



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, June 15, 2026
4:30 PM

Pre-Council

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Present: 6 - Buffaloe, Peters, Carroll, Sample, Elwood, and Hartman

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Discussion

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Mayor Buffaloe introduced Matthew Lue, Finance Director. Matthew clarified that this would be a high level introduction to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He emphasized that the CIP is made up of multi-year planned projects. He provided some common examples, including roads and bridges. He explained the difference between a capital improvement project and a capital expense. Generally, capital improvement projects have a budget of \$10,000 or more, take more than one year to complete, have dedicated funding sources, and use a life-to-date budgeting method. Capital expenses generally can be completed in one year.

He explained why the City has a CIP and why it is important. He emphasized fiscal responsibility, adding that they are large projects that cities generally have to save up to complete. He added some of the complications, including changes in prices for construction materials.

He highlighted some upcoming 2027 capital projects. Meganne Montesinos, Budget Officer, noted that these projects are subject to change. For each project, Meganne provided the goals, timeline, and anticipated budget. She covered examples in a variety of departments, including Fire, Public Works, and Utilities.

Matthew discussed how the CIP budget is created, as well as funding sources. These generally include taxes, like the capital improvement sales tax, parks sales tax, and transportation sales tax, or bonds, such as general obligation bonds or revenue bonds. He noted some other funding sources including grants, development fees, and utility rates/fees.

Matthew outlined the budget process, adding that departments prepare a list as early as January. Once Finance reviews the list with the City Manager, staff prepare the CIP budget and present it to Council. Matthew shared an overview of upcoming Council budget dates.

Council member Elwood asked for clarification on how projects end up on the CIP, as well as how citizen input is considered. Erin Keys, Utilities Director, shared the example

from the Storm Water Utility. She noted they had a ranking system based on the consequence of failure and likely failure. She noted that there were around 100 projects identified. Council member Carroll asked when the ranking system started. Erin noted that when the utility was established in 1994 there was a list of projects, but the ranking system had been in place for the last ten years. She noted that projects can get moved up, especially if the infrastructure is failing. Carroll asked if the ranking system existed in projects with other utilities. Erin noted that it was not as straightforward. She noted Sewer had a master plan, and that Water and Electric was in the process of reviewing projects. Carroll noted an interest in better understanding how projects are prioritized. She asked about discussing this in more detail during a future work session.

Council member Hartman asked if the proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project would go on the CIP. Matthew noted that the capital improvement sales tax could not be used on the Utilities - it was specifically for Public Works and Public Safety. Erin noted that, if regular rate increases were a possibility, then staff could save for it. She cautioned that the project cost would increase. De'Carlion Seewood, City Manager, referenced the master plan for each utility. Erin noted that they had been saving for AMI, but due to increases in power costs and inflation. Matthew noted that there are times when bonding is advantageous. Hartman asked when the last time Council brought a project to staff to include on the CIP. Matthew referenced the Sports Fieldhouse. Carroll noted that she had asked to add a project to the sidewalk master plan before and it was included. She noted that she liked that process as it ranked it so it could be in priority order and did not jump the process. The Mayor asked for clarifying process questions, asking if the proposed CIP would be attached to the budget document. Matthew confirmed.

Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB), Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), and Water and Light Advisory Board (WLAB) Applicant Interviews.

The Mayor and Council conducted interviews for the Planning & Zoning Commission, Citizens Police Review Board, and Water & Light Advisory Board. A total of 14 individuals were scheduled to interview for the three boards.

II. UPCOMING MEETINGS & TOPICS

None.

III. ANY OTHER ITEMS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:54 p.m.