



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council

Monday, March 3, 2025
5:00 PM

Pre-Council - Amended

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: 5 - Buffaloe, Foster, Waterman, Peters, and Carroll

Absent: 2 - Lovelady, and Meyer

This item is open to the public: Convention Center Feasibility Study
Discussion

Attachments: [Convention Center Feasibility Study](#)

Amy Schneider, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director gave an introduction as to why they did the feasibility study.

Schneider explained that they conducted this study in response to Columbia's ongoing growth and increasing interest in bringing business to the community. This study was designed as a tool for developers and stakeholders and others interested in investing in Columbia. Schneider stressed the importance that the City is not interested in building a convention center that would directly compete with hotels. The focus is on identifying opportunities that identify resources.

She then introduced Tyler, the project manager with Conventions, Sports & Leisure International (CSL).

Conventions, Sports & Leisure International (CSL), with the participation of architect Don Grinberg, was retained to conduct a feasibility study for the potential development of a Convention Center in Columbia, Missouri. The purpose of the analysis is to assist in evaluating key market, program, financial, economic, and funding aspects.

Tyler noted the Columbia market has experienced notable residential and economic growth in recent years, with its population growing at nearly four times the rate of the state of Missouri.

Tyler noted the report outlines the findings associated with the analysis. The study results consisted of extensive research and analysis, including a comprehensive set of market-specific information derived from the following:

- PROJECT EXPERIENCE: Experience garnered through more than 1,000 convention, hotel, exposition, sports, and other event and hospitality facility planning and benchmarking projects in communities of all sizes throughout the country.

- EXISTING CONDITIONS: Review of the current and evolving conditions of the

Columbia area and surrounding regional marketplaces, including analysis of 26 competitive conference and event facilities in the state and nearby region.

- COMPARABLE ANALYSIS: Benchmarking analysis of 27 comparable facilities and markets throughout the country, with a focus on event space square footage, supporting hotel inventories, and surrounding destination amenities.

- INDUSTRY TRENDS: Detailed evaluation of macroeconomic trends in the convention and exhibition industries, as well as survey results provided by national meeting planners regarding changing event space and destination preferences.

- SITE VISIT, INTERVIEWS & OUTREACH: Completed a multi-day site visit for tours and meetings with key stakeholders. Detailed telephone surveys were completed with representatives of potential user groups, including state/association tradeshows and conventions, corporate events, public/consumer shows and other such groups/events. Completed more than 50 surveys of event planners representing over 200 total events.

This item is open to the public: Motion for the City Council to go into closed session in Conference Room 1A/1B to discuss:

- Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys pursuant to Section 610.021(1) RSMo.

At approximately 6:09 p.m., Mayor Buffaloe made a motion for the City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri, to immediately go into a closed meeting in Conference Room 1A/1B of City Hall to discuss legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys pursuant to Section 610.021(1) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. The motion was seconded by Council Member Foster.

This item is closed to the public: Closed Meeting in Conference Room 1A/1B

At approximately 6:12 p.m., the City Council went into closed session in Conference Room 1A/1B pursuant to RSMo Section 610.021(1).

II. ANY OTHER ITEMS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The closed meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.