



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Thursday, August 14, 2025  
8:00 AM

Work Session

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

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barbara Buffalo called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**Present:** 6 - Buffalo, Foster, Waterman, Peters, Sample, and Elwood

**Absent:** 1 - Carroll

**Attachments:** [DRAFT - 2026 Legislative Priorities](#)

City Manager De'Carlton Seewood said that this meeting is a first and believes it will be vital for the city to create a list of priorities. Assistant to the City Manager Stacey Weidemann introduced herself along with Susan Henderson Moore and Cara Alexander from Polsinelli, the firm who lobbies on behalf of the city of Columbia. Stacey said that she wanted to work with staff and to prioritize the city's goals for the upcoming legislative session. This discussion started at the Council Retreat back in May to strategize citywide goals at the legislature. She reached out to Department Directors and what their priorities were for the legislative work session. Stacey said that the city of Springfield reviews everything after the veto session and creates a list of priorities that is approved by the council. Stacey said one of the main priorities of the City of Columbia is to retain local control. The City would like to meet with other stakeholders in the city to discuss how they would like to proceed with regards to the legislature. Council member Foster asked about consulting with Boone County to strategize with the Legislature. Stacey said that there has not been much discussion with the County and that the city is focusing on stakeholders in the city.

Susan and Cara discussed how they work with the legislature. Council person Donald Waterman asked about reviewing the issues and discussing its support among various stakeholders. Stacey said that she hoped that meeting with stakeholders would be beneficial to help understand how the stakeholders align.

The Vice President of External Affairs from the Chamber of Commerce discussed how she would like the stakeholders of Columbia to meet with the legislators and strategize their priorities.

Council person Nick Foster asked about the specificity of priorities and what issue will come in the legislatures. Nick Foster asked about supporting affordable housing initiatives and maintaining current city assets. Cara said the low-income tax credit and voucher programs are under purview of the legislature and that there is so much legislation regarding affordable housing and that is why the priorities list is vague.

Mayor Buffalo asked about legislation regarding Police Review Boards and Public Safety. Foster advocated that the city create documents that help refute the debate in the

legislature. Police Chief Jill Schlude said that there is opposition to some of the discussion from Police Organizations in the state that were working against the restoration of roles previously held by Civilian Police Review Boards. Council member Jacque Sample asked about a Public Safety tax and Seewood said the Law Office stated the city council put the tax on the ballot without the approval of the legislature.

Council Member Vera Elwood asked about affordable housing and which options the city could prioritize certain policies. Mayor Barbara Buffalo asked about the lodging tax and AirBnB with regards to the World Cup. Only 5 municipalities have agreements to levy taxes on short term rentals.

Stacey asked if there are any other priorities. Susan said it is best to keep things broad to keep focus on legislation. Mayor Barbara Buffalo said that they are working with Committees and municipal groups to advance the city's legislative agenda both at the state and national level.

## **II. ANY OTHER ITEMS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS**

Mayor Barbara Buffalo stated that Friday's housing meeting with the county has been canceled. City Manager De'Carlton Seewood said that the meeting over housing could take place in October or November.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Barbara Buffalo adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:56 am.