



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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Monday, April 3, 2017  
6:00 PM

Pre-Council

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

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Treece called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 pm. Council member Ruffin arrived at approximately 6:15.

**Present:** 6 - Ruffin, Trapp, Nauser, Peters, Treece, and Skala

**Absent:** 1 - Thomas

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF Local 1055) - NFPA 1710

**Attachments:** [IAFF Local 1055 Presentation](#)

[NFPA 1710 2016 Revision](#)

[Effect of Deployment of Resources on Cardiovascular Strain of Firefighters](#)

[The Economic Impact of Successful Commercial Fire Interventions - ASU study](#)

[Video: Overview of NFPA 1710](#)

[Video: Why proper staffing and arrival times are critical](#)

Jack McManus, Deputy City Counselor, introduced Kurt Becker with the IAFF. Back when the Unions got time in front of Council in February, we could not accommodate their request for additional time so this is an extension of the IAFF presentation from February 2017.

Mr. Becker stated that the earlier presentation included some concerns and objectives; one of which relates to how we staff fire stations in Columbia. The NFPA 1710 sets fire service standards and fire department staffing standards. The revised 1710 includes significant changes which came about after studies were conducted on the adequate level of staffing needed in various emergency scenarios. These changes increase safety for both firefighters and the citizens. He reviewed the big changes that took place in 1710 in the 2017 revision. Changes include: a minimum of 4, up to 6 personnel on Engine and Truck companies depending on the hazards they protect; must have the correct number of personnel to comprise an effective fire fighting force for fires in: high rise buildings, garden apartments, and strip malls. A high rise is anything excess of 17 floors. Council member Nauser suggested that sprinklers compensate for this issue and are included in the high rise buildings and she wondered why this would be needed. Mr. Becker stated that there are changes in the dynamics of high rise building design and furnishings, which do pose a high risk, even with a sprinkler system in place. Sprinkler systems are a general protective measure, but are not reliable to do the job of a fire truck. Mr. Becker stated that we have to get firefighters to incidents within 4 minutes; have the right number of firefighters at each incident; and have the right number of trucks. Ms. Nauser asked why the standard say 6 minutes, but we say 4 minutes. Mr. Becker replied that the 6

minutes includes 2 minutes for dispatch, call time, crew assembly, etc.; 4 minutes should be drive time.

Mr. Becker reviewed the studies on residential and high rises conducted by NIST. Insurance Services Organization (ISO) is a tool used for an insurance company to rate a fire department on their effectiveness in an incident. Columbia Fire Department is rated Class 2, with a rating of 1 being the best.

He reviewed the conclusions of the most recent revisions of the number of personnel recommended for each truck type. Prior to this revision, the 1710 only addressed how a standard residential home would be handled. He reviewed the added geographical and high hazard occupancy revision noting that high hazard occupancies include hospitals, schools, nursing homes, refineries, high rise buildings and other structures which present high life hazard or large fire potential. Current staffing at Columbia Fire is 37 daily and should be 74. Ms. Nausser asked if volunteer responders are included in the recommended personnel since we have mutual aid agreements with other entities. Mr. Becker replied that those are considered. The right number of people are needed at each incident to mitigate an incident, so the number of firefighters needed on a scene depends on the type of structure and incident. The challenge with volunteer agencies is not knowing the reliability to get volunteers on site in the required time.

Mr. Becker summarized that compliance with 1710 is not an either/or endeavor. Compliance with NFPA 1710 requires both the proper crew size and the proper number of personnel on a scene. He added that compliance with 1710 comes down to liability and negligent tort. Council has a duty to the community and its firefighters. He discussed the cost of non-compliance that results in greater property loss and economic damage to the community and provided an example of current litigation. Ms. Nausser understood that of the 12,000 calls received by CFD, about 369 are fires; that most calls are medical, not fire related. She felt that the process doesn't seem to be the most efficient or cost effective way to manage this when we don't have funding for this. Mr. Becker emphasized that it's just as critical to have the right number of resources on a medical scene.

Mr. Becker summarized the recommendations of the Local 1055 to include: increasing the minimum daily staffing to 62 FTE's; CFD should consider a community risk analysis to determine if the downtown area could potentially be classified as medium hazard; CFD should develop a standard of cover to determine if station locations are sufficient to meet the 4 minute response time; if stations are needed CFD should review its deployment model to determine if fire trucks could be reassigned; CFD should ensure every truck that arrives within 4 minutes and has a minimum of 4 FTE's on board; CFD must ensure there is sufficient personnel on duty to industry standards for a high response event; the City should empower the Fire Chief and Local 1055 to jointly present a data driven staffing recommendation to Council; and Council should be suspect of any claims that CFD can be adequately staffed with fewer than 4 FTE's on every truck.

## **II. ALL OTHER ITEMS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS**

None

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:59 pm.