



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, March 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, March 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: Mayor BARBARA BUFFALOE, Council Member VALERIE CARROLL, Council Member LISA E.A. MEYER, Council Member ROY LOVELADY, Council Member NICK FOSTER, Council Member DON WATERMAN, and Council Member BETSY PETERS were present. City Manager De'Carlton 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 March 3, 2025 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Buffaloe and a second by Council Member Lovelady.

Council Member Carroll asked that B41-25 be removed from the consent agenda. The agenda, including the consent agenda with B41-25 being moved to old business, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Buffaloe and a second by Council Member Foster.

II. SPECIAL ITEMS

SI4-25 Swearing in of Paul Eisenstein as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Columbia.

The City Clerk administered the oath of office to Paul Eisenstein as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Columbia.

SI5-25 Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit.

Jonathan Nibarger, Senior Vice President with AGH, spoke regarding the financial audit recently conducted, and he and Finance Director Matthew Lue responded to Council questions and comments.

III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC3-25 Board and Commission Applicants.

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

COLUMBIA SPORTS COMMISSION

Marcks, Carter, Ward 5, Term to expire December 31, 2025

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST ORGANIZATION BOARD

Mitchell, Sabra, Ward 1, Term to expire December 1, 2027

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Downing, Elizabeth, Ward 4, Term to expire December 31, 2027

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Johnson, Sarah, Boone County, Term to expire March 1, 2028

Tell, Tammy, Ward 3, Term to expire March 1, 2028

IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC11-25 Lucio Bitoy IV - Platitudes over policy: How Columbia 'honors diversity.'

Lucio Bitoy IV withdrew his request to speak.

SPC12-25 Sutu Forte - Gans: "The way little of truth and love."

Sutu Forte asked that the ordinance approved on January 6, 2025 involving the mountain bike tournament trail be recalled or amended to relocate the trail due to dangers associated with sinkholes, massive erosion, and the loss of life and serenity, and noted almost 300 people had indicated they had not been aware of the proposed trail project.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH9-25 Consider the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Discussion shown with R32-25.

R32-25 Approving the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The public hearing was read by the City Clerk, and the resolution was read by the City Clerk.

Housing and Neighborhood Services Director Becky Thompson provided a staff report, and responded to Council questions and comments.

Mayor Buffaloe opened the public hearing.

Renee Carter, a Second Ward resident, asked for clarification about how Services for Independent Living kept people in their homes, for the outcomes related to the 305 students served by JobPoint, i.e., whether they had completed the program, obtained jobs, learned a skill, etc., and for the outcomes related to the 130 businesses supported by CMCA, and suggested those details be included in the report in the future.

There being no further comment, Mayor Buffaloe closed the public hearing.

The Council asked questions.

R32-25 was read by the City Clerk, and the vote was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: BUFFALOE, CARROLL, MEYER, LOVELADY, FOSTER, WATERMAN, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B38-25 Granting a design adjustment relating to the proposed Final Plat of Arcadia Plat 10 to allow direct driveway connections to Roger I. Wilson Memorial Drive (Case No. 63-2025).

Discussion shown with B39-25.

B39-25 Approving the Final Plat of "Arcadia Plat 10" located on the northwest corner of Brown School Road and Roger I. Wilson Memorial Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 63-2025).

The bills were given second reading by the City Clerk.

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

Jay Gebhardt, a civil engineer and land surveyor with A Civil Group representing Drew Properties and the contract purchaser, provided a handout, explained the goal of the contract purchaser was to construct a medical office on the northern lot and to create two additional lots in the hopes of bringing likeminded medical services people to that part of Columbia, and noted they were technically only asking for one additional driveway and that the property abutting U.S. 63 would limit conflicts associated with opposing driveways.

Pam Dodge, a representative of the group purchasing the property, indicated they intended to construct a private practice specialty medical office which had low volumes of traffic because they had outgrown their existing space, chose this location because it would be easily accessible to their patients, who tended to be older and lived north of town or in other areas of the State, hoped to bring in likeminded businesses, i.e., doctor's offices, physical therapy services, etc., but wanted to allow for individual access since they did not know what the future would hold.

Mary Denson, a First Ward resident, asked what strict meant when saying they were erring on the side of strict as it pertained to driveway spacing and wondered if higher or lower density developments were being prioritized.

The Council asked questions and made comments.

B38-25 was given third reading by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: BUFFALOE, CARROLL, MEYER, LOVELADY, FOSTER, WATERMAN, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

B39-25 was given third reading by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: BUFFALOE, CARROLL, MEYER, LOVELADY, FOSTER, WATERMAN, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

B41-25 Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with George L. Crawford & Associates, Inc., d/b/a CBB, for a street and intersection pedestrian safety study; amending the FY 2025 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

The bill was given second reading by the City Clerk.

Public Works Director Shane Creech provided a staff report, and he and City Counselor Nancy Thompson responded to Council questions and comments.

Renee Carter, a Second Ward resident, asked how many people had actually been hit, injured, or killed while standing in a median, and City Counselor Nancy Thompson responded with some statistics.

McKenzie Ortiz, 1619 Wilson Avenue, stated the statistics provided were not all associated with medians as the the call log provided by the Police Department, which was not comprehensive, only included one incident at a median, expressed concern for \$96,000 of capital improvement funds going toward data analysis when those funds could be used for projects that had an immediate tangible impact on people's lives, such as one of the 120 pending traffic calming projects, and felt this was a thinly veiled attempt to target homeless people versus pedestrian safety.

The Council asked questions and made comments.

B41-25 was given third reading by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: BUFFALOE, CARROLL, MEYER, LOVELADY, FOSTER, WATERMAN, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. 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.

- B36-25 Amending the FY 2025 Annual Budget Appendix - Authorized Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position identification summary; amending the FY 2025 Classification and Pay Plan by adding and reassigning classifications; amending Chapter 19 of the City Code relating to unclassified service positions.
- B37-25 Voluntary annexation of property located on the north side of Highway KK and west of Villa Wood Court (5961 S. Highway KK); establishing permanent District R-1 (One-family Dwelling) zoning (Case No. 70-2025).
- B40-25 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Courtney Pulley to allow the operation of a short-term rental on property located at 5406 Gemstone Way; providing a severability clause (Case No. 68-2025).
- B42-25 Authorizing a subrecipient monitoring agreement with Boone County, Missouri relating to acceptance of the FY 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award to purchase replacement radios for the Police Department.
- R25-25 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of storm water improvements on Chadwick Drive, between Royal Lytham Drive and Fallwood Court.
- R26-25 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of street and sidewalk improvements along Garth Avenue, between Texas Avenue and Thurman Street.
- R27-25 Setting a public hearing: proposed annexation of property located on the east side of Wyatt Lane and north of Mule Deer Drive (4100 N. Wyatt Lane) (Case No. 126-2025).
- R28-25 Authorizing a HOME investment partnership program developer agreement with Central Missouri Community Action for the construction of fourteen (14) affordable housing units within the Providence Landing Subdivision located on the northeast corner of Hickman Avenue and Providence Road.
- R29-25 Authorizing a tourism development sponsorship agreement with Columbia Art League for the 2025 Art in the Park event.
- R30-25 Authorizing a special event operations agreement with FPC LIVE, LLC for Central Bank Downtown Live outdoor concert events on Ninth Street.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- R31-25 Authorizing a special event operations agreement with Rader Hospitality Company, L.L.C. for the Stop Day Party - Sigmapalooza outdoor concert event.

The resolution was read by the City Clerk.

Convention and Visitors Director Amy Schneider and Assistant Convention and Visitors Director Julie Ausmus provided a staff report, and they, City Manager De'Carlton Seewood, and Police Chief Jill Schlude responded to Council questions and comments.

Jamie Varvaro, the event organizer for Rader Hospitality, explained this event, which involved Dillon Frances, a national touring DJ, had been rescheduled from a date in October, indicated that they wanted to put on a successful and safe event, and noted it would be a ticketed event with fencing around the perimeter.

The Council asked questions and made comments.

R31-25 was read by the City Clerk, and the vote was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: BUFFALOE, CARROLL, MEYER, LOVELADY, FOSTER, WATERMAN, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

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

- B43-25 Approving the Final Plat of "Ewing Place, Plat No. 1" located on the northwest corner of Brown School Road and Highway 763 (1003 E. Brown School Road); authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 30-2025).
- B44-25 Authorizing a financial assistance agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for the Benton-Stephens Neighborhood Historic Survey - Phase I.
- B45-25 Authorizing replacement and improvement of public storm drainage infrastructure on Sexton Road and McBaine Avenue; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division or authorizing a contract for the work using a term and supply contractor.
- B46-25 Authorizing medical directorship and business associate agreements with The Curators of the University of Missouri, on behalf of University of Missouri Columbia School of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine, associated with services provided to employees of the City's Fire Department.
- B47-25 Authorizing an agreement for professional medical services with The Curators of the University of Missouri, on behalf of University of Missouri Health Care and University Physicians, for the diagnosis and treatment of City employee work-related injuries.
- B48-25 Authorizing a master services and purchasing agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for software, equipment, and technology services for the Police Department; amending the FY 2025 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B49-25 Authorizing Amendment No. 2 to the contract with the State of Missouri - Missouri Department of Corrections to provide tuberculosis screening and

testing services.

B50-25 Amending the FY 2025 Annual Budget for second quarter appropriation of funds.

X. REPORTS

REP15-25 FY25 Uncollectible Receivables and Adjustments.

Finance Director Matthew Lue and Assistant Finance Director Jim McDonald provided a staff report, and they along with City Manager De'Carlton Seewood responded to Council questions and comments.

REP16-25 Monthly Finance Report.

Finance Director Matthew Lue and Assistant Finance Director Jim McDonald provided a staff report, and responded to Council questions and comments.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, understood some groups that come before the Council felt they were not being heard and provided those who were against the mountain bike trail as an example, stated concern for trees being removed as part of that project and the proposed Ash Street project, and suggested the Council visit those sites.

Renee Carter, a Second Ward resident, suggested better data be obtained to measure outcomes, explained it would be helpful to know if the money provided was impacting outcomes, such as improvements in the level of poverty, versus just having the number of people served, and believed community members would feel better having those types of metrics.

Sutu Forte, Bluff Dale Drive, invited the Council to walk the Gans Creek Wild Area with her and asked the Council to recall the ordinance that was passed in January allowing for a mountain bike trail in the Gans Creek area and to allow for a meeting between staff, the bicycle people, and the nature people to hopefully come up with a different location for the trail.

Shannon, Boone County, stated she had attended a forum recently and understood a large percent of the City's budget involved public safety, felt public safety was easily weaponized, noted there were other mutual aid infrastructures and systematic changes that could be made to address issues, provided stop day as an example of the need to redefine the event and respond in a manner differently than arresting people, and believed other city department employees should be funded similarly to the Police Department.

The Council and staff discussed various topics to include referring the issue of design adjustments to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Community Development staff to discuss with their next round of Code updates in order to clarify whether all of the criteria had to be met or only considered, which staff agreed to include with future discussions on Code changes, the holding of the first Columbia Police Academy graduation, which involved fourteen graduates, and its significance in terms of conversations in the community and within the Police Department with regard to what they wanted to do and who they wanted to serve along with the investment in those officers to help ensure they came home safely, understanding that the City was in the process of interviewing park rangers to improve trail safety, Council Member Meyer preparing for a big surgery and recovery in April and indicating she looked forward to seeing everyone in May, the holding of the first City Summit, which had been well attended and had likely outgrown its space at City Hall, Council Member Lovelady being thankful for the invitation for his group to perform during the City Summit, the request for a

report exploring the implementation of a ride home program for individuals in response to concerns raised about homelessness whereby transportation would be provided to individuals to the location from which they traveled to Columbia or another location after identifying family members who had agreed to receive them as this would provide needed support while reserving local resources for more local residents, the fact the municipal election was three weeks from tomorrow and that early voting started a week from tomorrow, encouraging everyone to vote, Council Member Peters explaining she did not intend to make a motion to stop the trails proposed in the Gans Creek Recreation Area as the trail that was proposed to cross the creek and be located near the rookery was being reevaluated and the other trail, which was proposed to be located in a field, was fine in her opinion, the fact the Administrator of the Office of Violence Prevention, D'Markus Thomas-Brown, would start on March 31, explaining that this Office would support community organizations to help move the ball but that it would not be a panacea that would eliminate community violence altogether, and the fact the City had increased its efforts with regard to community engagement with events like the City Summit, which had been two years in the making, along with the recent budget town halls and Let's Talk Local events.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 9:32 p.m.