



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council

Friday, May 16, 2025
8:30 AM

Council Retreat

Old Kinderhook Hotel
678 Old Kinderhook Dr.
Camdenton, MO. 65020

I. BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING (7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.)

II. CALL TO ORDER (8:30 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Present: 6 - Buffaloe, Foster, Waterman, Peters, Carroll, and Sample

Absent: 1 - Meyer

III. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

IV. DAY 1 TENTATIVE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

Setting the Stage

Future of Columbia Discussion

Communicating Together

Governing Together

Speed Dating with Department Directors

Closing - Six Word Slam - Again

V. DINNER AND NETWORKING

VI. DAY 2 TENTATIVE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

Setting the Stage

Next, Assistant to the City Manager Stacey Weidemann shared updates on several bills in the Missouri legislature that the City has been tracking.

- HB 344 - Tobacco preemption
- HB 970 - Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs)
- SB 221 - Includes CPRB amendment
- HB 595 - Source of Income
- HB 939 - Green Standards in Building Codes
- HB 1175 - Reestablishes the Second Amendment Preservation Act Trusted Advisors

Transforming Communities

- HB 145 - Modifies Sunshine Law

As of the time of the retreat, HB 595 and HB 145 have been passed, and a notable

amendment in SB 221 was stripped out before calling the previous question. If signed into law, HB 595 would require the City to change its Source of Income ordinance in response.

Weidemann also shared actions signed by the Governor:

- SB 47 - Amends Supreme Court Rule 52.08 re: Class Actions
- SB 22 - Modifies Provisions Relating to Summary Statements for Statewide Ballot Measures
- SB 4 - Modifies and Creates New Provisions Relating to Utilities
- SB 1 - Modifies Provisions Relating to County Officials
- HB 495 - Modifies Provisions Relating to Public Safety

Looking ahead to next year, Weidemann reviewed the process that Springfield, Missouri uses to establish its legislative priorities. Each year, Springfield reviews and updates lists of both specific and general priorities, typically in September or October. Their Council then adopts these by resolution in December. The finalized list is then reviewed with their lobbyist and county delegation prior to the start of the legislative session. Weidemann noted it may be beneficial for Columbia to adopt a similar, official process. Having such a process would not prevent the City from monitoring, and when appropriate, advocating for or against unexpected legislation that appears in the General Assembly.

The Council agreed upon the recommendation to implement a similar process to Springfield, which would include developing a list of specific and general priorities for the City of Columbia and adopting those by resolution, then communicating and reviewing those priorities with the lobbyist and Boone County delegation.

Weidemann then shared a tentative timeline for adopting this process:

- June: Prepare draft of specific and general priorities
- July: Discussion with City Council, City leadership
- August/September: Finalize list of priorities based on feedback, develop handouts
- October/November: Present Resolution at City Council meeting; host meeting with lobbyist, Boone County delegation to review priorities

Council and staff both expressed strong enthusiasm and support for this strategy. Moving forward, staff involvement will be important, especially because some other professional advocacy groups may have varying priorities. Weidemann will begin reaching out to department directors to begin this process and encouraged them to start thinking about general and specific items.

Community Summit Report & Strategic Plan

Attachments: [2025 Community Summit Report](#)
[Strategic Plan Flyer](#)

Next, Assistant City Manager Carol Rhodes provided a presentation on the Community Summit, which was held on March 15. The Summit was a unique engagement opportunity, during which the Council chambers and lobby were transformed so that residents could come in and engage with senior leadership. There was steady attendance throughout the event, with over 300 residents learning about City services, engaging with staff, and providing feedback.

Brian Adkisson, Creative Services and Marketing Manager, shared a video highlighting the event. He noted the City far exceeded its original attendance goal of 200. Participants

were provided with \$100 in “CoMo Bucks” play money to spend on the priority areas of the Strategic Plan. In total, \$19,580 “bucks” were spent. Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure by far received the most emphasis from participants, followed by Inclusive and Equitable Community, and Safe Community.

Representatives from five Strategic Plan areas then reviewed key themes and takeaways from their discussions during the Summit.

The City is already beginning to plan for next year’s event. A full report on the Summit was provided during the retreat. Staff noted that the Summit provides rich qualitative data that is meant to work in tandem with more quantitative data from the community survey. Council will review the full report as it considers impacts to the strategic plan. Highlights from the conversation are shown in the graphic to the right.

Equity and the Strategic Plan

During the May 5 Council meeting, the Council discussed a proposed amendment to change the definition of “equity” in its strategic plan. This proposal was brought forward by staff in consideration of federal funding eligibility and the City Manager’s potential personal liability for executing federal contracts. At the meeting, the Council tabled the item, which will now be brought back on the June 16 agenda.

Engagement and Public Communications Manager Sydney Olsen presented a potential engagement plan designed to better understand community perspectives around the issue.

City Counselor Nancy Thompson provided additional clarification regarding the legal and procedural impacts of how the Council initially adopted its strategic plan, and potential paths forward. After much discussion, the group agreed that the City will offer an additional engagement opportunity before the June 16 meeting.

Next Steps

Mayor Buffaloe noted that it is helpful for Council to have a sense of upcoming items, even a few months in advance. Below is a list shared by staff during the retreat, in relative chronological order:

June

- June 2:
 - Utilities/Blacken Beach transmission cost
 - Twin Lakes Recreation improvement
- June 6
 - Fire Academy graduation
- Juneteenth events begin as early as June 7 and go throughout the month
- June 19:
 - Cap and Emissions report from Sustainability

July

- Three budget work sessions
- Education session regarding performance contracting with Sustainability

Sometime this summer

- Renewables ordinance
- Pedestrian Safety report, plus a work session
- Transit study
- Chapel Hill and Fairview roundabout
- Parking enforcement revenue data

August

- August 4
Aquatic Center
Parks and Recreation fee Chapter 17 changes
- August 15
Police Academy graduation

August/ September

- Will include the budget process; Council meetings will likely be longer
- Animal Control Chapter 5

Other potential items with less clear timelines include:

- Rates and charges at the airport
- Ash Street
- Updating the Comprehensive Plan, once a new Planning Director is onboarded
- An upcoming resolution on the Missouri Blue Shield program Council expressed a desire to further institutionalize this process of previewing upcoming agenda items.

Closing Remarks

As the retreat came to a close, participants were asked to share one thing they will take away from their time together. Themes included passion, practical process improvements, collaboration, and relationship building.

Mayor Buffaloe closed the retreat by sharing how thankful she feels to live in and serve Columbia with everyone in the room.

VII. ANY OTHER ITEM COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.