



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, February 15, 2021
7:00 PM

Regular

Council Chamber
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 15, 2021, 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 MATT PITZER, Council Member BETSY PETERS, Mayor BRIAN TREECE, Council Member PAT FOWLER, Council Member MIKE TRAPP, Council Member KARL SKALA, and Council Member IAN THOMAS were present. City Manager John Glascock, City Counselor Nancy Thompson, City Clerk Sheela Amin, and various Department Heads and staff members were also present.

Treece explained the February 1, 2021 meeting minutes were not yet complete.

The agenda, including the consent agenda, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Treece and a second by Skala.

II. SPECIAL ITEMS

SI8-21

COVID-19 Update.

Public Health and Human Services Director Stephanie Browning provided an update.

Skala explained he had recently secured a vaccine in Phelps County and asked if he should let the places he had signed up to obtain the vaccine know that it was no longer needed. Browning replied that those that received vaccines in other counties should let them know through the website or by calling so they could be removed from the list. Browning noted there was an option to opt out.

Browning continued with the update.

Pitzer asked Browning if they tracked the number of new hospitalizations by day. Browning replied yes. Browning explained they did not have the report for today because it was a holiday and the report had not been submitted by the VA Hospital. Browning stated there were fourteen Boone County residents in the hospital today.

Pitzer commented that it felt like there were a lot of positive trends, not only in Columbia, but nationally in terms of hospitalizations, death rates, etc. From a public health policy perspective, the idea was to take the strain off of the healthcare system and to ensure people would not inadvertently infect and kill others, and it felt as though there was some optimism out there. As people started to realize the good news and work that was that was being done and with it getting warmer, they would want to get out and do more things. Pitzer noted there had been good voluntary compliance with the mask and social distancing, but felt that would be more and more challenging as they continued forward. Pitzer was not sure how that would be messaged and assumed the public health recommendation would be similar for quite a while. As a result, Pitzer believed there might be some tension between public health recommendations and the response of the public. Browning stated a secondary aspect of the Bucket Media campaign was to continue emphasizing the mask wearing and other things so there would be a focus on it.

Fowler understood the number of tests had dropped and asked Browning why that might be. Browning replied the demand had dropped and the testing sites had closed due to weather. The Boone Hospital testing site had been closed most of last week and all of this week, and the University of Missouri Hospital testing site had been closed since Friday. The testing availability was less as well. Their best testers were the public and private schools as kids, faculty, and staff that were symptomatic were getting a rapid test at school.

Fowler asked if a member of the public still needed a referral by a doctor in order to get a test. Browning replied yes, but noted they could call the nurse line so it was not hard to get a test. There was also a provider in town that would make testing available easily.

Fowler understood the variants of the virus were more contagious and perhaps more deadly. Browning replied the U.K. variant was more contagious, but they were still looking at the associated rate of death. The South African variant was one they were not sure the vaccine would work on, and there was a Brazilian variant as well.

Fowler asked if they were sequencing locally to determine if the cases they were seeing involved the variants. Browning replied she had not heard of any labs submitting to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) yet, except for the State Public Health Lab, and the last time she had talked to them, which had been a couple of weeks ago, the State Public Health Lab was submitting ten samples every other week to the CDC. Browning explained the State Public Health Lab did not do a lot of Boone County testing because they had their own labs here, but they tended to test some of the rural counties where testing was not as widely available along with testing for the Department of Corrections. Fowler asked Browning if the State Public Health Lab was as aggressive in looking for variants. Browning replied they sent the random samples to the CDC and somewhere in Minnesota based on direction from the CDC. Fowler asked if that random sample was sufficient. Browning replied she did not know.

III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC2-21 Board and Commission Applicants.

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

CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW BOARD

Carlson, Rhonda, 1110 Willowcreek Lane, Ward 5, Term to expire November 1, 2023

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Miller, Cheryl, 3918 S. Rock Quarry Road, Ward 6, Term to expire March 1, 2024

Wirges, Mindy, 701 S. Seventh Street (Business), Ward 4, Term to expire March 1, 2024

CONVENTION AND VISITORS ADVISORY BOARD

Zumbrunn, Megan, 1910 Field Street, Boone County, Term to expire September 30, 2022

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Willoughby, Blake, 1338 Ashland Road, Apt. F, Ward 6, Term to expire November 1, 2023

PERSONNEL ADVISORY BOARD

Russell, Jason, 1516 Affirmed Drive, Ward 2, Term to expire September 30, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION COUNCIL OF BOONE COUNTY

Larkin, Dean, 1400 Jean Rae Drive, Ward 1, Term to expire March 1, 2023

WATER AND LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD

Switzer, David, 912 Hulen Drive, Ward 4, Term to expire June 30, 2023

IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC9-21 Traci Wilson-Kleekamp - In Celebration of Black History Month -- A Couple of Lost But Found Stories.

Discussion shown with SPC10-21.

SPC10-21 Ian August Kleekamp - In Celebration of Black History Month -- A Couple of Lost But Found Stories.

Mayor Treece explained both Traci Wilson-Kleekamp and Ian Kleekamp had rescheduled their comments to the March 1, 2021 Council Meeting.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B5-21 Rezoning property located on the north side of Northridge Drive and east of Oakland Gravel Road from District R-1 (One-family Dwelling) to District PD (Planned); approving a statement of intent; approving the PD Plan and Preliminary Plat for "The Cottages of Northridge" (Case No. 201-2020).

The bill was given fourth reading by the City Clerk.

Treece understood there was an amendment sheet, and noted he had received an email from R. Anderson indicating she had reviewed the amendment sheet and that the engineer had agreed to a few other things that the City had advised against, including in the statement of intent, which she was confident would be honored by the developer and engineer.

Skala noticed the report had included an accommodation of 50 square feet in terms of the average, and asked if there were any other significant concessions or changes. Tim Crockett, an engineer with offices at 1000 W. Nifong Boulevard, replied there had been some significant changes, but nothing that had not previously been mentioned. Crockett noted the additional setbacks and landscaping had been included in the statement of intent, but those items had been discussed at the last council meeting.

Treece made a motion to amend B5-21 per the amendment sheet. The motion was seconded by Skala and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Thomas commented that he thought this had been an interesting project and process in a couple of ways. Thomas believed there had been a real effort on the part of both the local residents and the developer to find a compromise and to really listen to the other side, which did not always happen. In addition, Thomas felt they had quite a good project in terms of what the community needed, i.e., small homes and less expensive homes. They were not affordable to people of 30 percent area median income, but they were at the lower end of the price range of homes that were being built. Thomas stated he was pleased to see the project move forward.

Treece noted he thought it had been a good model for other projects they were coming in the future.

Skala commented that he had been a bit worried when they had gone to the Unified Development Code (UDC) and had gotten rid of the negotiated PUDs. Skala understood the negotiation process was often difficult, but this model had been exemplary. The amount of cooperation between the developer and neighbors had been amazing. If they

continued in that path with PDs in the future, Skala was confident issues could be worked out.

B5-21, as amended, was given fifth reading by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS. 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.

- B47-21 Approving a Major Revision to the PD Plan for “Columbia Plaza South” located on the southeast corner of Stadium Boulevard and Bernadette Drive (2010 Bernadette Drive); approving the design façade and construction elevations; granting a design exception to permit a drive-through window and lane in the front yard adjacent to Stadium Boulevard (Case No. 45-2021).
- B48-21 Rezoning property located at the southeast terminus of Scarborough Drive from District PD (Planned) to District R-1 (One-family Residential) (Case No. 37-2021).
- B49-21 Approving the Final Plat of “Cottages at Evergreen Place” located on the west side of Ballenger Lane and north of Dehaven Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 167-2020).
- B50-21 Authorizing a right of use permit with Boone County, Missouri, on behalf of its Office of Emergency Management, for the construction, improvement, operation and maintenance of warning sirens with supporting infrastructure in a portion of the Pergola Drive right-of-way.
- B51-21 Authorizing a first amendment to the small generator interconnection agreement with Truman Solar, LLC; authorizing a fourth amendment to the solar project power purchase agreement with Truman Solar, LLC.
- B52-21 Accepting conveyances for sewer and drainage purposes; accepting a Stormwater Management/BMP Facilities Covenant.
- B53-21 Accepting conveyances for utility purposes.
- B54-21 Authorizing an airport utility right of use license permit with Union Electric Company (d/b/a Ameren Missouri) for the installation and operation of natural gas supply lines and related equipment at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- B55-21 Authorizing an agreement with Boone County, Missouri for public health services in 2021.
- B56-21 Authorizing an agreement with Boone County, Missouri for animal control services in 2021.
- B57-21 Amending the FY 2021 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to re-establish a budget for temporary employee expenses in the Department of Public Health and Human Services - Health Promotion Division.
- B58-21 Authorizing an amendment to the collective bargaining agreement with

- Columbia Professional Firefighters I.A.F.F. Local 1055.
- R22-21 Setting a public hearing: proposed replacement of water distribution infrastructure along Old Highway 63, Gordon Street and Charles Street.
- R23-21 Authorizing a gas main extension agreement with Union Electric Company (d/b/a Ameren Missouri) for the extension of an existing gas main at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- R24-21 Approving the Preliminary Plat of "Cambridge Place Phase 4" located at the southeast terminus of Scarborough Drive (Case No. 38-2021).
- R25-21 Authorizing an amendment to the CDBG grant agreement with Independent Living Center of Mid-Missouri, Inc. (d/b/a Services for Independent Living) for home modifications to provide accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.
- R26-21 Authorizing a tourism development sponsorship agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2021 True/False Film Fest.
- R27-21 Authorizing Amendment 1 to the Year 2 Addendum to The Right Time Initiative Participation Contract with the Missouri Family Health Council, Inc. for family planning services.
- R28-21 Authorizing Mayor Treece to sign the National Wildlife Federation's 2021 Mayors' Monarch Pledge.
- R29-21 Accepting the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program 2020 Year End Report Summary; authorizing staff to complete the public improvement process for the proposed installation of traffic calming devices on William Street, Hinkson Avenue, Smith Drive, Louisville Drive, Bray Avenue, and Maplewood Drive; authorizing staff to pursue traffic calming projects on Shepard Boulevard, Audubon Drive, Proctor Drive, Ridgfield Road, and Ridgemont and Highridge Drive.

The bills were given third reading and the resolutions read by the City Clerk with the vote recorded as follows: **VOTING YES: PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bills declared enacted and resolutions declared adopted, reading as follows:**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

- The following policy resolution and bills were introduced by the Mayor unless otherwise indicated, and all were given first reading.
- PR30-21 Establishing a City of Columbia Investment Policy.
- B59-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to the definition of an arterial street in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B60-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to the definition of a bank and financial institution, consumer lending institution and pawn shop in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).

- B61-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to the clearing of trees in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B62-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to the definition of a wall sign in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B63-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to the definition of a corner side yard (Case No. 49-2021).
- B64-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to permitted uses in a planned development district (Case No. 49-2021).
- B65-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to yard area exceptions in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B66-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to parking and loading exceptions for small lots (Case No. 49-2021).
- B67-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to maximum parking limits in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B68-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code to correct a scrivener's error as it relates to the location and design of stacking lanes in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B69-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to neighborhood and subdivision lot lines in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B70-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to a resubdivision or replat and an administrative plat in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B71-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to subdivision monuments in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B72-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to the powers and duties of the Planning and Zoning Commission in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B73-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code to correct a scrivener's error as it relates to optional development standards approval in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B74-21 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code to correct a scrivener's error as it relates to criteria for approval for the issuance of a conditional use permit in the Unified Development Code (UDC) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B75-21 Amending Chapter 29 - Appendix A (Street Standards) of the City Code as it relates to design standards for residential, non-residential and terminal streets in the Unified Development Code (UDC)(Amending Turnaround Width) (Case No. 49-2021).
- B76-21 Amending Chapter 6 of the City Code to expand the delay of the issuance of a demolition permit for an historic structure.
- B77-21 Approving a major amendment to the PD Plan for "Kinney Point" located on the northeast corner of Garth Avenue and Sexton Road; approving a

- revised statement of intent (Case No. 46-2021).
- B78-21 Granting a design adjustment relating to the proposed Bryant Walkway Apartments II - North Plat 2 located on the west side of Trinity Place and south of Pendleton Street to allow a lot line to bisect an existing structure (i.e., driveway) (Case No. 56-2021).
- B79-21 Approving the Final Plat of "Bryant Walkway Apartments II - North Plat 2" located on the west side of Trinity Place and south of Pendleton Street (Case No. 56-2021).
- B80-21 Vacating utility and drainage easements on Lots 4, 5 and 6 within the Final Plat of The Crossings located on the east side of Crossings Drive and south of Canterbury Drive (3404 Crossings Drive) (Case No. 54-2021).
- B81-21 Approving the Final Plat of "The Crossings, Plat No. 1A" located on the east side of Crossings Drive and south of Canterbury Drive (3404 Crossings Drive); authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 13-21).
- B82-21 Approving the Final Plat of "Northland Acres Plat 3" located on the southeast corner of the Northland Drive and Range Line Street intersection (3206 Range Line Street); authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 40-21).
- B83-21 Authorizing a right of use permit with The Curators of the University of Missouri for installation and maintenance of a directional sign in a portion of the right-of-way at the intersection of South Old Highway 63 and Stadium Boulevard (1601 South Old Highway 63).
- B84-21 Accepting conveyances for trail and temporary construction purposes for the future construction of the Hinkson Creek Trail from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane.
- B85-21 Authorizing the replacement and improvement of public storm drainage infrastructure adjacent to the intersection of Hickman Avenue and Sixth Street; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.
- B86-21 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for the replacement and improvement of public storm drainage infrastructure adjacent to the intersection of Hickman Avenue and Sixth Street.
- B87-21 Authorizing a contract for the sale of real estate with Mid-Missouri Center Project, Inc. for the acquisition of property located at 515 Hickman Avenue for the replacement and improvement of public storm drainage infrastructure adjacent to the intersection of Hickman Avenue and Sixth Street.
- B88-21 Authorizing and ratifying an amendment to agreements with Boone County, Missouri for administration of CARES funding for public health, personal protective equipment and sanitation funding, and public safety employee expenses.

X. REPORTS

- REP13-21 Downtown Community Improvement District (CID) Board of Directors - Membership Change Due to Resignation.

Trapp stepped out of the meeting room

Treece stated he wanted to appoint Lara Pieper for the incomplete term that ran through February 6, 2023, and asked if there was any objection as this required the consent of the Council. No one objected.

REP14-21

FY 2020 Utility Financials.

Trapp returned to the meeting room.

Utilities Director David Sorrell and Utilities Assistant Director Sarah Talbert provided a staff report.

Pitzer understood Talbert had indicated the actual revenue was close to the estimate, but it was off about \$1.7 million from the original budget, and asked about the difference. Talbert replied the overall water usage was down about five percent which meant sales were down. In addition, Talbert noted the FY 2020 budget had been calculated off of the estimated amount with a growth factor of one-half percent. In the future, they would calculate the budgeted amount off of the actuals instead of the estimated amounts. Talbert explained there was fluctuation annually due to the weather. Talbert pointed out the FY 2021 budget showed only about \$2.9 million in revenues. There had been a three percent increase that had been proposed for the water bond debt, but it would be pushed off for another year now. Talbert noted they had not adjusted the \$27.9 million, and thus, it would be less. Talbert explained they had the three percent for the FY 2020 budget, the \$28.9 million, which had not been done either. It had been budgeted but not adjusted. Pitzer asked if that was the first full year with the third tier or if that had been the year before. Talbert replied they had implemented it in January of 2019, so 2020 would have been the second full year. Pitzer asked if that had anything to do with it. Talbert replied they had data on the tiers with regard to the usage and revenues, which she could share.

Talbert continued with the staff report.

Treece asked Talbert if she was familiar with Article XII, Section 102 of the City Charter, which indicated that after setting aside 20 percent of cash surplus and any emergencies or payments of outstanding bonds, the remainder of any surplus would be paid into the general fund of the City and budgeted like other revenues of the City for any proper municipal purpose or the surplus could be used for the basis of a reduction in rates in the future, and for her opinion with regard to that. Talbert replied she was not aware of this being done for as long as she had been with the City. Glascock stated he did not recall it ever being done as well. Treece felt they were sitting on a very healthy above budgeted cash reserves. Talbert agreed. Glascock asked if Council wanted a report on the issue. Treece replied he did not need to see a report, but wanted some discussion in that regard. Fowler stated she was not as familiar with it and wanted to see some kind of summary, particularly since they had discussed finding other sources of revenue for some of their pressing needs. Fowler reiterated she wanted some background on that when they had the discussion.

Pitzer understood that when the City issued debt, it was at the water and light level. It was not specifically for either water or light, although the proceeds were usually used for one or the other. Pitzer asked how the bond covenants were written as he wondered if they were written on an aggregated level or if it was individual to either water or electric. Talbert replied she looked at it individually on the utility side, but understood it was rolled together in the financials. Pitzer understood Talbert looked at it individually so she knew where they were for each utility, and wondered what the actual bond rating agencies reviewed. Talbert replied she thought they had looked at it together in the past, but would defer to the Finance Department. Finance Director Matthew Lue thought it had been separate the last time. Talbert stated they were working with the Finance Department to show them separately in the CAFR, but the Charter discussed water and electric as one. Pitzer understood that if the water utility did not have the money to pay the bond, the electric utility would pay it. Talbert stated she thought that was how it had been looked at in the past.

Peters asked for clarification regarding the \$6.8 million mentioned. Talbert replied that was related to purchase power and explained the City Manager had directed departments to make ten percent budget cuts for FY 2021. One of the large cuts made had been to purchase power. It had been reduced by \$6.8 million to be more in line with how they actually ended the prior fiscal years. They had \$74-\$75 million budgeted, but had only been spending about \$64-\$65 million over the last 2-3 years on average. The budget was cut to be more in line with what they were spending. Peters understood this was to purchase electric power from MISO. Talbert stated that was correct, and explained it involved natural gas and their various coal contracts.

Talbert continued with the staff report.

Peters commented that it appeared they had a lot of money in the cash reserves to rehabilitate sewers, and asked if they were unable to find people to do that work or if there was another issue. Sorrell replied they had transferred money at the last meeting from some capital projects into rehabilitation. That money combined with the cash reserves excess from last year's forecast would all be used over the next five years for sewer rehabilitations and private common collectors. If everything stayed the way the forecast was when they had done the budget last year, the excess would be used up in five years. Peters asked why it would take five years. Sorrell replied they could get about \$3 million in rehabilitation work done each year. Sorrell explained they would love to be able to do more, but it was very difficult to get more than that done in a year. Peters asked if that was due to not having enough people or not being able to hire the contractors. Sorrell replied there was a limited availability of contractors. With the new contract they had now, he thought they would be able to do better. It was staff having to its job with inspections and the contractors doing all of the work associated with it.

Talbert continued with the staff report.

Pitzer asked how the landfill closure costs changed. Talbert replied the Solid Waste Division kept track of all of the tonnage that came through the landfill each year via a spreadsheet, and that spreadsheet was provided to the Finance Department to calculate the post-closure and closure costs. Assistant Finance Director Jim McDonald explained a calculation was done every year based on the tonnage put into the landfill and how much remained to be used. They calculated the length of time it would take for that cell to fill up, and an adjustment would be made to increase or decrease it accordingly. Pitzer understood they were extending the life of the landfill or cell, and were amortizing the cost over a longer period of time. McDonald stated that was correct. McDonald commented that if the cell might last longer due to the work there or the tonnage not increasing as much as anticipated, the amount they would reserve for the closure and post-closure would decrease. McDonald noted it was reevaluated every year.

Talbert continued with the staff report.

Peters asked why a budgeted cash reserve was needed for stormwater. Sorrell replied there was a policy of 20 percent for all of the enterprise funds. If they were a little above the target, which they were here, they would use it to try to do a few more projects to spend the money.

Peters explained she had considered the target reserve to be there in case there was a problem that needed to be fixed. Sorrell pointed out they sometimes had problems they had to fix with stormwater, and provided the example of a sinkhole. During the time Sorrell had been with the stormwater utility, he did not recall having to ask for any money to be appropriated midyear to deal with an emergency of that nature, but it was always a possibility. Glascock noted a pipe had collapsed once whereby the money had to be used. Peters asked if the 20 percent had been used in that situation. Glascock replied no. Glascock explained that if it had been the one at the end of Broadway, quite a bit of it would be used since it was double box culvert. Glascock pointed out the system was fairly aged in certain areas. Peters understood, and stated that was the reason she was asking if the money could be used for more projects.

Skala understood the industry standard had been about 18 percent for reserves, and they

had decided to apply about 20 percent generally across the board with a little more for water and light due to exigencies and expensive kinds of repairs. Skala thought those were at about 25 percent.

Pitzer understood this was a \$3.7 million budget and the cash reserve was at \$2.7 million. Sorrell replied he had just noticed that as well, and noted it appeared as though the cash reserve target was inflated greatly as it was higher than 20 percent and closer to about 70 percent. Sorrell thought it included the CIP projects, which was a \$5-\$6 million budget, and noted they would look into it. Pitzer commented that if most of the budget was CIP, it changed the reserve component. Sorrell agreed.

Skala noted there had been a newspaper article indicating the costs of the bags were significantly higher, and the explanation from Sorrell had been forthcoming and well received by those that had received the information.

REP15-21 **Monthly Finance Report.**

Finance Director Matthew Lue provided a staff report.

REP16-21 **Amendment to the FY 2021 Annual Budget - Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds.**

Treece understood this was provided for informational purposes.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Treece noted an email had been received from Bill Weitkemper regarding the investment policy, which had been under the consent agenda and an email from the Chair of the Disabilities Commission had been received regarding the immediate implementation of an emergency policy modification that would allow virtual participation by a citizen to make public comment or by a council member or commission member for meeting attendance and in attaining a quorum. Currently, they had the expectation of having a quorum present physically and the rest joining remotely. Those comments would be filed with items associated with this meeting.

Fowler commented that she appreciated the Disabilities Commission acting with deliberate speed to discuss the matter of virtual participation after the discussion at the prior council meeting and the level of detail within the letter. Fowler understood there was an effort in Jefferson City for a similar type of remote participation and testimony, and had called one of the representatives to ask if they had language to help them inform their discussion. Fowler asked staff to take the letter from the Disabilities Commission and bring forward an ordinance for the Council to discuss as she felt there was sufficient specificity in it. They could then debate the merits based on the ordinance.

Treece stated he would be interested in the response from the Law Department as to whether they could allow the Disabilities Commission to meet with a quorum being physically present based on the City Manager's emergency authority. Thompson explained there were not any ordinance provisions necessary to implement this kind of a procedural change. In the past, they had received direction from Council that a quorum be present in the room, and the Council could change that policy at any particular point in time. Treece stated he was comfortable changing that for the Disabilities Commission.

Fowler commented that she did not want to limit it to the Disabilities Commission because persons with disabilities might want to weigh in on any number of matters, including matters in front of the Council. In addition, other members of boards and commissions along with members of the public had been individually approaching her as they wanted the ability to comment remotely using technology. Fowler stated she wanted to move forward with a more expansive use of that given there were not any restrictions under state law and so they were ADA compliant across the board for the duration of the COVID pandemic.

Treece explained he was just trying to do something more immediate. Fowler stated she

wanted to ensure they did it right for all boards and commissions and for participating at council meetings. Fowler pointed out there was no one at the meeting tonight due to cold weather and because people were measuring how much they go out and about in public. Fowler understood they had not had matters of great public interest on the agenda tonight, but believed a smaller and smaller number of people were attending the meetings due to COVID.

Skala asked for clarification and asked if it really was just a policy, and it would not require anything more serious than that. Thompson replied it would require some staffing changes and some reallocation of resources so the City Manager might have to come back to Council with budget amendments. In terms of the Sunshine Law, it was permissible to hold virtual meetings without a quorum present in the room. From a budgetary standpoint, it took more people, and it might take a policy change on the part of the Council since one of the suggestions was to require persons that wished to make verbal comment request permission no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. That was a type of change that would require Council action. The holding of the meeting itself would not, but that kind of level might require some additional Council action if they wanted to get into those types of restrictions.

Skala stated he would be more comfortable with a report that would delineate the type of policy changes that were necessary for the City Manager to accommodate this type of situation during the COVID exigency rather than an ordinance change.

Glascoc pointed out the City did not have the hardware or software yet, and that probably needed to be put into place so they could see how it worked before making these changes to ordinances.

Fowler understood the Disabilities Commission had asked the Information Technology Department to participate in their meeting last week, and that the capacity of the software had been discussed. Fowler commented that she did not want to continue to delay this because they had citizens that wanted to participate remotely. Fowler understood the City did not have the equipment yet, but she wanted to move with all appropriate forward action to make it happen for the citizens. Glascoc understood they also wanted it done right, and to do it right, they needed the equipment and software so everyone could see how it worked. Peters asked if there was a timeframe with regard to obtaining the equipment and software. Glascoc replied he thought it would take at least one month and likely longer. Peters asked if six weeks was doable. Glascoc replied he thought it would be sometime in April before they were ready to show how it might work.

Fowler noted she had asked the City Manager about scoring energy efficiency of the housing stock. Fowler understood rental property addresses could be looked up in terms of their utility bills, but it did not go as far as giving a score to use in the decision making process of whether one wanted to move to a particular address or whether one could afford to live at that address. Fowler asked for a report of what it would look like if they implemented a scoring system. Fowler believed it made sense to start with rental property because those interested in rental property would not have as much information in their hands as someone intending to purchase property would with an inspection.

Peters asked Fowler what she might want in the energy score other than the utility costs. Fowler understood Sustainability Manager Barbara Buffaloe had some information about this as it had been touched upon when she had provided the interim report regarding the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Fowler commented that the circumstances they were in now with people being unable to get sufficient heat in their home or apartment was likely due to the home or apartment not being appropriately insulated. Fowler stated she did not know exactly how the calculation would look, but knew staff had looked at it before, and she wanted to bring it back.

Fowler commented that she had not pulled the neighborhood traffic management item off of the consent agenda, but she had asked the City Manager for some assistance in

meeting with neighborhoods in the First Ward for their concerns regarding traffic management.

Fowler thanked everyone for their participation in the joint work session with the CPRB last Wednesday. Fowler stated it had been a thoughtful conversation and had given her a lot to think about. Fowler explained she was interested in the work the CPRB had done with regard to the proposal of a community policing activity that would span several months and involve officers and citizens. The proposal was attached to their draft report which had been on their February 12, 2021 agenda. Fowler understood the City Manager had indicated he was not sure if there had been conversation with the Police Department in preparing the proposal. Fowler thought it had a lot of promise and showed a lot of thoughtfulness on the part of the CPRB members.

Fowler commented that Carly Gomez, a member of the Human Rights Commission and their designated person for the CPRB, had brought forward a proposal for some joint educational and relationship building sessions, and asked Police Chief Geoff Jones if that was something he or officers from the Police Department had previously discussed with the CPRB. Jones replied he had discussed it with Gomez prior to the meeting. Jones explained they had been looking at several programs, and there were concerns with staffing and funding that needed to be addressed. As a result, there would be some ongoing conversations. Jones reiterated they were looking at different programs to see what pieces from different programs they could take to make work for them. Jones noted there was a lot that was promising in the programming report provided by Gomez so there would be ongoing discussion with regard to it as well.

Fowler asked what other programs were being looked into. Jones replied there were multiple programs they were considering, and some that came to mind were GRID and Cease Fire. Jones reiterated there were multiple programs that took on different names as they went through different iterations. Jones commented that he and Deputy City Manager De'Carlton Seewood were looking at a way to try to engage other people in the community to have those conversations to see what would work best.

Fowler asked Jones if any of those pieces or the proposal of Gomez was something they could work on to implement this summer. Jones replied he did not know it would happen that quickly. Jones noted there were things with regard to outreach that he wanted to get going this summer, but did not know if it would be a piece from that program or a different one.

Fowler asked how the Council or members of the community could assist as there was value to having that kind of relationship building and those kinds of neighborhood interventions to help young people make other choices. Jones replied that was what he and Seewood were trying to put together. Fowler asked Jones if they would be coming back to them with a report or information in the short term. Jones replied he did not know and explained Seewood was the lead on it.

Treece asked Jones to share information with Glascock so he could keep the Council informed. Jones replied he would.

Fowler commented that they had also discussed the streaming of the CPRB meetings during the joint work session, and understood Treece would inquire further in that regard. Treece explained in October 2013, the CPRB had sent a letter to then Mayor Bob McDavid indicating that by a vote of 7-2 they wanted Council to direct staff to discontinue televising the meetings because televising the meetings might make complainants feel uncomfortable and because it required the CPRB to meet in the Council Chamber when it preferred to meet in a less formal setting, such as a conference room on the first floor as it would facilitate discussions and make members of the public more comfortable coming to them. In addition, some CPRB members felt televising the meetings was an unnecessary expense. A motion was then made to suspend televising the meetings.

Treece stated he could see it both ways. Treece had been persuaded by Gomez and

Heather Heckman-McKenna in that it was a topic of social interest right now and helpful to have that discussion. Treece also understood people might be intimidated about making complaints and being at the podium. In addition, it likely changed the conversation a little on both sides. Treece was not sure of the right decision.

Trapp stated he likely voted in favor of that motion to suspend the televising of the meetings since it had been made at the request of the CPRB. Now that they were asking for the opposite, he was supportive of making the change. Trapp pointed out the CPRB seemed to be unanimous in that being something they wanted to see.

Treece asked if staff had any objection. Glascock replied they could probably start in March.

Skala commented that he was inclined to entertain the advice of a board or commission, but agreed with Treece in that the process could change depending on whether one was on or off camera. It changed the dynamic of even the conversation. Skala reiterated he was inclined to follow the advice of the CPRB, but felt it was appropriate to discuss it and vote to reverse it.

Pitzer stated he did not have strong feelings, but noted his suspicion was that there would likely be another form of the CPRB that would ask them to undo it in a few years if they decided to televise them again tonight. It seemed as though that was how these things tended to go.

Peters noted she was okay with livestreaming the meetings now, and agreed they might hear from people that were uncomfortable in the future causing a change back to not streaming it.

Thomas stated he was supportive of the recommendation of the CPRB of reinstating the livestreaming.

Fowler asked if livestream meant it was on the website for viewing later. Thompson replied yes.

Fowler made a motion to reinstate the recording and livestreaming of CPRB meetings per their request. The motion was seconded by Trapp and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Trapp thanked Fowler for putting the meeting together as he believed it had been illuminating. There were two things he wanted to ensure they followed up with. One applied to all of the boards and commissions in terms of a diversity statement. Trapp asked if they could look at samples, and pointed out they had appointed another CPRB member without that kind of diversity information. Trapp commented that he had considered delaying the appointment until that was done, but he had not been sure of the process. Trapp wondered if they wanted to bring draft questions forward before adding it to the application.

Treece commented that he and the City Clerk had discussed enhancing diversity via board and commission applications in the past, and asked if the application was driven by a policy or if the Council could change it. Amin replied it was not driven by policy, and that changes could probably be accommodated.

Trapp stated he was not attached to any particular way to move forward, but wanted to at least move forward with a question so they were transparent that it was a factor they wanted to take into consideration and that they were encouraging diverse applicants for their boards and commissions.

Treece suggested they add an optional box with an affirmative statement at the end of the board and commission application similar to the statement of community principles that the City of Columbia and the City Council affirmed all of the dignity rights and sought to have a diverse representation on their boards and commissions with a series of questions with respect to ethnicity, gender, gender identity, etc. following the statement. Trapp thought they might want to use a human resources best practice while still making it optional for the applicant to tell them. Trapp thought that was acceptable. Treece asked if there was any objection, and no one objected.

Treece explained it was very difficult to tell unless there was a recommendation by someone. Treece thought they wanted that representation on all of their boards and commissions, and noted he wanted to measure it on the back side after they made appointments.

Thomas stated he was agreeable.

Trapp noted the second piece of feedback from the CPRB was their desire for greater independence and autonomy to combat the perception that they were toothless and a subparticle of the City or the Police Department. Trapp understood there might be limitations in Missouri state law. Trapp stated he wanted to understand the background better and asked for a report as to what might be possible, to include alternative structures that would have a more independent CPRB. Trapp believed it was important that the Council lead the City in a direction that would win over the confidence of more of their citizens that the CPRB had civilian accountability and oversight along with an appeal process that was independent. Trapp stated he was not committed to any particular way to move forward, but wanted to know the options. Trapp pointed out they had not fully lived up to the promise of the CPRB with regard to the perceptions of the citizens, and this seemed like a good opportunity.

Skala stated he thought the information would be useful with regard to other options, but his first inclination was to not do that because the accountability came through the electoral process, i.e., the City Council. Skala reiterated he would like to see more information on the subject so they could then evaluate it for a determination.

Peters commented that she would also like to see a report. Peters noted she wanted to know more about the type of autonomy desired by the CPRB as well since it involved personnel issues. Peters wondered how that could all work together.

Thomas stated he had been very impressed and encouraged by the commitment the CPRB members had with regard to justice in policing and the philosophy of community oriented policing. Thomas also appreciated their initiative in wanting to get in front of the Council in an effort to express some of their visions, goals, and frustrations. Thomas noted he had made a list of things he had supported that night, many of which had already been mentioned tonight. Those were the diversity statement, optional questions where people could identify their racial, ethnic, or other background, funding or other support for the kind of programming Gomez and other members of the CPRB had proposed, and the livestreaming. Thomas understood there had been concern regarding the public not being very well aware of the existence of the CPRB and the role they played, to include those detained by police officers. Thomas wondered if they might explore the possibility of a fact sheet, which could be as small as a business card, for the officer to provide to that person. Thomas viewed this as something that was a part of their rights if they had a complaint with regard to their treatment, and would explain the body and mechanism by which to file the complaint. Thomas thanked Fowler and the Chair of the CPRB, Travis Pringle, for putting the event together.

Skala commented that it had always been a thorny issue to come up with energy efficiency incentives for rental property owners to invest in their properties for the benefit of those to which they rented the properties. The scoring system had been a part of it, but it had not been extended as far as some of them had wanted it to go. Skala noted they had looked at it as a marketing strategy that might improve the property and make it more marketable. Skala explained it was a difficult issue that had been revisited over the years. Skala noted he did not think that meant it should not be revisited again, particularly given the exigencies of this very cold weather, as it was more than just high utility bills. There was some risk of sickness and illness as well. Skala stated he appreciated the comments of Fowler and wanted her to be aware of the history.

Skala understood there was supposed to have been a meeting of the Broadband Business Planning Task Force at the same time the Council had met with the CPRB, which had been shifted to the ARC. Some people had not been aware of the change and had finally assembled at the ARC, but when they had gotten there, they had been unable to meet because the meeting notice had not been posted at that location. Skala believed it had been a lapse by the staff. Glascock apologized and noted that had been the case. Skala stated he understood things of that nature occasionally happened. Skala pointed out this group had been having a difficult time, and they were finally on the verge of being able to obtain quorums. Skala asked that they pay attention to that in the future.

Pitzer commented that he had traded a couple of emails with the City Manager, which he wanted to mention. Last fall or summer, they had approved the construction of the Perche Creek Trail, but when that had been done, it had been broken up into two phases so they had not funded the connection from the trail to Chapel Hill Road. Pitzer understood it was estimated to cost about \$500,000 and the Parks and Recreation Department staff had been concerned about the sales tax coming in at that time. Subsequent to that, they had received a \$250,000 grant for the project and the parks sales tax had come in a couple of hundred thousand dollars ahead of what had been expected. As a result, he had asked the City Manager to look into whether they could potentially move ahead with that phase of the project at the same time as the construction of the first phase, and the City Manager had relayed that Parks and Recreation Director Mike Griggs was already looking into confirming the initial estimates. If it came in at that range, Pitzer stated he would strongly support moving ahead with that second phase at that same time. The first phase was not quite a trail to nowhere, but it was very difficult and dangerous to access the other end of the trail. Pitzer felt there was limited utility without the connection.

Pitzer stated he appreciated the fact they had a relatively brief meeting tonight, and that they had limited items up for public discussion. At the last meeting, there had been about eight public hearings. Pitzer wondered if there was a way to smooth out the lengths of their meetings. Pitzer understood there were sometimes deadlines and things that could not be moved. It just did not seem like the best way to make decisions if they were there really late some nights. Pitzer pointed out that without the Northridge Cottages item they would not have had any items up for discussion. Pitzer thought it would be helpful to smooth out the flow.

Treece thanked the refuse collectors, who had been asked if they wanted to work today or work on Saturday and had chosen to work today in very cold and snowy conditions. Treece also recognized the utility crews that were repairing water main breaks, one after the other, starting Friday afternoon and going through at least Saturday night. Treece thanked the snow plow operators and other City employees that were keeping them going when the rest of them were staying at home safe.

Skala agreed. Skala pointed out he could not get out of his subdivision due to the snow this evening and someone from the Police Department had come to the rescue by giving him a ride to the meeting and back home later tonight.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:43 p.m.