



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, March 16, 2020
7:00 PM

Regular

Council Chamber
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri.

Mayor Treece explained there were a few changes in the Council Chamber to encourage social distancing and hygiene etiquette in recognition of guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as there was spacing between seats and the microphone and podium would be wiped down after each speaker. He encouraged those in attendance that did not necessarily have a particular item of interest to allow others that might have a specific interest in an agenda item to use the room since its capacity had been reduced.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was taken with the following results: Council Members THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, and SKALA were present. The City Manager, City Counselor, City Clerk, and various Department Heads and staff members were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2020 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Skala and a second by Mr. Trapp.

Mayor Treece pointed out there were four items on the agenda related to short-term rentals. The issue had been remanded to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) who had asked the Council not to approve the proposed ordinances and to allow them more time to review it. There had been similar communication from the Housing and Community Development Commission. He asked the Council if there was a desire to table this and when they might want to revisit it. In light of the current environment, he stated he wanted to retract the agenda to focus on priority items. Depending on later actions, they might stop future council meetings and board and commission meetings. He suggested they table the items to the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting.

Mr. Trapp stated he thought the suggestion of Mayor Treece was reasonable.

Mr. Skala noted that date could be extended if it was necessary.

Ms. Peters understood the short-term rental items would be brought back at the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting and they would then decide whether to send it back to the PZC for further review. Mayor Treece stated he did not want to presuppose their discussion. Ms. Peters explained she did not either. She only wanted to ensure they were not sending it back to the PZC until June 1 or after. Mayor Treece suggested they table it for further Council discussion and vote at the June 1, 2020 meeting. Ms. Peters was agreeable. Mr. Thomas thought that was a good idea as well.

Mayor Treece commented that they would table those items when they came across them on the agenda.

Mayor Treece made a motion to add R46-20 to the agenda and for it to be the first special item. He explained it was a resolution supporting a declaration of a state of emergency within the City and calling for proactive measures to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skala.

Ms. Peters understood they had received a copy and asked if copies were available for

those in the audience. Ms. Thompson replied staff had copies in the back and noted they would distribute them.

The motion made by Mayor Treece and seconded by Mr. Skala to add R46-20 to the agenda and for it to be the first special item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Treece suggested R37-20 and R40-20 be removed from the agenda in an effort to keep business limited to essential items at future meetings, and asked if there were any objections. No one objected.

The agenda, including the consent agenda with the removal of R37-20 and R40-20 and the addition of R46-20, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Treece and a second by Mr. Ruffin.

II. SPECIAL ITEMS

R46-20

Supporting the declaration of a state of emergency within the City; calling for proactive measures to protect the public health, safety and welfare; expressing support for and calling upon the City Manager and Director of Public Health to enact regulations to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Mayor Treece explained they had received an update from Ms. Browning and Mr. Glascock regarding the steps taken as a community to collaborate with partners in the healthcare community, emergency operations, and first responders in an effort to reduce the impact of the coronavirus COVID-19 on the community. He commented that he had communicated with representatives of the three community hospitals, emergency operations personnel, the leaders of the University of Missouri, Stephens College, and Columbia College, and others today in terms of where they were. He noted he felt as though this was a natural disaster unfolding in slow motion. He stated the United States was about 10-11 days ahead of their counterparts in Italy and Spain. As a State, they were 3-5 days away from what other states had experienced, and as a community, they were 1-2 days or more away from Springfield, Kansas City, and St. Louis. He explained they had to take proactive steps to flatten the curve, i.e., to reduce the demand on healthcare providers so they could optimize the use of limited hospital beds for those that needed it the most.

The resolution was read by the Clerk.

Ms. Browning provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece commented that under the Columbia Code of Ordinances, the City Manager had broad authority via Chapter 7, Civil Defense, to declare an emergency, and the Director of Public Health had broad authority via Chapter 11 in the event of an epidemic, and thought it was important to communicate as one voice and provide staff a unified message of support in this effort. He understood there was approximately one hospital bed per every 4.4 cases Statewide. Since hospital beds were occupied by other patients with other conditions, the number was closer to one bed per 13.3 patients. Because Columbia was a healthcare destination for approximately 14,000 people from 25 counties, he felt they could be disproportionately impacted. He believed anything they could do as a community to help reduce the impact was responsible. The resolution before them was an expression of support to the City Manager and the Director of Public Health to take the steps they deemed necessary, which included but was not limited to, the prohibition of gatherings of more than 50 people, the prohibition of concerts, conferences, and sporting events, the closing of gyms, movie theaters, libraries, and community centers, and limiting bars and restaurants to half of their legal capacity or 50 people, including staff, whichever was less. He stated he had reached out to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and various people in the restaurant and bar industry, and many understood the impact and were voluntarily complying. He thought City staff would take the enforcement methods necessary for any outliers to ensure there was a level playing field. He commented that he believed the City needed to lead by example

by reducing the attraction of council meetings by limiting the agendas. In addition, he felt all board and commission meetings should be suspended for the foreseeable future. He stated he also felt they needed to show compassion to those affected by this such as hourly workers, those that had been laid off, and those without access to childcare or paid leave.

Mr. Skala suggested reading the list of items specified in the resolution for those that did not have the benefit of a hard or electronic copy, such as those watching the meeting on television.

Mr. Pitzer asked if they would be enacting the items Ms. Thompson was about to read or if they were just expressing support for the City Manager to enact them if necessary. Ms. Thompson replied the Council was expressing support and calling upon the City Manager and Director of Public Health to enact and enforce temporary emergency regulations. She reiterated the Council was not actually enacting these items. They were stating their preferences when it came to emergency regulations.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Glascock if it was his intent to declare an emergency and when he would declare it. Mr. Glascock replied he would sign a document declaring the emergency immediately after Council adopted this resolution. Mayor Treece understood a virtual emergency operations center would be set up to convene daily phone calls with first responders, hospital representatives, and others to share information, and that there would be a follow up call with public information officers to determine how to disseminate the information. Ms. Thompson explained next steps would require written orders by the City Manager or Director of Public Health outlining the parameters of one or more of the items listed. She pointed out the orders could change since it was fluid situation.

Ms. Peters commented that an earlier version she had seen had referred to community spread so it made it seem as though they would wait until they had confirmed cases in the community, but understood the goal was to prevent any confirmed cases and starting the spread. Ms. Thompson stated this provided the framework for that action to occur depending upon the needs.

Ms. Thompson read the measures listed in the resolution as had been suggested by Mr. Skala.

Mayor Treece understood Mr. Pitzer provided input and had spoken with the Municipal Judge, who had guidance from the Missouri Supreme Court to suspend in person proceedings for the near future, and this would further provide the Judge that authority. He asked Mr. Pitzer if he had anything to add. Mr. Pitzer replied he thought it was a fairly comprehensive list and felt it was important to note there were some specific guidelines in terms of the number of people at certain gatherings, and that the guidance could change. He commented that he did not take any of these steps lightly, but the country had experienced an extraordinary series of events within the last several days, and it would require extraordinary action. He felt it was incumbent upon all of them to take these steps.

Mr. Skala stated he believed these actions were aggressive, proactive, and protective, and were based on science and the experts.

Ms. Peters asked for clarification regarding the imposition of greater restrictions for facilities, events, or gatherings that house or draw persons who were at higher risk for severe illness. Ms. Thompson replied those would be facilities for persons who were disabled, hospitals, and senior care facilities. It was a rather broad statement and would allow them to identify something other than just assisted living or independent living facilities.

Ms. Peters asked for clarification regarding the suspension of all rules and regulations that might inhibit or prevent prompt response to a threat. Mr. Skala thought that might be referring to administrative issues. Ms. Peters wondered if it referred to the police response to things. Ms. Thompson replied she did not have a specific example. It was a general authority or support for making it happen. Mr. Glascock commented that if they went to one council meeting as had been discussed and something needed to be done

quickly, he might have to waive an interested parties meeting or a public hearing to address the issue. He thought those were the types of things that might be done. He did not foresee them doing much of it, but needed the ability. Ms. Thompson pointed out some communities had temporarily suspended their building regulations in order to enact temporary housing or medical facilities to house people for quarantine, and that was another example. Mr. Glascock commented that if they had a drive-through testing facility, they might want to allow a tent to be erected without having to determine if it was a building and subject to the building codes.

Mr. Trapp asked for clarification regarding taking control of any means of supplies, transportation and facilities, including buildings. Mayor Treece replied he thought that was there in case a hospital might need space to house quarantined patients or students as it would allow the ability to command a lodging establishment for that purpose. Ms. Peters understood that if the University had to quarantine students they might quarantine them in one of the dormitories. Mayor Treece understood the City had commandeered the Tiger Hotel in 1918 to house influenza patients.

Mr. Pitzer stated he had received a question as to whether food trucks would still be permitted. Mr. Glascock thought it would depend on the number of people gathering around it. Ms. Browning agreed. She felt they could set up some social distancing to make it work. Mr. Skala understood some restaurateurs were adapting via a takeout procedure.

Ms. Peters understood gyms would be impacted and asked if this was expected to be for 6-8 weeks or if the goal was to prevent group classes. Mayor Treece replied he thought they needed to lead with the epidemiology and govern by data and science. He understood there was the intent to close the ARC on Wednesday to coincide with the closing and suspension of the Columbia Public Schools. He noted he would not want to leave the ARC open when they were asking other private gyms to close. Ms. Browning explained what was nice about what had been prepared was that it provided staff the latitude to rule things out. They could step back, look at the epidemiology, talk to counterparts, etc. She explained they wanted to do the right thing here while also being consistent with others. She pointed out they were working hand in hand with other large communities. She noted a movie theatre could be open by having less than 50 people in it and addressing spacing concerns. She thought they should be smart about how they approached it and determine what might flatten the curve and protect the public. She stated gyms, movie theaters, libraries, and community centers were places people went to be social and healthy, and these were big decisions. They would take into account the epidemiology when making them.

Glyn Laverick explained he was the CEO of the Tiger Hotel and noted he did not believe the Tiger Hotel had opened until 1928. He commented that he thought it might be prudent to obtain clarity on some of these items. He understood they were limiting all businesses and places of public accommodation to one-half the legal occupancy or a maximum of 50 people, and pointed out some hotels within the City could accommodate hundreds more than that. Although 50 people might make sense for a dining room, it did not make sense for a hotel. He suggested further clarity on that issue. He commented that taking control of any means of supplies, transportation, and facilities, including buildings, sounded like eminent domain or martial law, and noted he would prefer the Governor make that decision rather than the City Council. He felt it might go too far, especially if court proceedings were suspended as they would not have any recourse. He thought this made sense on a lot of levels and appreciated that they were trying to get out ahead of it. He believed there was a lot of pragmatism in it along with some overreach. He asked for clarity and common sense on those items.

Mayor Treece commented that it would be the Director of Public Health and the City Manager making those decisions, and not the City Council.

Mr. Trapp asked Mr. Laverick to talk about the success of the pop-up store in the Tiger Hotel and whether he had items, such as hand sanitizer still available. Mr. Laverick

replied they had a lot of cleaning supplies and toilet paper. They did not have any hand sanitizer now as that had gone quickly, but they were restocking when they could. He commented that he thought it had been great as they had been able to help out some of the senior care facilities, schools, and daycares whose supply chain had broken down. It had been enormously successful and well-visited. He thought it had been important to a lot of people. Mr. Trapp stated he believed it had been good to use that unique supply chain and thanked Mr. Laverick for bringing it to the community.

Matt McCormick, 300 S. Providence Road, stated he was the President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. He thanked the Tiger Hotel for its pop-up store as it was fantastic. He commented that the Chamber had held an Executive Board Meeting today at which time they had discussed many of the things others had been discussing in terms of what to do moving forward. He noted the Board had discussed this potential resolution and asked that he notify the Council that the Columbia Chamber of Commerce supported the City's emergency resolution as it was in the best interest of public health for the entire community. They understood the impact it would have on the community in every aspect. As the voice of the business community, they were asking to actively collaborate with the City, County and other partners in the community on economic relief and recovery to ensure businesses remained viable throughout this public health and economic situation. He commented that they understood this resolution was in the best interest of Columbia and all of those that called Columbia home, and supported it. He noted a lot of people were having to make a lot of very hard decisions now with very little and very fluid information, and thanked the City Council, City Manager, and others working with them during this situation.

Mayor Treece stated the economic recovery would be significant, and noted the Council had discussed during the pre-council meeting how they could work with State elected officials to improve access to the unemployment compensation fund for those hourly workers or laid-off workers who were unable to work for the next 2-4 weeks through no fault of their own. He thought they would all have to pull together. Mr. McCormick commented that they had been working with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in terms of the waiving of a certain unemployment benefits requirements, such as the number of interviews per week, and the suspension of payroll taxes to assist businesses in keeping employees employed.

Ann Rosson explained a lot of the places the City would close were places the homeless population visited, such as the library and the ARC. She noted she was a volunteer at a homeless shelter and had several homeless friends. She asked the City to keep them in mind and protect them as they protected everyone else.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Browning to speak to what was being done for the unhoused in terms of ensuring they had access to thermometers, hand sanitizer, etc. He noted this virus would expose and exploit all of the inequities in the system, such as access to healthcare, paid leave, childcare, and technology. He thought they all needed to show compassion, and thanked Ms. Rosson for reminding them of that. Ms. Browning replied they had really tried to step up in terms of outreach. She explained they had been at Room at the Inn on Friday night and at Turning Point to provide kits that had hand sanitizer, thermometers, and guidance on what to do if they were sick. Since the Room at this Inn was closing, they had coordinated with others to ensure people had sleeping bags and tents. She noted they were also working with providers, such as the Salvation Army and the street outreach team so they had what they needed to respond.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, thanked the Council for addressing this situation. He suggested they stress that men and teenage boys wash their hands since they did not know the details associated with the virus and because hygiene had been neglected for so long. He commented that he understood there might be an issue with the Harbor House denying food at noon due to the virus and asked the Council to check on the matter. He reiterated the need to maintain good hygiene.

Michaela Cash, 800 E. Broadway, explained she was the front of house manager at

Sycamore Restaurant and asked how the future would need to look for things to return to normal. She wondered if it was a certain ratio of cases in comparison to the number of beds.

Mayor Treece stated they wanted to lead from the epidemiology standpoint. The flattening of the curve prevented the spike of the number of cases, but it also lengthened the horizon. He asked Ms. Browning for indicators they should look for in terms of a time frame. Ms. Browning replied there was not a hard and fast answer. She stated the CDC guidance was saying eight weeks, but she had heard it could be anywhere between 8-20 weeks to flatten the curve. She suggested they hope for eight weeks. She explained they would look at what was happening in Missouri. Ms. Peters pointed out it was a fluid situation. She stated they wanted everyone open as soon as possible, but safely.

Mr. Skala understood some of this was dependent on the capacity to test. Ms. Browning stated that was correct. Mr. Skala explained they would not know whether the curve was flattened until then. Ms. Browning agreed. Mr. Glascock noted another indicator was the stress on their healthcare providers in terms of whether they were seeing less cases, etc.

Mr. Thomas thought the evidence around the world was clear that this kind of aggressive action was essential to prevent the overwhelming numbers of sick people inundating the healthcare system. He felt they were more fortunate here than in other parts of the United States and the world in that they were starting to implement these fairly drastic measures before they even had a confirmed case. He believed it was the right strategy.

Mr. Trapp appreciated the leadership of Mayor Treece in getting out in front of this issue and in providing a calm and informed perspective by utilizing his contacts across the State and through the industry. He thanked staff for going above and beyond. He understood these measures were broad, but thought the two decision-makers, who already had these intrinsic powers through the existing system, would use them with appropriate discretion and with a compassionate and gentle hand for the best good of the entire community. He stated there had been an unprecedented effort in providing tents and sleeping bags as Room at the Inn had come to an end. He understood Phoenix Programs and the Basic Needs Coalition had some stockpiled. In addition, his organization, 4-A-Change, and Operation Safe Winter had assisted in the effort. He commented that they were learning as they went to ensure people survived in a tough environment and a system that was rife with longstanding inequities. He understood Harbor House had considered not offering lunch, but thought they had moved to a box lunch program instead. As a result, that piece of food safety still existed in a different format. He thanked Steve Hollis, the Human Services Manager, for his hard work as he was now shifting from homeless triaging to how to get food to fragile families when school was out. He noted he appreciated some of the measures that would allow them to take action when needed. The advice now was to shelter in home, and that could be tough for those that did not have a home. He understood Pastor Lindsay at First Presbyterian Church was willing to help, but he was not sure if congregating people was best. He explained the biggest concern in the homeless advocacy community was what would happen if they started having cases within the homeless population. He liked that they had fairly extreme measures in case they needed extreme solutions to meet this extreme problem and that they were thinking ahead in terms of how they would protect the most vulnerable in the community.

Mr. Skala thanked the staff for the amount of work they had been doing, and noted it showed in this resolution. He commented that the approach was aggressive, but it was also proactive and protective. He noted there was a lot of information on the subject, and something that had given him pause was a bar graph showing the difference between the responses of South Korea and Italy. He explained South Korea had instituted a program of testing asymptomatic patients or potential patients while Italy had not. Italy had waited until people were symptomatic. Also interesting was that a large percentage of asymptomatic people in South Korea had been 29 years old or younger so that age group might be super-spreaders of the virus. He understood the United States was focusing on

high-risk groups, particularly the elderly, but pointed out everyone was affected, and noted it would take the public and private sector to address it.

The vote on R46-20 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

Mr. Glascock stated he had signed the declaration of emergency.

SI3-20 Swearing in of David Sorrell as Utilities Director of the City of Columbia.

Mayor Treece asked David Sorrell to join Mr. Glascock, the City Manager, and Ms. Amin, the City Clerk, at the podium.

The City Clerk administered the oath of office to Mr. Sorrell as the Director of Utilities for the City of Columbia.

SI4-20 Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Audit.

Mr. Lue provided a staff report, and introduced Kevin Smith of RSM to present the findings of the audit.

Mr. Smith explained this external audit was required by federal and state statutes. He noted the purpose of the audit was to provide an opinion on the financial statements in terms of whether they were in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and to look at internal controls as they related to financial reporting. He commented that they had not provided an opinion on the internal controls of the City, but had reviewed the controls as they related to financial reporting and had communicated any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. They had also reviewed certain aspects of federal grant programs and certain components of state regulations. He stated the City had received an unmodified or clean opinion with regard to the financial statements and noted that was the highest level of assurance that could be received. He explained significant estimates were included within the financial statements and pointed out those were include within the scope of the audit. They had looked at the estimation processes and had concluded they were reasonable. He commented that other required communications at the end of the audit process would involve any significant issues or items that had come up during the audit process. He stated there were not any significant audit adjusting entries. There had been one immaterial entry that was mostly a misclassification between depreciable assets and non-depreciable assets of the water and electric fund. There were not any other difficulties or significant issues as a result of the audit, and they had received the full cooperation of all of the departments with which they had worked. He explained they reported the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and there were not any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. He noted they also issued a letter with regard to Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) compliance as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had items to test yearly, and no findings were reported as a result of that work. He commented that the single audit was the audit involving the federal grant programs, and Columbia continued to be a low risk auditee for single audit purposes since there was not a history of findings or issues in monitoring federal grant programs. This designation kept the cost of the audit down along with the number of programs that needed to be reviewed and tested. He explained the three programs they had looked at in detail this year were CDBG, HOME, and Highway Planning and Construction grants, and all had received clean opinions as there were not any material findings. He pointed out the total of those programs had accounted for about 24 percent of the federal grants the City had received in 2019. He stated there had been one instance of noncompliance as a deadline had been missed, but it was not considered a material instance of noncompliance so it had not impacted the opinion given on the program. He explained the report had been submitted, but had just not been submitted timely.

Mayor Treece understood this was a financial audit and asked if it had been a

performance audit. Mr. Smith replied no. Mayor Treece asked for the difference between a financial audit and a performance audit. Mr. Smith replied a financial audit was focused on the financial statements. A performance audit could take a variety of forms that were very different in scope. He explained a performance audit could focus on internal controls, efficiencies, certain departments, certain transactions, personnel and organization effectiveness, etc. It was very different from a financial statement audit.

Mr. Pitzer understood there had been an immaterial item involving the classification of assets, and asked how much they looked into how assets were classified. Mr. Smith replied as much as they needed to become comfortable that the balance was correct. He explained they did not test every transaction. They set materiality thresholds and sampled items.

Mr. Pitzer asked Mr. Smith if they reviewed non-capital assets. Mr. Smith replied yes. Mr. Pitzer asked if that involved how cash was classified. Mr. Smith replied they tested cash.

III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC3-20 Board and Commission Applicants.

Upon receiving the majority vote of the Council, the following individuals were appointed to the following Boards and Commissions.

CONVENTION AND VISITORS ADVISORY BOARD

Morrison, Bret, 5380 S. Rock Quarry Road, Boone County, Term to expire September 30, 2021

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Rose, Thomas, 5204 E. Tayside Circle, Ward 5, Term to expire November 1, 2020

IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC16-20 Jeff Stack - Open Public Spaces for Our Unhoused Kin.

Mr. Stack stated he was the Coordinator of the Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation and explained he was experiencing mixed emotions. He was thankful for the six churches, collectively, that had been Room at the Inn (RATI) and had provided shelter since mid-December, along with the RATI Board, leaders, staff, and hundreds of volunteers. In addition, he was thankful for the assistance provided by City staff and the Council in helping RATI gain federal funding to cover operational expenses. He commented that he was also coming to the Council tonight with some sadness and shame as he reflected on some ugly realities. Saturday was the last night of operation for RATI. Some of the churches had been able to house about 60 people on cots, and other smaller churches had sheltered up to 30 people each night. Like last night, other shelters in the community would be full, and as a result, several dozen people would be on the streets again. It was helpful that many had tents as indicated by Mr. Trapp, but others did not. Had there been a tornado destroying dozens of homes, City and County officials would most certainly mobilize and open public spaces as emergency shelters as it would be the right thing to do. He believed homelessness was very similarly a storm of misfortune, striking and devastating the lives of dozens of people within the community and millions of people across the country. It was a storm that could and would become more brutal due to human callousness and neglect. He commented that he felt it was long past time the City and County stepped up by taking the next shift after RATI by providing a shelter for homeless people that did not have any other choice. He stated it was time for that compassionate action now. He asked that the Council consider opening up a public space, such as the Armory, the ARC, or this five-story building, to house up to 60 people through the end of March. He understood there were about five different development projects on the agenda tonight that likely led to jobs but also great

profits for only a few people. He thought providing emergency shelter should be the City's biggest and most important task. He noted there was an economic cost of people being homeless. He commented that the cost of RATI was about \$15 per night per person, which was not a lot of money in comparison to someone breaking into an abandoned building for a place to stay as that would likely involve the police, jail, and potentially prison, which would cost thousands of dollars. He stated he had been before the Council many times over the years requesting assistance, and felt something needed to be done. He explained he had only been homeless voluntarily as a reporter in the late 1970s to gain an understanding of what it was like. He encouraged the Council to do the same, be more compassionate, and do what was needed to provide shelter.

SPC17-20 Beth Hastings - Comments about Public Transit.

Ms. Hastings withdrew her request to speak.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH9-20 Proposed construction of the Runway 2-20 extension project at the Columbia Regional Airport.

Discussion shown with B52-20.

B52-20 Authorizing construction of the Runway 2-20 extension project at the Columbia Regional Airport; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.

PH9-20 was read by the Clerk and B52-20 was given second reading by the Clerk.

Ms. Button and Mr. Parks provided a staff report.

Mr. Pitzer asked if staff had talked to their airline partners with regard to plans for the next few months. Mr. Parks replied staff talked with them almost daily with regard to their plans and there had not been any reduction in flights yet. There had been reductions in passengers utilizing the airport, but at this time there had not been any reduction in flights out of Columbia.

Mr. Pitzer asked for an update on the grant received for additional air service. He wondered if that might be put on hold for a few months. Mr. Parks replied he had recently spoken with American Airlines and they were in the process of determining when the best time might be to start that service. He did not anticipate it starting any time soon, but they could push the grant off and potentially start service later in the year or in the beginning of next year.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, wondered if it was time to stop construction as he understood there was likely only two months before airlines started to declare bankruptcy.

Matt McCormick, 300 S. Providence Road, stated he was the President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and asked the Council to continue to move forward with this airport project. He commented that the airport was something the Chamber had supported for many years, and they had seen its success from 9,000-10,000 passengers to over 250,000 passengers last year. He noted the airport was a wonderful asset and pointed out its importance in terms of economic impact for the community.

There being no further comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

B52-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

PH10-20 Consider the FY 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Discussion shown with R44-20.

R44-20 Approving the FY 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

PH10-20 and R44-20 was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Cole provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

The vote on R44-20 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

PH11-20 Proposed replacement of the pervious pavement in parking areas located in the alleyway north of the City Government Center.

PH11-20 was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Nichols provided a staff report.

Mr. Thomas understood this was more expensive than traditional asphalt. Mr. Nichols stated it was, and noted this would cost about \$15 per square foot while traditional asphalt was about \$2.50 per square foot. He commented that this was the stormwater management system here. As a result, they wanted to maintain the integrity of it. He thought this product would work well to ensure the stormwater management system functioned as it should.

Mr. Thomas asked if this technology had the potential to provide the paving or parking surface and manage stormwater while saving money based on the cost of those two services. Mr. Nichols replied it made sense when they had a confined space such as this, but for a larger area, it was better for the parking area to drain into a detention or retention pond with water quality cells.

Mr. Skala asked if there had been a maintenance schedule on the prior system and if there would be a maintenance schedule for this new system as well. Mr. Nichols replied yes. A company out of Jefferson City would vacuum the surface about two times a year at a cost of \$1,000 each time. He commented that the new surface would have larger openings and perform better than the existing surface. Mr. Glascock pointed out oil and other fluids tended to negatively impact the ability to vacuum out the fines from the current surface.

Mayor Treece asked about the construction schedule. Mr. Nichols replied he thought they could start in about three weeks. He pointed out they would have to work around the drive-up window and the through-alley traffic. As a result, he thought it would take 2-3 weeks to complete.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

Mayor Treece made a motion directing staff to proceed with replacing the existing pervious pavement in parking areas located in the alleyway north of the Government Center. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skala and approved unanimously by voice vote.

PH12-20 Proposed construction of sanitary sewer and storm water improvements to the Cullimore Cottages project located on the west side of Eighth Street and north of Fairview Avenue.

PH12-20 was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Cole provided a staff report.

Mr. Ruffin asked if this would affect the surrounding homeowners. Mr. Cole replied yes, and noted he thought it would affect them positively.

Ms. Peters asked where the sewer system recently approved by Council that would go under the new auditorium for Jefferson Middle School was in comparison to this sewer. Mr. Sorrell replied this sewer would be connected to the same sewer they would build on the Jefferson Middle School property. Ms. Peters asked if that included Eighth Street and the other street. Mr. Sorrell replied all ten of the homes would be tributary to the sewer they would build on the Jefferson Middle School property. It would have a peak discharge of about eight gallons per minute so it would not have a significant impact on the sewer system. Ms. Peters stated it appeared as though it connected to Eighth Street and went south until it reached the Jefferson Middle School sewer line. She was glad it would improve things.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

Mr. Trapp commented that he thought this was great in that it respected the needs of the neighborhood although it had driven up the per site costs. He appreciated staff being able to find some cost savings via the private sector instead of working through the Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). He was happy to see this become a reality and believed Dan Cullimore would be proud.

Mayor Treece made a motion directing staff to proceed with the Cullimore Cottages sanitary sewer and storm water public improvements project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trapp and approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B348-19 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code to establish use-specific standards governing the operation of short-term rentals (Case No. 31-2019).

Discussion shown with B46-20.

B22-20 Amending Chapter 13 and Chapter 26 of the City Code relating to bed and breakfast establishments and short-term rentals of residential dwelling units.

Discussion shown with B46-20.

B23-20 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to add short-term rental provisions to the City's Rental Unit Conservation Law.

Discussion shown with B46-20.

B46-20 Establishing an administrative delay in the enforcement of Chapter 29 regulations related to short-term rentals, Chapter 22 regulations related to the requirement to obtain a short-term rental un-hosted certificate of compliance, and Chapter 13 regulations related to the requirement to obtain a business license.

B348-19A was given fifth reading by Mayor Treece, B22-20A and B23-20A were given third reading by Mayor Treece, and B46-20 was given second reading by Mayor Treece.

Mayor Treece made a motion to table B348-19A, B22-20A, B23-20A, and B46-20 to the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peters.

Mayor Treece understood the PZC had a meeting this Thursday, and that would likely be their last one for the foreseeable future. He hoped they were open for business again in May, and thought staff could work with the PZC to gather whatever was needed. He commented that he was not sure of the solution for this as it was very complicated. He

thought they had struck a good balance, and noted he might still feel that way in three months.

Mr. Skala understood it had been an 8-1 decision by the PZC to further look into it when they had the opportunity. He stated he was looking forward to a recommendation.

The motion made by Mayor Treece and seconded by Ms. Peters to table B348-19A, B22-20A, B23-20A, and B46-20 to the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting was approved unanimously by voice vote.

B51-20 Authorizing a contract for sale of real estate with BAMDA Properties LLC for the acquisition of property located at 1206 Bowling Street to be used by the City Utilities Department as part of the Municipal Power Plant and Electric and Water Distribution Complex campus of buildings.

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Sorrell provided a staff report.

B51-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The following bills were given second reading and the resolutions were read by the Clerk.

- B47-20 Approving the Final Plat of "Spencer's Crest, Plat 4-B1" located on the west side of Range Line Street and south of Rain Forest Parkway; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 32-2020).
- B48-20 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to provide reserved parking for police vehicles along a portion of the south side of Walnut Street.
- B49-20 Authorizing Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Boone County, Missouri relating to ongoing maintenance responsibilities of roads along the geographic boundary of the Columbia city limits.
- B50-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds for replacement of the pervious pavement in parking areas located in the alleyway north of the City Government Center.
- B53-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating a disbursement from the Conley Fund to the Department of Public Health and Human Services for utility assistance.
- B54-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to the Office of Sustainability for training expenses.
- B55-20 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code relating to the installation of street trees in public rights-of-way (Case No. 105-2019).
- R38-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed replacement and improvement of the storm drainage infrastructure on a portion of Ross Street west of William Street.
- R39-20 Authorizing a participant agreement with National League of Cities for membership in the 2020 Leadership in Community Resilience program relating to climate action activities.
- R41-20 Adjusting stipends for City Council members.

- R42-20 Authorizing a subaward agreement with the Missouri Police Chiefs Charitable Foundation for Peace Officer Standards and Training Program (POST) approved online training for City of Columbia police officers.
- R43-20 Authorizing a professional architectural services agreement with Columbia Associates Architecture & Interior Design, Inc. for professional design services and preparation of construction documents for the proposed indoor pavilion project at A. Perry Philips Park.

The bills were given third reading and the resolutions were read with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bills declared enacted and resolutions declared adopted, reading as follows:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

The following policy resolution and bills were introduced by the Mayor unless otherwise indicated, and all were given first reading.

- PR45-20 Adopting the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) concept and principles; incorporating cost-efficient CPTED principles and practices in proposed land development and redevelopment projects; and providing for the implementation and enforcement of CPTED standards.
- B56-20 Authorizing an annexation agreement with Danny R. Summers and Sylvia M. Greer for contiguous property located at the terminus of Cherry Bark Court and south of Old Ridge Road (3805 Cherry Bark Court) (Case No. 50-2020).
- B57-20 Approving the Final Plat of "Rock Bridge Elementary Subdivision" located on the southeast corner of the Providence Road and Highway 163 intersection (5151 S. Highway 163); authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 5-2020).
- B58-20 Approving the Final Plat of "Old Hawthorne Plat 14" located on the south side of Wild Horse Court and east of Rolling Hills Road (5404 Wild Horse Court); authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 71-2020).
- B59-20 Authorizing construction of sanitary sewer and storm water improvements to the Cullimore Cottages project located on the west side of Eighth Street and north of Fairview Avenue; authorizing the Purchasing Division to issue a contract for the project.
- B60-20 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant of easement for underground electric purposes to Boone Electric Cooperative for the installation of underground electric power lines and electric cables and associated aboveground pad-mounted apparatus within the right-of-way located along a portion of the south side of International Drive to serve the Molly Thomas-Bowden Neighborhood Policing Center.
- B61-20 Authorizing construction of improvements to the solid waste collection site located at 912 E. Walnut Street; authorizing the Purchasing Division to

- issue a contract for a portion of the work utilizing a duly authorized term and supply contractor.
- B62-20 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the Tupelo Place and Larch Court sanitary sewer improvement project.
- B63-20 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the Quail Drive storm water improvement project.
- B64-20 Accepting conveyances for sewer and drainage and utility purposes; accepting Stormwater Management/BMP Facilities Covenants.
- B65-20 Accepting a conveyance for underground electric utility purposes.
- B66-20 Authorizing construction of the Taxiway C2 and apron expansion project at the Columbia Regional Airport; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B67-20 Authorizing an agreement with Columbia School District No. 93 for HVAC improvements at the Hickman High School natatorium; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B68-20 Accepting the 2020-2021 STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) program grant from the Missouri Department of Public Safety; authorizing an Award of Contract and Certified Assurances and Special Conditions.
- B69-20 Authorizing an agreement for professional services with ETC Institute for a perceptions survey relating to the form and function of the City of Columbia website; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B70-20 Authorizing an agreement with Boone County, Missouri, on behalf of the Boone County Children's Services Board, for the purchase of services for training to address perinatal distress; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B71-20 Authorizing a cooperative cost-share agreement with Boone County, Missouri, The Curators of the University of Missouri and the Mid Missouri Solid Waste Management District for the City's solid waste collection event for household hazardous waste, electronic waste and tires.
- B72-20 Authorizing a cost allocation agreement with Columbia Public Schools for construction of a sidewalk along the north side of St. Charles Road between Demaret Drive and Battle Avenue; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

X. REPORTS

- REP17-20 Business Loop Community Improvement District (CID) - Annual Membership.

Mayor Treece noted the Business Loop CID had provided a slate of nominees and he had been unable to reach a couple of them. He explained he liked interviewing all of the CID applicants prior to making appointments. As a result, he would hold off on these appointments until the April 6 meeting.

- REP18-20 Community Foundation of Central Missouri 2020 Report.

Mr. Baker provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece noted there would obviously be more needs than funding from the

COVID-19 Regional Relief Fund and asked how distributions would be prioritized so those that needed it received it. He wondered if there was a priority in terms of the population that might be served. Mr. Baker replied they would look at those affected financially in terms of emergency medications, utilities, assistance with rent, technology needs, etc. They understood service sector employees would be impacted significantly along with hourly and weekly wage earners. He noted they would try to address a variety of needs. Although they would provide some cash from time to time, most of the work would be done through nonprofit agencies via grants for services and provisions for people in need.

Mr. Thomas appreciated the Community Foundation Board setting this up so quickly. He understood the identification of households needing assistance would be done by the nonprofit organizations. Mr. Baker replied that would be the case for the most part. He explained there might be times the Foundation did something directly. He pointed out they seldom gave money to people, but they sometimes had to do those extraordinary things. He stated they would ensure it was a needful, upright, and helpful opportunity that could not be met in any other way. Mr. Thomas understood organizations like the Voluntary Action Center did things of this nature and had systems for identifying the greatest needed. Mr. Baker stated he had touched based with Nick Foster with the Voluntary Action Center and had briefly chatted with Andrew Grabau of the Heart of Missouri United Way as well. He commented that they would have an advisory committee of at least seven members and would also host a number of fundraisers.

Mr. Thomas asked how quickly they would start making distributions. Mr. Baker replied within a week or more as needs started to arise. He pointed out they were starting with a \$10,000 seed gift, but it would not go very far. As a result, they would be looking for people that could provide lead gifts of \$10,000 or more via personal phone calls and contacts to determine what they might be able to obtain. They would then know more with regard to future time horizons.

Ms. Peters asked if there were groups with which they planned to work in addition to the United Way and the Voluntary Action Center. Mr. Baker replied yes, and mentioned the Food Bank and Meals on Wheels. He pointed out it was still in progress, but the fund was established and they planned to choose those on the advisory committee carefully.

Mr. Ruffin asked if any of these funds could be used for testing for the virus. Mr. Baker replied he thought that was a possibility.

REP19-20

Communication from the Climate & Environment Commission regarding 2020 priorities.

Carolyn Amparan stated she was the Chair of the Climate & Environment Commission and thanked the Council for its ongoing support for Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). She commented that the CAAP included 161 actions, and since they could not take all of those on at one time, they had prioritized the actions based on certain criteria. The criteria involved actions that were achievable, foundational, and provided a leverage point. She noted they felt those kinds of actions would help move the community in the right direction on a broad base. Although these were the priority actions at this time, other proposals would likely come forward from staff or other boards and commissions. She listed the six areas of focus, and noted they were open to feedback on the priorities selected.

Mr. Thomas understood the recommendation was to look at street design standards in terms of transportation, and that the projected mode share over the next 15-30 years included an enormous increase in transit ridership. He asked if they had discussed in detail how that would be accomplished. Ms. Amparan replied they had not yet discussed it. She explained they had formed a transportation subcommittee at their last Commission meeting so they had not been able to get into the details yet. Mr. Thomas noted the Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization (CATSO) had voted to set up a major amendment process to the Long Range Transportation Plan, which currently did not show any change in the funding level for transit over the next 30 years. He

understood a stakeholder committee would be established to design a major amendment for the development of a Long Range Transit Master Plan to be a part of the broader Long Range Transportation Plan. He thought one of the important aspects of the plan was that it be compatible and consistent with the CAAP. Ms. Amparan thought the Climate and Environment Commission would want to work closely with them to create a better alignment.

Mayor Treece commented that he was struck by the mobilization, collaboration, and communication that was occurring with the current challenge, and thought it could be the model for other challenges they faced with the same sense of urgency, whether climate change, gun violence, etc. He appreciated Ms. Amparan keeping them focused on this. Ms. Amparan commented that even though they had a current emergency unfolding in front of them, climate change would be the next public health crisis. Mayor Treece agreed the only difference was that the current crisis was slightly more immediate. Ms. Amparan agreed, and noted that unfortunately they would not be able to prevent the future one if they did not act now.

Mayor Treece asked if the priorities of the Climate and Environment Commission provided guidance to the City Manager with regard to how they addressed items and in what order. Mr. Glascock replied he thought it provided guidance.

REP20-20 2019 Citizen Survey Results.

Ms. Messina provided a staff report.

REP21-20 Uncollectible Receivables.

Mr. Lue provided a staff report.

Ms. Peters asked for clarification regarding the non-utility write-offs. Mayor Treece replied he thought they were fines, building permit fees, etc. Mr. Lue agreed. Ms. Peters asked if the one for \$13,000 on Again Street involved a building permit. Mr. Lue replied he would need to look it up to be sure of the situation.

Mayor Treece asked if the new financial system had a way to flag names in terms of repeat offenders so we could collect what was owed the next time they tried to obtain a service from the City. He understood that by writing those amounts off, the City would be forfeiting its right to collect them. Mr. Lue explained that was not necessarily true as they would go to the collection agency as well.

Ms. Peters understood these had not gone to the collection agency yet. She asked if these were ones the City had been trying to collect on its own. Mr. Lue replied these were from a period of time when the City had not been actively trying to collect bad debt. They had since changed their processes. Mr. Glascock explained they previously had not had a collection agency, but they had one now to assist. Ms. Peters asked if the collection agency had been successful. Mr. Lue replied they had been as successful as they could be. He noted some of these were related to code violations, and he believed the one referred to by Ms. Peters earlier was likely the result of a code violation. Ms. Peters asked if there was any way of knowing if that was what had happened in that case. Mr. Lue replied he could look it up and relay it to her.

Mayor Treece asked if the utility write-offs were all for unpaid utility bills. Mr. Lue replied yes. Mayor Treece asked if those would be turned over to the collection agency as well. Mr. Lue replied yes.

Ms. Peters understood there was an unpaid bill of \$16,000. Mr. Lue stated that was correct. Ms. Peters understood a company could run up that kind of debt. Mr. Lue stated he did not know the specifics of that one, but noted a large enough company could run up that kind of debt within a month or two. Ms. Peters asked if this company was still in business. Mr. Lue replied this particular one was not. He explained he had asked staff to start looking these up and for them to start doing their own due diligence before sending them to the collection agency. Ms. Peters thought that would be a good idea. She understood some of these were restaurants that were still in business, and asked if

they were just behind in payment or if they were choosing not to pay their bill. She wanted a better understanding of the situation. Mr. Lue explained the ones on this list were from 2014. He pointed out they usually waited five years before writing off a bad debt. Ms. Peters asked for clarification regarding some of the restaurants that were still in business. Mr. Lue replied he was not certain of the specifics. Mr. Glascock reiterated they were looking at their processes to determine how they could do better. Ms. Peters understood they could not collect on some items, but noted the result was \$500,000. Mr. Lue stated he had personally noticed 2-3 companies with large balances, which the Accounting Division was contacting in an attempt to collect the bad debt.

Mr. Skala commented that he had mixed feelings with regard to the use of the collection agency. At minimum, he thought they needed data to determine if the agency was effective or not in collecting those bad debts. He felt City staff could absorb quite a bit of money depending on how persistent they were in recovering some of these costs. He asked for the data to determine if the investment in turning it over to the collection agency had results.

Ms. Peters stated she wanted to know how the City handled these issues. She wondered if the City followed up if someone was a month behind via a letter or if the utilities would be turned off. Mr. Lue replied he thought the first action involved letter and then there were some robocalls. Ms. Peters asked if the letter indicated the utilities would be turned off if not paid. Mr. Lue replied it was a delinquency letter. Ms. Peters asked if this went on for a few months prior to any other action. Mr. Lue replied he thought it was 90 days prior to anyone being turned off, but he was not certain. Ms. Peters asked for a report on this issue. Mr. Glascock stated staff would provide a billing report and noted the City had not cut off utilities for a while due to the new billing system, etc.

Mr. Skala understood this was from five years ago, but one of the addresses involved Geyser Boulevard, and that name change had just recently occurred. He wondered if the system had been adjusted to reflect the new name of the street. Mr. Glascock replied he was not sure, but thought it had been.

Mr. Skala commented that some of these amounts, like the one that was \$4.12, might not be worth pursuing since it would cost more in staff time to try to resolve. Ms. Peters thought they should look into what they might pursue and what they might not.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the amount of time had changed recently between when a bill was sent and the billing due date. Mr. Lue replied they were still in talks as to how that would be done. He noted they would look into the entire billing process as there were some issues and efficiencies that could be gained. Mr. Glascock recalled a change, but he was not sure if it had to do with timing. Mr. Pitzer explained he had received a complaint from a constituent indicating there was not enough time between the invoice date and the due date.

Mr. Trapp asked if they were working toward allowing people to choose a billing date. Mr. Glascock replied he was not sure as there were thirteen billing cycles now.

REP22-20

Amendment to the FY 2020 Annual Budget - Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds.

Mayor Treece understood this report was provided for informational purposes.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, commented that the coronavirus was around them all of the time, and that COVID-19 was the concern. He understood testing to address the virus was being conducted in Seattle, Washington. He also understood it could stop during the summer, but that it would likely return in the fall. He was happy the City was trying to educate people, and suggested they also promote rest, lower stress, and vitamin C.

Mayor Treece commented that the Charter required one meeting per month. The April 6 meeting agenda had been scaled to be bare bones along with anything that needed to be addressed between now and then. He noted Columbia, South Carolina, had also gone to an abbreviated council meeting, and had taken distancing seriously by only requiring the bare minimum for a quorum. He stated he was not necessarily suggesting they do that, but pointed out he was not opposed to it either if anyone wanted to go that route.

Mr. Pitzer understood any action taken had to be done in person. Mayor Treece thought that was the case for now. He understood there were some Sunshine Law changes being expedited through the legislature that might make it easier, but that they would have to review the Charter to know what was allowed.

Mayor Treece commented that if the April 7 election was not delayed, they would have a meeting on April 20 to swear in the new member. If the election was delayed, he understood the current council members for Ward 1 and Ward 5 would continue until a successor was elected.

Mayor Treece pointed out the City Manager could delay any ordinance or take any action for up to 21 days since there was an emergency. After 21 days, he would have to present an ordinance for the approval of Council. Ms. Thompson concurred with that statement. The exception included things the City Manager did on the administrative side that did not necessarily have the force of law. Anything that would have the force of law or be a waiver or an existing City Code provision that would be enacted by Council would have to come to the Council for ratification within 21 days or would expire at the end of 21 days.

Mayor Treece asked how they wanted to handle pre-council meetings. He suggested they remain focused on this and not hold a pre-council meeting if they were not holding a regular meeting. He asked if they wanted a pre-council meeting on April 6 for updates.

Mr. Skala commented that he thought communication would be paramount regardless of whether they held council meetings and pre-council meetings. He agreed there was a need to hold a work session on a monthly basis, but not a bi-monthly basis. He also did not feel they were at a point where they needed to only have a quorum of the Council attend the meetings. Ms. Peters agreed they should not pare it down to four members yet.

Ms. Peters suggested a coronavirus update at the beginning of each regular council meeting. Mr. Skala agreed that would be beneficial.

Mayor Treece understood the PZC would have one more meeting on Thursday, but all other board and commission meetings would be suspended effective tomorrow, and asked if everyone was in agreement. He noted the board and commission reception that was going to be held on Wednesday would also be canceled.

Ms. Amin understood there might be another commission that had already noticed a hearing. Mayor Treece asked if that was the Board of Adjustment (BOA). Ms. Amin replied the BOA did not have anything that would require a meeting in April. She understood the Building Construction Codes Commission sometimes heard requests for exceptions to the building codes, and was not sure if they might have already advertised any sort of public hearing.

Mr. Thomas asked if this idea had been communicated to board and commission chairs or if it had come up too recently. Mayor Treece suggested each liaison be notified and that they relay that information to their members along with the fact the board and commission reception had been canceled. Mr. Glascock stated that could be done.

Ms. Peters thanked Mayor Treece on the numerous hours he had spent talking to people regarding COVID-19. She also wanted to thank Ms. Browning as there had been an enormous amount of work in her department. Mayor Treece agreed. He explained that there had been many calls on the mayor/council phone line the Friday of True/False regarding concerns about the event, and staff from that department had called each of

those people back. He thought that had gone a long way to quell public fear and reaction.

Mr. Trapp commented that the Loaves and Fishes program that provided lunch at Wilkes Methodist Church would continue that program, but they were unable to find hand sanitizer. He asked that they be connected to that resource if anyone knew of its availability. He noted he had referred them to the pop-up store, which was out of sanitizer.

Mayor Treece understood a number of downtown businesses were having trouble purchasing sanitizer and wipes. He understood the Boone County Fire Protection District was making its own hand sanitizer. He wondered if the City had any bulk purchasing power or if there was another resource.

Chief Jones stated he had spoken with a distillery that had indicated they might be able to make some, and would keep them posted.

Mayor Treece thanked Mr. Glascock for his work. He noted these were unprecedented times and stated he was grateful for his leadership.

Mr. Glascock commented that this was a time when unity and one voice was needed, and he appreciated their support as it would help him and Ms. Browning do their jobs.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:24 p.m.