



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, February 6, 2017
6:00 PM

Pre-Council

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Treece called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 pm.

Present: 6 - Trapp, Thomas, Nauser, Peters, Treece, and Skala

Absent: 1 - Ruffin

Mayor's Task Force on Infrastructure - Final Report

Attachments: [Mayor's Task Force on Infrastructure \(MTFI\) - Final Report](#)

Mayor Treece introduced Dr. Tracy Greever-Rice, Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Infrastructure (MTFI) to review their final report and recommendations. Dr. Greever-Rice stated that several members from the Task Force were in attendance including Kim Kraus, John Conway, and Cody Darr. The MTFI spent a great deal of time working on this report and a lot of effort went into this from not only the MTFI members, but also city staff and the public as well. Many ideas were talked through during the process but the recommendations included in the report represent a consensus from the MTFI members and the public. Dr. Greever-Rice reviewed the summary of recommendations with each utility being looked at separately and sections included both functional recommendations as well as financial/policy recommendations.

She reviewed the functional recommendations for the storm water utility including the expansion of the GIS/mapping capacity; the modeling capacity, and the recommendation to adopt an objective grading system to prioritize storm water CIP projects to ensure a consistent and objective evaluation process for project selection. Financial recommendations included transitioning the residential storm water rate structure to be based on total impervious area, as well as ensuring storm water rates are consistently applied, billed, and collected; and the recommendation to explore its authority to combine the storm water and sewer utilities into a single utility. Mayor Treece asked what the barriers might be to that. Dr. Greever-Rice did not believe there would be legal barriers, but that would need to be discussed further. Mayor Treece asked if Water & Light can issue bonds for storm water. Mr. Conway replied that Water & Light has no authority to do storm water projects. City Manager Matthes added that storm water is a relatively new utility that came about mostly due to heavy rains, etc. Water & Light possibly could issue a bond, but we have tried to keep that separated. Councilperson Trapp added that storm water is paid as we go versus bonding. City Counselor Nancy Thompson added that it's a Hancock issue; storm water came in post-Hancock and requires voter approval. The recommendation of the MTFI would require a city wide ballot for approval. We also have about three more years of planned tier increases. Mr. Trapp felt we should wait until the tiers have increased. Dr. Greever-Rice noted another recommendation that the city should help promote Neighborhood Improvement Districts as a tool to finance storm water

improvements, where appropriate.

Dr. Greever-Rice reviewed the functional streets and sidewalks recommendations noting that the city should adopt ordinance language which allows property owners and neighborhoods to coordinate and perform their own street snow removal. Financial/Policy recommendations included the city considering the use of single issue ballot items as dedicated funding sources for "major" transportation infrastructure projects, e.g., I-70/63 interchange. Other recommendations included extending the ¼ cent capital improvements sales tax upon expiration in 2025; the city supporting state efforts to collect sales tax from currently lost from internet sales; the city supporting state pilot projects of mileage-based fees as an alternative to the fuel tax as alternative fuel vehicles become more common; the city considering methodology for quantifying the impact of development on existing street maintenance conditions; and the city council further reviewing development fees by forming an advisory group to review fees on an ongoing basis in the context of use of a consistent traffic study protocol and methodology. Mr. Darr added that the body of the report goes into more detail on these recommendations. A dedicated group should be formed to look specifically at this issue. Councilperson Thomas asked for more information on the fuel tax cost share idea. Mr. Darr explained that there have been instances of state level matching for fuel tax funds. Mr. Thomas suggested a city fuel tax increase. Mr. Darr explained that they discussed that but not at great length. Councilperson Skala suggested a trip generation model. Mr. Conway felt that model should be studied more.

Dr. Greever-Rice summarized the sewer utility recommendations including the need to further define "users"; the city pursuing programs that place greater responsibility on property owners to identify and eliminate private sources of inflow and infiltration; the city assuming responsibility for all connection points within the public sewer and any portion of a private sewer service lateral located within a public right-of-way or within a dedicated sewer easement.; and the city continuing investigation and rehabilitation of the sewers in the "I&I Pilot Study Area". Mr. Thomas asked if there is an estimate of the number of homes illegally connecting to the sewer system. Dr. Greever-Rice stated they did not look at that. She continued reviewing financial and policy recommendations noting that consensus on this area was somewhat challenging. The group identified a set of issues that the community could continue discussion on. Those recommendations are as follows: The city should engage an independent consultant to consider issues related to metering, connection fees, and definitions of customer classes; The city should engage an independent consultant to consider policy and agreements between the city and the Boone County Regional Sewer District; The city should engage an independent consultant to review policy regarding customer charges outside city limits and annexation requirements; The city should review and adjust sewer charges, fees, and customer classifications at a regular interval; and the city should allow properties to connect to city sewer system, without annexing in some public health and regulatory compliance situations. The group spent time discussing the relationship between the City and Boone County Regional Sewer District and how it relates to annexation and regulatory compliance situations. Mr. Thomas asked if there was a benchmark to hook into a sewer system versus doing on site treatment. Mr. Conway felt that historically there have been many discussions of that dilemma and there seems to be mutual agreement made between the city and Boone County Sewer District and those conversations should continue. The group briefly discussed this issue.

Dr. Greever-Rice briefly reviewed the recommendations for the electric utility including moving the Mill Creek Substation project forward. If the current 2MW spare capacity is consumed prior to the completion of the substation, the city should consider an "administrative delay" for construction. Dr. Greever-Rice reviewed financial/policy

recommendations: to explore demand rate billing for residential class customers and investigate phasing in meters that use advanced metering technology; re-evaluating the net zero policy for renewable energy sources; and evaluating equity of base charges for master metered versus individually metered properties. Mr. Conway added that staff provided analysis on the item regarding excess capacity under certain conditions (item A on functional recommendations), which was how the 2MW was determined. More information on this is found in the full report. The MTFI felt on the connection fee, that when you look at all utilities, there are connection fees and line extension policies where the electrical utility does not.

Dr. Greever-Rice reviewed the recommendations for the General/Global category. The city should encourage 'value added' annexation and development. The city should develop a scorecard system for new development and annexation proposals.a. The city should continue to comply with environmental regulations, including Integrated Management Plan (IMP), and enforce existing/adopt appropriate construction regulations to prevent/mitigate detrimental environmental impact caused by public and private construction projects. The city should establish an advisory board(s) structure to provide consistent, integrated and ongoing public input, advice and oversight of city utilities and related services for water, electric, sewer, storm water, and streets/sidewalks. The city should explore use of similar customer classifications across city utilities. The city should separately track each utilities base and usage charges as well as connection fees for each customer classification for each utility. The group briefly discussed the idea of forming a more permanent citizen board and there was some agreement on the value of that concept. In regard to the concept of a bond review commission, Mr. Conway added that an independent party review versed in bond ordinances could provide information and clarification on the issue of depreciation as a third party bond counsel could determine compliance or recommendations for compliance. Mr. Skala felt that access to GIS information can be an issue as the data may be there, but hard of confusing for people to access. Dr. Greever-Rice stated that they did not discuss that at length. Mr. Conway added that the City GIS staff is constantly coordinating their efforts with the University and Boone County Sewer to share and upgrade data for full utilization.

II. ALL OTHER ITEMS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:58 pm.