help.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, stated he did not believe the issue would be solved with the proposed approach, suggested reflective armbands be issued to those in

need of it, and asked the Council to look into whether the park at the corner of Range Line Street and Wilkes Boulevard would be closing.

Aaron George asked the Council to vote yes on this ordinance, felt it was easier to put up signs and enforce the law than to bury a body, noted the issue did not involve those walking or moving around as the issue was with those loitering, provided examples of times when he had almost hit someone due to it being dark and rainy, people laying with their feet in the roadway, and the multiple number of dogs and people within a small six-foot area, believed enforcement would be based on common sense in that the disabled would not be harassed and people would be asked to move along to their destinations, stated panhandling enabled people versus helping them, and pointed out there were other safer places to protest so this would not take away people's First Amendment rights.

Mike Burden, representing Local Motion, explained Local Motion supported efforts to make Columbia streets safer for everyone, believed mobility was a human right, and envisioned a community built for people where it was easy to work, bike, roll, and ride transit so everyone could get where they needed to go, noted the Street and Intersection Pedestrian Safety Study identified 47 locations where speed and roadway design created a risk for people walking but did not find evidence that pedestrians standing on medians were a cause of crashes or deaths, stated effective safety improvements came from redesigning high speed corridors, lowering speeds, and making intersections more accessible for all users through improved design, felt the proposed ordinance did not include any specific safety improvements for pedestrians and could be used to punish people for not walking correctly, encouraged the City to collaborate with the State to improve the community with data driven solutions for College Avenue and Clark Lane, which MoDOT identified as in need of immediate safety improvements in their most recent Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment, and to continue with the pedestrian level of comfort map and the updates to the complete streets policy to guide design changes and infrastructure improvements that would make the community safer for everyone, pointed out the proposed ordinance failed to address the problems it proposed to solve and opened the door to potential overpolicing, which could further restrict the mobility of the most vulnerable and decrease safety by pushing people to other parts of the roadway, and asked the Council to oppose this ordinance.

Arch Kimbriel commented that he lived in the downtown and utilized medians to cross larger roads, such as Broadway and College Avenue, because it was easier to wait than expect cars to stop as they did not stop, even at crosswalks, explained he was 21 and able-bodied, but still struggled to make it across, suggested adding time to allow people to cross major roadways, noted the homeless were not going away and limiting where they could be would just concentrate them into tighter areas, stated he wanted them to be treated with dignity and the same rights as others at the medians, understood this ordinance predated the increase in policing downtown but expressed concern with the police and always being watched, and asked the Council to vote no on the ordinance.

Truman Oaks, a First Ward resident, stated he was against this ordinance as it would not do much to help with pedestrian safety, felt that if they wanted to protect pedestrians and the flow of traffic, it would be better to allow the exchange of money than to pull someone over or go to the median, and believed if the ordinance was passed, they would have a long journey of education, likely through enforcement, which was more trouble than it was worth.

Matt Jenne, Chair-Elect of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, explained the business community was supportive of this ordinance, noted public safety was a main issue for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce as a safe and prosperous community allowed businesses to thrive, felt it was difficult to say it was safe for someone to stand on a six-foot wide piece of concrete for an extended period of time with cars traveling by at 40-50 miles per hour, believed an exchange created a distraction or a delay when the light changed, pointed out many businesses were located at these intersections so this

created an issue for people getting in and out of their businesses, and stated the business community was supportive of safety and this ordinance, as it was a safety ordinance.

Alyce Turner commented that the Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association had taken a position against this ordinance because it was geared toward restricting panhandling versus pedestrian safety, understood the Supreme Court had ruled in 2015 in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* that ordinances restricting or prohibiting panhandling were unconstitutional, noted she and 50-70 others were on medians and public sidewalks in the community most weekends to protest what they perceived as the horrors going on in the country, and believed this ordinance, if passed, would restrict her right to express her opinions under the First Amendment.

Keith Brown, a First Ward resident, explained he was almost homeless at the beginning of the year, had been homeless once in the past, and had owned a home in the past, was horrified by this bill as it would take away the rights of people to speak or rest at the porkchops, noted he might not look disabled but was, so this law could directly affect him by making him a victim of financial distress, and asked the Council to not pass this bill as it would make him and many others suffer.

Randy Quisenberry, a First Ward resident, commented that he was currently unemployed but in a better situation than others as he was a homeowner, had reliable transportation, and had been given plenty of prior notice, understood many were rent insecure, without a vehicle, and living in a vehicle or couch-surfing, stated those out on the streets were exposed to the elements, assault, etc., suggested they make things better by providing housing and fixing the economy as that was better than potentially violating people's First Amendment rights, and urged the Council to not pass this ordinance.

Tom Trabue indicated he was a registered professional engineer who had designed many public roadways over the years, agreed with the conclusions of the traffic consultant, noted roads and highways were first and foremost designed for the conveyance of vehicles, those designs, as part of complete streets, made provisions for pedestrian crossings at crosswalks in an orderly and predictable fashion, and individuals positioning themselves on narrow medians were not predictable, stated the report section on driver distractions addressed the safety impacts associated with that, pointed out the proposed ordinance was a safety ordinance as it addressed the safety of pedestrians and the traveling public, and was consistent with the vision zero policy, and encouraged the Council to adopt the ordinance.

Kristin stated the proposed ordinance misused the Street and Intersection Pedestrian Safety Study and undermined Columbia's Vision Zero commitment to eliminate traffic deaths through better design as it never recommended banning people from medians or limiting pedestrian presence on major corridors but instead called for engineering solutions, such as better designed crosswalks, wider refuge islands, improved lighting, and slower traffic speeds, understood the ordinance would make it a crime to stand on a median less than six feet wide, hand out a flyer, have a donation cup, or petition a driver at a red light, which were protected forms of speech under the First Amendment, noted the ordinance would impact the most vulnerable members of the community, i.e., those that needed more time crossing, those without cars, those asking for help, and those exercising their rights to advocate publicly, pointed out the ordinance explicitly exempted government employees, construction crews, and permitted special events, which was concerning because if one did not pay for a permit, they were not considered safe, but if one paid for a permit, they were considered safe, explained the City's data showed 72 percent of crashes were at intersections, not medians, so the ordinance targeted the wrong locations while ignoring the real problem of unsafe intersection designs and high vehicle speeds, felt if they truly cared about safety, they would widen and improve medians, lower corridor speed limits, and expand the Vision Zero projects which protected everyone using the streets, and asked the Council to vote no because a safer Columbia would come from better design, not punishing citizens.

Ken Rice stated he was representing the Disabilities Commission, which indicated concern with the provisions that prohibited pedestrians from being in the roadway or from crossing outside of a crosswalk because, in some instances, individuals using wheelchairs or with other mobility impairments had no choice but to enter the roadway due to missing sidewalks or obstacles, such as broken pavement, or found it safer or more feasible to cross at another point, and asked that there be a period of education before citations were issued if the ordinance were to pass.

Catherine Armbrust, a representative of CoMo Mobile Aid Collective, stated it was not the people nor animals on the medians that were dangerous as it was the drivers that assaulted folks asking for assistance while stopped at the light by spitting, pepper spraying, throwing trash, or calling in false alarms or welfare checks, read from comments of a homeless friend, who had indicated she used panhandling as way to help others while meeting the basic needs of her, her husband, and her dog, had taken the initiative to supply others with clothing, food, shelter, and more, had seen some friends move out of homelessness while others had died on the streets, and believed the ability to ask for support while on medians sustained her ability to assist the community in a fast and efficient way with immediate assistance and that this ordinance was an obvious workaround to subvert her First amendment Rights, noted this would criminalize rather than resource, urged the Council to vote against furthering the policing of people's existence and instead look for more creative ways to provide resources, and suggested they encourage the use of social workers versus police officers.

Willie commented that the ordinance was laughable as it was not about safety but rather to oppress the homeless so they would not be seen, and suggested they lower speed limits, enforce speed limits, and remove bird scooters and e-bikes off of the sidewalks if they were really concerned about safety.

Bill Dijak indicated he was with CoMo Mobile Aid Collective, understood they did not know how many people had been struck when on a median, and thought that should be known when it was the driving force behind the ordinance.

Reese Holcomb, a First Ward resident and Mizzou student, did not believe the quality of life or safety of students would be improved by this ordinance, explained he interacted with panhandlers often and would sometimes give them a dollar, sometimes only have a conversation, or sometimes just walk by, noted those interactions were a minor, insignificant part of his day, stated he and his friends that utilized medians would not be any safer with this ordinance, pointed out there was a difference between safety and discomfort as one might be uncomfortable when seeing a homeless person on a median but they would not be confused, creating a safety issue, when seeing a homeless person on a median, thought it was realistic for people to be stuck at a median for more than two cycles, reiterated this ordinance did not make anyone safer, and urged the Council to vote no.

Alex Bohannon, a First Ward resident, asked the Council to vote no on this ordinance, suggested a cost-benefit analysis in terms of the cost of enforcement versus the construction of additional safety mechanisms for pedestrians, understood the Police Department was not a full force and this would likely add to their workload and routes, wondered if the time of police officers would be better used on solving real crimes or citing motorist driving at dangerous speeds, and believed too much data was missing with regard to this ordinance for good policymaking.

McKenzie Ortiz, a Sixth Ward resident, stated she had panhandled after graduating from college while working as a server in order to obtain bus fare to get home, explained she shared that because she knew what it was like to rely on public spaces and ask people for help when the alternative was to go without a meal or not have a way home, asked the Council to vote no on this ordinance as it would criminalize poverty or punish people for asking for help or existing in a public space while unhoused, and noted if the goal was public safety, they should build and fix sidewalks, improve lighting, slow traffic, and invest in infrastructure that made it safer for people who walked.

Council Member Sample made a motion to table B265-25 to the February 2, 2026 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Foster, and approved by voice vote with Council Member Don Waterman voting no and Council Member Peters being absent.

The Council made comments, which included items they wanted more information regarding when this came back in front of them.

B281-25

Rezoning property located on the west side of Hinkson Creek Road and east of Paris Road (3815 Hinkson Creek Road) from District A (Agriculture) to District IG (Industrial) (Case No. 301-2025).

The bill was given second reading by the City Clerk.

Community Development Director Clint Smith provided a staff report, and he and City Counselor Nancy Thompson responded to Council questions and comments.

Allison Kellenberger, a Board Member of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC), indicated their mission was to preserve family farms, promote stewardship of the land and environmental integrity, strive for economic and social justice by building unity and mutual understanding among diverse groups, both rural and urban, fight to support an independent family farm system of agriculture, prevent environmental degradation, support social justice and economic opportunity, and encourage efforts that promote stewardship of the land and a safe, affordable, high quality food supply, explained their focus was to keep family farms in operations by advocating for policies that supported Missouri farmers, holding mega-corporations accountable, and running a local food cooperative and local pork marketing project called Patchwork Family Farms, asked that the Council deny this rezoning request as they were concerned about land disappearing from agricultural production, questioned whether the shared resources of power and water supply could be sustained, whether the community cared about enabling more climate change, and what the impact would be to other utility users, and suggested contingencies if the rezoning was approved along with the development of a comprehensive approach to data centers prior to allowing them.

James Gordon, 703 West Boulevard North, noted the Council would be wise to vote no as the risk of allowing this rezoning was too great and exacerbated by this discussion, which required them to willfully ignore pertinent information about the intended use of the property, stated he was still grasping to understand the range of developments that were allowed by right under the proposed IG zoning and how well the owner's intended uses fit into that rezoning, pointed out the land was actively being farmed, which was consistent with its historic use as well as the farming happening to the east and south of Hinkson Creek Road, commented that the farmers in the area had been burned time and again by encroaching insufficiently regulated industrial uses that never generated the jobs or broad economic benefits promised, felt this policy by exception versus a deliberative comprehensive community planning process was biased toward commercial real estate development and speculation and unfair to farmers, and asked the Council to help protect the farmland they needed to grow the food they ate.

Dani Perez commented that she was not clear about the protection of the environment when it came to rezoning, especially when hearing about the potential of indigenous artifacts and the health of the Hinkson Creek Road area, and understood farmers were some of the poorest people in Missouri and were needed more than ever to produce food.

Ben Ross with Engineering Surveys and Services indicated he was representing the applicant, the Gordon Arbuckle Trust, explained IG was a light industrial zoning category that allowed for manufacturing, warehousing, and office activities while protecting the surrounding areas from adverse impacts, expressed support of the staff report, which recommended approval for IG zoning, along with the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation, which also recommended approval for IG zoning, provided a history of the subject property, which had been impacted by MoDOT in terms of the development of Route B and Highway 63, pointed out that the Hinkson Creek along with the 20 acres that

would remain agricultural would provide a great buffer between this IG zoned property and the neighbors to the south and across the creek, listed some of the industrial zoned neighbors along with the available utilities, stated the electric capacity available could accommodate another major industry but not a gigantic electrical user and the noise level at the property line would be less than an electric vehicle traveling 20 miles per hour, understood REDI wanted more IG zoned land to attract more jobs and investments into the community and proper zoning was the first step, noted the UDC was designed to protect adjacent property owners, and believed this site was ideal for IG zoning.

Isaac Ellis, 2309 Nelwood Drive, stated he raised cattle across the Hinkson Creek from this property, pointed out Gordon Arbuckle resided in Colorado and was not part of the community, explained he feared the abuse of the property, which was so close to agricultural land, as well as the ability to raise and graze cattle without more pollutants as pollutants were already damaging the area and the Hinkson Creek, noted the lack of clarity and transparency felt threatening to what he did on a day to day basis as a farmer, and believed the value in agriculture was food, which was the use now, but did not know what the value of the property would be if it was rezoned.

Josh Patterson, 3411 Hinkson Creek Road, clarified that he owned the three acres south of this property, which was residential, and his yard was the entire southern border, believed it was too dangerous to move forward due to the number of unanswered questions because once they lost this farmland, it could not be regained, and noted there were cows on the property now so it was being used agriculturally.

Esther Ellis, 2309 Nelwood Drive, referred to two of the principles listed in the Boone County Master Plan, farmland and rural character and natural resources, asked the Council to prioritize agriculture over economic development, noted the land was currently being used to raise beef, and pointed out it would not address all of the food insecurities but would help to fill stomachs.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, suggested they save agricultural land, especially when the alternative would involve a high utility usage development.

Paul Land, owner of Plaza Commercial Realty at 2501 Bernadette Drive, commented that the Gordon Arbuckle's family had owned this property for nearly 100 years, had approached him because they felt the area had changed causing it to not be appropriate for farmland, and felt industrial was more appropriate, explained the property was positioned with highways, utilities, and access, pointed out Gordon Arbuckle was environmentally conscientious as 15 acres would remain agricultural, understood 7-10 megawatts of electricity was available and anything greater would require a cooperative agreement, noted 98.5 percent of industrial property was occupied so there was very little opportunity to recruit new business, and believed it would be a missed opportunity if they did not support this rezoning tonight.

Jamie Blair with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center stated she had been organizing for six years and had not seen a community come together so quickly and on their own, which she believed spoke to how threatened they felt, understood the Council had the responsibility to the growth of the city, and asked that they consider protecting and defending what was already there, which was farmland and these people's way of life.

The Council asked questions and made comments.

B281-25 was given third reading by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: FOSTER, WATERMAN, BUFFALOE. VOTING NO: SAMPLE, CARROLL, ELWOOD. ABSENT: PETERS. Bill declared defeated.

B282-25

Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Par Five Properties, LLC to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 1306 St. Michael Drive; providing a severability clause (Case No. 296-2025).

The bill was given second reading by the City Clerk.

Community Development Director Clint Smith provided a staff report.

Mary Kaye Doyle, 1308 St. Michael Drive, provided a handout, indicated she owned the property next door, explained she generally agreed that property owners should determine the use of their properties unless it adversely impacted the neighbors, expressed concern about the quiet peacefulness of the neighborhood, felt there was no reason to inflict a short-term rental of up to eight unrelated guests even if the neighborhood was predominately rental, pointed out that during the last four months, there had been eight to twelve guests at the home based on the number of cars and trucks parked on the street, stated the requirement of four additional parking spaces would destroy the single-family residential ambiance and cause runoff to the other properties on the street, and asked the Council to vote no on this item.

Edward Doyle, 1308 St. Michael Drive, explained he lived next door to the subject property, noted there were 6-8 vehicles associated with that property recently which made it difficult to travel down the road, thought the Planning and Zoning Commission was correct with its 9-0 vote of denial, and urged the Council to vote against it as well.

Marilyn Brown, St. Andrew Street, expressed concerns regarding safety as there were a lot of families with smaller and middle school aged children who played in the streets and everyone walked in the streets because there were no sidewalks, noted the 4-way stop was difficult to see due to the way the streets connected, and pointed out the yards of the neighbors were close together.

Tim Colton explained he lived directly behind the subject property, was concerned for the safety of those that walked the area since there were not any sidewalks, especially when there were too many cars, and stated he was against this being a short-term rental.

The Council asked questions and made comments.

B282-25 was given third reading by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: NO ONE. VOTING NO: SAMPLE, FOSTER, WATERMAN, BUFFALOE, CARROLL, ELWOOD. ABSENT: PETERS. Bill declared defeated.

B294-25

Amending Chapter 2 of the City Code to establish a collegiate advisory council.

The bill was given second reading by the City Clerk.

Mayor Buffaloe explained the reason she had asked for this group be established, and responded to Council questions.

Logan Kuykendall, the Missouri Students Association (MSA) President for the University of Missouri, asked the Council to vote to establish this group, noted that University students could bring positive tangible change to the community and could better streamline and organize advocacy and initiatives in the community in which they lived and loved, even when only here for a small moment of their lives, and reiterated his request that the Council vote yes on this item.

Claire Grosman explained she was a senior at Mizzou and the Policy and Advocacy Director of MSA, believed the establishment of this group would help to encourage civil engagement among Columbia's student population, provide critical student input on issues affecting them the most, such as housing, safety, and transportation, and strengthen communication between students and the City, and encouraged the Council to establish this group.

Jackson Jacobson stated he was a sophomore at Mizzou and the MSA Senate External Affairs Chair, explained Columbia had become a second home to him and the local community and businesses were why he chose to attend Mizzou, pointed out that of the 129,000 people living in Columbia, 36,000 were enrolled in colleges, believed the Collegiate Council was an excellent way for student voices to be heard, noted he understood students partially caused the chaos and pain, but hoped the pros of their involvement outweighed the cons, and asked the Council to vote yes in order to allow students who loved the community to be able to fight and advocate for it.

B294-25 was given third reading by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SAMPLE, FOSTER, WATERMAN, BUFFALOE, CARROLL, ELWOOD. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSENT: PETERS. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The following bills were given second reading and the resolutions were read by the City Clerk.

- B280-25 Adopting amended FY 2026 Classification and Pay Plans; establishing implementation dates of November 23, 2025 and January 18, 2026; amending Chapter 19 of the City Code as it relates to vacation leave.
- B283-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to SSBMO Properties, LLC to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 502 S. West Boulevard; providing a severability clause (Case No. 295-2025).
- B284-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Curt Krehbiel Properties, LLC to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 1205 E. Ash Street, Unit A; providing a severability clause (Case No. 303-2025).
- B285-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to HAE Properties, LLC to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 308 N. Ninth Street; providing a severability clause (Case No. 307-2025).
- B286-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Trueman Orson and Julie Allen to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 4216 Forum Boulevard; providing a severability clause (Case No. 310-2025).
- B287-25 Accepting a conveyance for temporary public turnaround purposes; directing the City Clerk to have the conveyance recorded; approving the Final Plat of "Centerstate Crossing Plat 1" located on the south side of Vandiver Drive and east of US 63; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 276-2025).
- B288-25 Authorizing a second amendment to PCS antenna agreement and memorandum of second amendment to PCS antenna agreement with T-Mobile USA Tower LLC for the lease of City-owned property located at 1400 Ballenger Lane (Fire Station No. 5).
- B289-25 Authorizing an equitable sharing agreement and certification with the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of the Treasury detailing FY 2025 receipts and expenditures of shared funds by the Police Department.
- B290-25 Authorizing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for On Call Work Zone Enforcement activities.
- B291-25 Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with The Curators of the University of Missouri and University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department to establish and formalize the duties and responsibilities associated with the Mid-Missouri Bomb Squad.

- B292-25 Authorizing the City Manager, or the Manager's designee, to enter into business associate agreements when contracting for provider services that may involve protected health information.
- B293-25 Authorizing expanded HIV testing program agreements with Johnson County Community Health Services, Chariton County Health Department, Audrain County Health Department, Putnam County Health Department, Gasconade County Health Department, and Pettis County Health Center.
- B295-25 Amending Ordinance No. 026112 to correct a scrivener's error associated with the fiscal year identified for an appropriation in the amount of \$21,000 relating to an agreement for professional services with TMT Consulting, LLC for trauma informed and community mental health trainings and presentations.
- R159-25 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of a pre-engineered metal building (PEMB) at the Material Recovery Facility site located on the south side of Peabody Road; providing for construction of the proposed improvement using a design/build contract.
- R161-25 Placing on file for public use, inspection and examination for a period of ninety (90) days certain uniform codes regulating the construction of buildings and continued occupancy thereof.

The bills were given third reading and the resolutions were read by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows VOTING YES: SAMPLE, FOSTER, WATERMAN, BUFFALOE, CARROLL, ELWOOD. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSENT: PETERS. Bills declared enacted and resolutions declared adopted, reading as follows:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

The following bills were introduced by the Mayor unless otherwise indicated, and all were given first reading.

- B296-25 Adopting amended FY 2026 Classification and Pay Plans; establishing implementation dates of December 7, 2025 and January 18, 2026.
- B297-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Chelsea Petree to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 318 Anderson Avenue; providing a severability clause (Case No. 312-2025).
- B298-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Rock Bridge Rentals, LLC to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 1409 Wilkes Boulevard, Apartment 103; providing a severability clause (Case No. 316-2025).
- B299-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Lori Brockman to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 2609 Wee Wynd; providing a severability clause (Case No. 318-2025).
- B300-25 Accepting a conveyance for sewer purposes; accepting Stormwater

- Management/BMP Facilities Covenants; directing the City Clerk to have the conveyances recorded.
- B301-25 Authorizing cost share request/agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation associated with the removal of dead trees at Albert-Oakland Park.
- B302-25 Authorizing a grant agreement with the State of Missouri - Missouri State Council on the Arts for the 2025-2026 Annual Heritage Festival and Crafts Show managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- B303-25 Authorizing an agreement with the City of Fulton, Missouri for mutual aid fire services.
- B304-25 Authorizing an agreement with Columbia School District No. 93 for the Teen Connection Project program services.
- B305-25 Authorizing Amendment No. 5 to the contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for maternal child health program services.
- B306-25 Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the issuance of birth and death certificates and associated information technology activities.
- B307-25 Authorizing a collective bargaining agreement with Columbia Professional Firefighters I.A.F.F. Local 1055.

X. REPORTS

- REP54-25 Business Loop Community Improvement District (CID) - End of Fiscal Year (FY 2024) Report.
- Mayor Buffaloe explained this report was submitted to the City by the Business Loop CID per state statute.
- REP55-25 Rental Inspection Frequency.
- Housing and Neighborhood Services Director Bill Rataj provided a staff report. Council Member Carroll made a motion for staff to begin public engagement and education on a tiered inspection schedule based on the health and safety of the dwelling unit. The motion was seconded by Council Member Elwood. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- REP56-25 Monthly Finance Report.
- Finance Director Matthew Lue provided a staff report, and responded to Council comments.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, commented that people should leave their guns at home when going out to drink as drinking tended to impair one's judgement.

James Gordon, 703 West Boulevard North, believed data centers was highly speculative and overleveraged, suggested they place a moratorium on anything that resembled a data center, i.e., any facility that was mostly for computing purposes, until they were more prepared in terms of zoning and building codes, and indicated he would be happy to talk to any of them regarding the issue at a time convenient for them.

The Council and staff discussed various topics to include appreciation for staff for

updating the council memos so the wards were included, the accessibility issues associated with the ability of commission members to physically attend council meetings to provide reports, looking forward to receiving the list of pending reports, suggesting a report with regard to data centers in terms of impact on the community and environment, which would include positive and negative impacts, a review of other communities in terms of regulation and best practices for consideration in updating the UDC, and potentially considering a conditional use process with specific criteria that could account for the conditions associated with data centers, appreciation for police, fire, utilities, and other emergency service personnel for their work in rescuing the child who had been in the sewer system this past week, appreciation for the police in locating the gentleman associated with the silver alert over the weekend, the ability to obtain flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the Library from 1:30-4:30 p.m. tomorrow, acknowledgment of the work of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the University in winning the bid for this year's NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships along with the number of people it would bring to town this weekend, and an update on recycling in that the City was able to bail residential fiber materials last week in addition to commercial cardboard and would continue that effort as long as the bailer worked and the weather cooperated since it was an open air bailing operation.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 12:01 a.m.