



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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Monday, October 21, 2019  
5:00 PM

Work Session

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

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:05 pm.

**Present:** 5 - Trapp, Thomas, Peters, Treece, and Skala

**Absent:** 2 - Ruffin, and Pitzer

Continued discussion on priorities for the coming year

**Attachments:** [2020 Election Schedule](#)  
[2021 Election Schedule](#)

City Manager John Glascock stated that this is a continued discussion from the last pre-council and he would like to further discuss a blue ribbon panel, which was suggested by Mayor Treece at the last pre-council meeting. Mayor Treece asked if Mr. Glascock had any suggested structure for a blue ribbon panel. Mr. Glascock suggested forming a committee and having them report back. Councilperson Skala understood this would be a blue ribbon panel for revenue strategy and prioritization. Mr. Glascock agreed. Mayor Treece added that at the July 23, 2018 Finance and Audit Advisory Committee meeting, they voted to recommend the Council appoint a citizen revenue task force to look at our reliance on sales taxes, other potential revenues, attrition, internet sales impacts, how to balance that along with property, sales, and and use tax. Mayor Treece suggest appointing a group of eight to twenty members from the Chamber, the business community, police, fire, banks, realtors, etc. He does not want to replicate the Climate Action Task Force in terms of format and workload, but does want a broad group that comes together and meets quarterly.

Mr. Skala stated that encouraging citizen input is a good thing and felt the group should remain on the smaller side in order to get work started. Councilperson Trapp preferred to move forward with something in April so there isn't a lot of budget work already done and he believed we need a consensus. He also suggested adding CMCA to the list of participants on the panel. Mayor Treece said he would like to see tax payers, consumers, multi-faceted with expertise. Mayor Treece stated that he would share the final Finance and Audit Advisory Committee's recommendations if Council wants to move forward. Councilperson Thomas felt the scope needs to be confined and details need to include challenges, available options, revenue sources, etc. Mr. Glascock will wait for the Committee to be formed to take further action.

Councilperson Peters was concerned if the state doesn't pass the wayfair tax, assuming Council agrees with this, that they should move forward in August or November. There needs to be enough time to inform the public. There will be another budget by then, so Council will need to determine if budgets will be cut and they will need to think about that.

Councilperson Trapp would like to move forward in April as it will be difficult to make potential cuts. Mayor Treece felt that August is better than November. Mr. Trapp said the County primary will be at that time and it might help. Mr. Thomas suggested inviting someone from County to be on the task force. Ms. Peters added that the school district is coming back to taxpayers to ask about continuing a tax for a bond issue too.

### Water Conservation Programs

**Attachments:** [Water Programming Presentation](#)

Utilities Director Tad Johnsen and Interim Utility Services Manager, Brandon Renaud gave a detailed presentation about the proposed water conservation program and requested feedback in order to bring something more formal back for Council consideration. Mr. Renaud distributed a summary of the water conservation programs and explained in depth about the goals of the program which include ensuring safe and reliable water supply, conserving water to meet future needs, and increasing the longevity of the water system. A survey of customers indicated they are willing to do more as well.

The water treatment facility was built in 1970 with a capacity of 16 million gallons per day. That system was D rated in 2016 due to infrastructure. Mr. Renaud presented slides regarding the demand projections. Mr. Renaud explained the three-prong approach including water conservation education and outreach, market transformation and water conservation rebates. Mr. Renaud also discussed more on education and outreach to include columbia youth teaching efficiency, an updated website, water efficiency kits for qualifying participants of window a/c exchange and water conservation in marketing efforts.

Mr. Renaud explained the importance of educating and training irrigation and landscape contractors. On-site assessments will occur as staff will go out to develop plans with homeowners and businesses to help understand their needs and to educate them about water usage, etc. Mr. Renaud explained the importance of water conservation and showed comparisons of average indoor use in different age housing stocks. Mr. Renaud explained the suggested rebates for customers who use Watersense toilets. He also discussed the low to moderate income program. They found that the lower income areas coincide with older houses, therefore there are kits and rebates with this program as well.

Mr. Renaud discussed outdoor water conservation and said the main focus is on the water irrigation systems. Some challenges include an open control loop, standard sprinkler heads and the irrigation system cannot react to environment, such as knowing to turn off because it is raining. Mr. Johnsen indicated he plans to ask Council for a budget amendment in the future, but added there are no personnel increases to fund the rebate program.

Mayor Treece asked if the cost of service was included in the rebates and was concerned that the people that need to replace this won't get what they need, but people that can afford it might. Ms. Peters asked if the budget amendment would come out of the water and light budget. Mr. Johnsen indicated yes. Mr. Skala said if there are some benefits to renters if they use less water, then their bill would be less; both the city and community members would benefit. He suggested in terms of the outreach and sending newsletters with bills, to also send flyers and think of other ways for more exposure of the programs. Mr. Johnsen said they are working with public communicators and relationships with the contractors.

### Community Solar

**Attachments:** [Community Solar Presentation](#)

Interim Utility Services Manager, Brandon Renaud gave a presentation on the community solar program and the proposal for West Ash Pump Station and Truman Solar fields. Mr. Renaud said the West Ash solar field (known as the Tiger Field) was built in 2015. Truman will be 10 megawatts. Mr. Renaud explained various customer benefits and utility benefits and indicated the benefits stay within the community and there will be no worry with maintenance. A 25 year subscription agreement will be available.

Mayor Treece asked if this was a dollar per dollar credit. Mr. Renaud said yes and explained that the 25-year design is broken down into two parts: 1-15 years and 16-25 years. There would also be monthly net credits per year for customers with the subscription and the REC's stay with Water & Light. Mr. Renaud explained that by participating in this program, the customer could earn money, therefore potentially lower their bill. Mr. Renaud said there are 100 blocks of solar reserved for LMI program (Low to moderate income). Mr. Renaud stated that solar for all can mean low risk for customer and utility, makes financial sense, and gives access to renewable resources. This can open the door to neighborhood solar. Mr. Skala asked if there is any anticipation to developing more. Mr. Renaud said this resource might be able to be spread through neighborhood connections.

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

No other items were discussed.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:07 pm.