



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, May 4, 2020
7:00 PM

Regular

Council Chamber
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

(One or more council
members may
participate via
videoconference.)

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2020, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri.

Mayor Treece explained some council members were participating by videoconference and that public comment would be limited per an emergency ordinance passed at a prior meeting. He pointed out that written public comment that had been received by the City Clerk by 4:00 p.m. had been distributed to the Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was taken with the following results: Council Members TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA (via videoconference), THOMAS (via videoconference), PITZER, and PETERS (via videoconference) 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 April 20, 2020 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Treece and a second by Mr. Trapp.

The agenda, including the consent agenda, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Treece and a second by Mr. Ruffin.

II. SPECIAL ITEMS

SI7-20

COVID-19 Update.

Ms. Browning provided an update.

Mayor Treece understood the occupancy ratios were the same as those contained in the Governor's order that was effective through May 31. Ms. Browning explained the Governor's order involved occupancy limits for retail. Columbia had applied the occupancy limits to gyms and restaurants as well. The retail portion was exactly the same.

Ms. Browning and Mr. Clardy continued with providing the update.

Mayor Treece referred to a slide presented by Mr. Clardy and asked if the yellow line described the cumulative number of cases or tests. Mr. Clardy replied it showed the cumulative number of cases and the blue lines at the bottom showed the number of daily cases. Mayor Treece understood they wanted that to be flat. Mr. Clardy replied they wanted both to be flat. Mayor Treece understood they wanted both to be flat for fourteen days preferably. Mr. Clardy stated that was correct.

Mr. Clardy continued providing the update.

Mayor Treece understood the information shown was not just related to Boone County Hospital and that it also included data from the University of Missouri Hospital and the

Truman VA Hospital. Mr. Clardy stated that was correct. He noted they would change the title of the tab. Mayor Treece suggested naming it hospital capacity or something similar.

Mr. Clardy continued providing the update.

Mayor Treece understood the number of beds each hospital had would be a public record, but they might not want to dedicate a certain number of beds to COVID patients. He wondered if they should switch to a color system of green, yellow, and red for the level of risk instead of saying there were no issues. Mr. Clardy stated that would match the data they reported to the Missouri Hospital Association. He commented that in discussions with the hospitals, they had learned that what Boone Hospital considered to be yellow was not the same as what the University of Missouri Hospital considered to be yellow since they were a level one trauma facility. He thought it would be best if they only had two options instead of three, and it would show whether they were good or not good.

Mr. Pitzer understood the testing information that showed the number of tests performed by the hospitals was not necessarily equivalent to the number of Boone County residents tested. Mr. Clardy stated that was correct. Mr. Pitzer asked if the Boone County numbers were tracked. Mr. Clardy replied they did not have that information as negative cases were not reported to them. Mr. Pitzer asked if they received the number of tests performed daily. Mr. Clardy replied yes. Mr. Pitzer asked if that information was relevant. Mr. Clardy replied yes. He noted they had recently seen the daily number of tests decreasing so less people were being tested than had been earlier. Mr. Pitzer asked about testing availability. Mr. Clardy replied they worked with the hospitals in terms of testing availability as the hospitals had stepped up to make it available fairly quickly, and they were telling the Department of Health and Human Services staff they had plenty of tests, but they hesitated in providing a number per day because it could change based on staffing. He noted GeneTrait Labs was saying they were ramping up to do 1,000 tests per day. He stated the limiting factor was how quickly and how many they could get through the lab. Mr. Pitzer explained he had seen those numbers for different states and on a national level, but was not sure if the numbers were the test kits available or tests that were done. Mr. Clardy commented that they could look at adding a daily number of tests done. Mr. Pitzer noted he was not sure what would be the best relevant number.

Mr. Clardy continued providing the staff report.

Mr. Thomas understood GeneTrait Labs had the capacity to analyze up to 1,000 tests per day, and asked if the hospitals had the capacity to perform that number of tests if required. Mr. Clardy noted GeneTrait was ramping up to that number. He was not sure they were there yet, but it was their goal. The hospitals had not really indicated how many they could do per day. They had just stated they had an adequate supply of testing and that they felt confident they could handle an increase in testing should it be needed. He explained that testing had been initiated into other areas of the County today for people who might not be able to get to Columbia for testing. It had been done through a partnership of the three hospitals and the Department of Health and Human Services. Today, they had tested thirteen people in Centralia. He noted they would go to Ashland and Hallsville later this week and to facilities that housed at-risk populations next week. He pointed out the State Health Department had given them 500 swabs for that effort.

Mr. Thomas asked if there was a plan for comprehensive testing of long-term care facilities or other high-risk populations where everyone that was willing to be tested would be tested. Mr. Clardy replied not at this time. He explained that while testing was available, it was not available for the entire population. As a result, they still wanted to prioritize testing supplies based upon the people that needed it the most. If they had a case in a long-term care facility like they had, they would then recommend testing everyone, which had happened. Mr. Thomas asked for the result of that. He recalled there being a case within a long-term care facility. Mr. Clardy replied all of the other residents had been tested and none of the tests were positive. In addition, all of the staff

were tested, except for one person who did not want to be tested, and all of those results had come back negative as well. The person who had chosen not to be tested had not been able to work for 14 days. The facility had done a great job of moving quickly.

Mr. Thomas asked if there was any thought for random testing in the community to get a better handle on the spread and the numbers. Mr. Clardy replied he thought the next step would be targeted testing toward contacts. They wanted to get contacts tested quickly so they could identify asymptomatic cases more quickly. He pointed out a meat packing plant in St. Joseph, Missouri had an outbreak, and the State Health Department had worked with the local health agency to test all of the workers. He noted about 30 percent of the asymptomatic people were testing positive, which was a huge issue, especially in a meat packing plant when people were shoulder to shoulder and unable to social distance. He explained that was the reason they had concerns for nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Mr. Thomas asked if consideration had been given to requiring face coverings to be worn in some of the retail or office settings, and how they had reached the decision to not require it. Mr. Clardy replied cloth face-coverings were not a substitute for social distancing. Social distancing was the only thing they had to fight the virus at this point in time. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended cloth face-coverings if social distancing was not possible or if it was not likely. It was the reason they required face-coverings at personal care facilities like hair and nail salons. They did not require it in the other places because it really was not effective compared to social distancing. Mr. Thomas understood they were worried that people would stop social distancing if they required face coverings, which would increase risk. Mr. Clardy stated that was correct.

Mr. Skala understood all of the testing discussed involved diagnostic testing. Mr. Clardy stated that was correct. Mr. Skala asked if antibody testing been considered. He understood it was controversial in terms of reliability. Mr. Clardy replied antibody testing was not something that should be used for diagnostics. It was for trying to determine how much of the population had at some point been exposed to the virus. It was also not useful in determining whether someone was immune to the virus because this virus had not been around long enough for them to know whether having the antibody meant one was immune to it. He commented that a lot of antibody testing had not gone through any type of FDA approval either so they needed to be cautious. He stated antibody testing had a place, but it was not within diagnostics or in trying to predict immunity. He noted it could help determine how widespread exposure was within a community.

Mr. Skala stated his appreciation for the Department of Health and Human Services staff and felt the dashboard would provide a tremendous amount of information.

Mr. Pitzer asked for the percentage of tests done that came back positive. Mr. Clardy replied it was about 1.4 to 1.9 depending on the hospital. Mr. Pitzer asked if that trend had been consistent or if there had been a change in the trend. Mr. Clardy replied it had been fairly consistent once they had a decent number of tests. Mr. Pitzer thought that might be relevant to include, particularly if the number of tests expanded significantly at some point in the future and due to the number of the asymptomatic positives. He felt it was important make the information available to the public so they could understand what it meant if they saw a higher number of positive incidents. Mr. Clardy stated that was a good point.

Mayor Treece understood 30 percent of the asymptomatic cases had come back positive in the St. Joseph situation, and asked how many of them would at some point show symptoms or if they were carriers exposing others because they did not know they were positive. Mr. Clardy replied he did not have an answer to that question. He stated they did not know enough about the virus yet and they had not seen any data in that regard. Mayor Treece asked if they had been mandated or forced to take the test in that situation as a condition of employment. Mr. Clardy replied not to his knowledge. He thought they had been strongly encouraged to take the test by the local health department and the State Health Department, not necessarily by their employer.

Mayor Treece commented that this dashboard showed four active cases and eleven people in the hospital, and asked why they could not just open everything back up. Mr. Clardy replied if they immediately did that, there would be a lot of exposure and people getting sick very quickly. When this had started in Boone County, the doubling time was 1.85 days. If they had not done anything, they would have been in the tens of thousands of cases by now. He stated they did not want to put vulnerable people at risk. He noted he had seen the radiographs of the lungs of vulnerable people and he was not sure how many could survive it. He explained they were trying to be careful with a calculated approach because they did not want to put the citizens of Boone County in a situation where there were too many cases for hospital care. He pointed out they were reviewing the situation in Boone County along with the catchment area of the local hospitals. He explained the incubation period for the virus was up to 14 days. The best recommendation before moving to the next step would be to get through two incubation periods to ensure they did not see an increase. As a result, it would be a minimum of three weeks as that would provide a two-week incubation period and a week to review all of the test results. If they started to see an increase in cases, they would likely extend this order through at least another incubation period.

Mayor Treece asked for the level of rise that would cause so much concern that they would revert back to more restrictions. He also wondered at what level they would feel it was manageable to lessen the restrictions even further. Mr. Clardy replied they would look at several factors. One was whether they could handle the workload in terms of contact tracing. Currently with the assistance of the State Health Department, they could do 35-40 new cases per day. He noted they would also review hospital data to determine whether any of the categories mentioned previously would turn red as that would be a concern. He commented that they were not under a grand illusion that they would not have any new cases, but what they did not want to see was one case one day, two cases the next day, four cases the next day, eight cases the next day, etc. He stated he could not provide a definitive slope or answer, and noted they would continue to use their best professional judgement based on the data they had.

Ms. Browning continued providing the update.

Mr. Pitzer understood Mr. Clardy had indicated they had the capacity to do contact tracing for 40 new cases per day. Ms. Browning stated they could do 40 cases. Mr. Pitzer asked what the maximum was on a cumulative basis. Ms. Browning replied they had recently trained five new people and had the potential for funding from the State Health Department to hire additional contact tracers. She explained there were two elements to the process. There was the actual disease case investigation portion where they spoke to the person who had tested positive to identify all of the contacts. They then called the contacts educating them and advising them to quarantine and checked in with them once or twice a day every day. She noted they had the capacity to do 30-45 with existing staff. Mr. Pitzer understood they could handle 40 active cases and not necessarily 40 new ones every day. Ms. Browning stated that was correct. Mr. Pitzer understood the State had provided some assistance with the meat packing plants. Ms. Browning explained the State had sent some of their staff there. Mr. Pitzer asked if that was being done statewide if asked. Ms. Browning replied it seemed as if the focus had been on those situations, but she could not speak to that. Mr. Pitzer asked Ms. Browning if she had started to think about who might be available to do that tracing. Ms. Browning replied yes, and pointed out they had received offers from the University and others. She stated good training was available so she thought they could handle it.

Mr. Pitzer asked about the plans in terms of City business. Mr. Glascock replied City Hall had been opened to all employees this week, and they hoped to open at least the first floor of City Hall to the public next week. Mr. Pitzer asked if playgrounds would reopen or if they would restart some of the water and light items they had stopped. He thought the Council needed to discuss board and commission meetings as well. Ms. Browning stated they were not ready to open the playgrounds yet and that they would be

closed through the month of May. Mr. Glascock explained the boards and commissions that were statutorily required, such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, would begin to start meeting soon.

Mr. Pitzer stated he thought they, as the Council, should discuss what they wanted to do with regard to council meetings going forward.

Mr. Thomas understood 40 active cases was the maximum in terms of contact tracing. Ms. Browning stated that was correct without any additional resources, and explained they had the ability to pull people from other duties. Mr. Thomas asked if the contact tracers would be fully occupied for a 14-day period with 40 active cases. Ms. Browning replied some would roll off as some would come on. Mr. Thomas asked for the maximum number of new cases per day they could handle. He understood they could handle 40 cases for a two-week period, but wondered at what point they would be over capacity in terms of contact tracing. Ms. Browning explained they spent a tremendous amount of time obtaining contact information for a new case, but once they had their contact information, they were making calls twice a day and that did not take as long. As a result, they had the capacity to add new cases and staff could handle a new case interview. They just had to have extra contact tracers. Mr. Thomas explained he was trying to understand the point at which the contact tracing ability was overwhelmed by new cases per day. Ms. Browning replied she did not know that she had an exact answer without discussing it further with staff. She reiterated they could add extra people so they had extra capacity. Mr. Thomas thought it would be a good number to pin down. He thought there would be real trouble in terms of contact tracing if they had 100 new cases per day as he understood they had been doing 1-2 easily for the last several weeks. He wondered where the tipping point was between those two situations. Ms. Browning commented that when they had fewer people on the team and twelve cases, it had been a stressful day for the staff. They had now trained more people so the team was bigger and they could do more. Starting out with twelve requiring thorough investigations had been a stressful day. Mr. Thomas understood after the first day those doing follow-ups would have time to do some new cases if necessary.

Mr. Ruffin understood the incubation period was about 14 days and that they anticipated going through two of those periods before considering whether they could move to Phase 2. Ms. Browning stated it would be Step 2 of Phase 2 after looking at three weeks. It would provide a week of people opening and another 5-14 days for the incubation period. Mr. Ruffin understood that would put them into June. Ms. Browning commented that they would look at the three-week period and try to provide businesses more time to accommodate the next phase.

Mr. Ruffin noted several churches within the City were eager to open and were anticipating being able to open at the beginning of June. He asked what would be required for that to happen without the restrictions of social distancing. Ms. Browning replied she thought they would be social distancing for a long time. Mr. Ruffin understood there would be attendance restrictions even if they were allowed to open. Ms. Browning commented that some churches were contemplating adding services, social distancing among family members, etc. Mr. Ruffin explained some churches felt they were incapable of social distancing so they were wondering when that restriction might possibly be lifted, and understood Ms. Browning was saying it would be quite a while. Ms. Browning stated she believed social distancing would be new normal for months, even with the lesser restrictions, as it was the one thing they had. Mr. Thomas understood it would be this way until they had a vaccine. Ms. Browning agreed it would depend on a vaccine or good treatment.

Mayor Treece asked about youth sports. Ms. Browning replied they thought there were ways they could have practices involving skills building while avoiding contact. She commented that they were evaluating each situation as they received questions. She stated she was impressed with some of the suggestions as people were being very thoughtful.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the most liberal point in the reopening plan included sporting events with fans. Ms. Browning replied they would have to wait to see. She thought it could, but felt it would be dependent on how things were organized in terms of safety.

Mayor Treece commented that Mr. Pitzer had raised a good point about board and commission meetings and council meetings, and thought a part of it was predicated on the emergency order. Currently, they were still under an emergency order, and while Mr. Glascock would like to lift it, receipt of federal funds might be dependent upon it staying in place. He asked when that might expire or be rescinded. Ms. Thompson replied the emergency declaration provided the ability for the City to react quickly and avail itself of emergency management funds as they became available through the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She explained it was a two-pronged approach that provided the flexibility of the City Manager to react quickly along with the ability to receive funds. She commented that there was a potential that they could still receive the SEMA and FEMA funds without the emergency declaration in place, but it was certainly necessary for the City Manager to be able to react quickly in what was an unstable environment at this point in time. She commented that when the Director of Health, Stephanie Browning, was issuing her orders, she was acting in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and was solely focused on the health impacts on the pandemic. The City Manager, however, was responsible for the day to day operations of the City, and if they had to waive any of the existing rules, he needed the emergency order in place to do that. Mayor Treece understood the ability of Ms. Browning was not dependent on the emergency declaration. She had unique powers distinct from the City Manager. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct, and explained Ms. Browning could exercise her powers as independently as Mr. Glascock could exercise his. His powers were more related to the operation of day to day government. Hers were the community-oriented health, safety, and welfare considerations. She noted Columbia was unique in the central part of Missouri because the population was in excess of 75,000, and as a result, the City had a city health department in addition to a county health department. Most other counties in the region only had a county health director.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Thompson if she had a sense for when the window might close that required the emergency declaration to remain in place. Ms. Thompson replied she thought they would have to determine when they believed the tide had turned. She thought it was likely once they were past the time frame that the Director of Health was looking at not having to roll back. As long as the possibility of rolling back existed, the City Manager would need the ability to react swiftly as it related to City operations. A number of the measures the Council had enacted as it related to COVID involved leave for employees and waivers of certain City Code requirements were directly tied to the City Manager's emergency declaration. They were not tied to the orders of the Director of Health as those orders were more fluid based upon the week to week analysis of what was happening in the community.

Mayor Treece commented that he thought the City Manager had done a good job of being judicious with his emergency powers as he had limited it to only COVID related functions and he had brought those items to the Council to ratify. As a result, he was less concerned about that.

Mayor Treece noted he was anxious to get back to in-person council meetings as he did not like this format. He stated he did not like relying on written comment instead of verbal public testimony, but noted he was not sure it could change for at least the next two council meetings unless they were able to be socially distanced.

Mr. Pitzer commented that he was eager to lift the restrictions on comments. He felt that was the highest priority. If they continued to see stabilization within the next two weeks, he would be comfortable returning to the things they did before they had that restriction in place.

Mayor Treece asked if procedurally they would have to rescind the emergency ordinance

passed to allow public comment. Ms. Thompson replied yes. She noted they would have to take action on the ordinance that had limited public comment. She explained the Council had two options based upon the enacted ordinance. One was when the emergency declaration was lifted, and the other was when the ordinance was rescinded by Council, whichever occurred first. Mayor Treece recalled that had been an emergency ordinance that had been introduced, second read, third read, and passed at the same meeting, and asked if the same process could be done to repeal it or if it would have to be introduced and read at one meeting and repealed at the next meeting. Ms. Thompson replied the same process could be used. She commented that she was not sure she would call it an exigence circumstance, but felt it could be done if they wanted to act quickly because they had restricted what would be the normal procedure. She stated staff could put it on the next council meeting agenda, and the Council could then choose to take action or not action.

Mr. Pitzer understood they could take action on it at the May 18, 2020 Council Meeting. Mayor Treece stated that was correct, and understood that would allow them to resume verbal public comments at the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Pitzer understood they could also decide not to proceed with it at the May 18, 2020 meeting. Mayor Treece agreed they could continue it to the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting and take it up then as well.

Mr. Trapp stated he supported that approach. He felt it was an odious thing that they did not allow people to redress their issues with government. He believed people would find other less legitimate and safe means to bring their redress to government.

Mr. Trapp asked if the City Manager's emergency declaration included economic disruption or if it only involved direct pandemic related issues. He wondered if the emergency declaration was large enough in scope to include secondary effects of massive unemployment, disruption in housing, disruption in the provision of social services, etc. He felt that type of collateral damage had caused far more damage than the disease process. Ms. Thompson replied the immediate need under the emergency declaration was specifically related to public health, safety, and welfare, i.e., any kind of proactive or extraordinary measures directly related to the pandemic. The secondary effects, unless it was something imminent or exigent, would be things that should be brought to the City Council. She pointed out anything that was done by the City Manager was only effective for 21 days. It was ultimately brought to the City Council for either ratification or rescission if it was of a permanent nature. As a result, everything the City Manager had been given the power to do was of a temporary nature directly related to the pandemic.

Mr. Skala commented that he thought it was absolutely important to make some adjustments in the near future to allow testimony and the public to take part in the democratic process, but he also felt it was necessary to pay attention to the data. Per Ms. Browning, they were discussing a 2-3 week process. He was not opposed to getting those things ready to act on, but did not believe they would have the answers to some of the questions until they knew how the relaxation on some of the stricter stay at home rules would take effect. He suspected there would be an effect. He was just uncertain as to the extent of the effect. He thought that would inform their decision as to the extent to which they could get back to normal. He commented that he did not want to rush the process. He stated he also felt some of the boards and commissions, like the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and Board of Adjustment (BOA) with statutory authorities, might need to avail themselves of the Zoom platform like the Council was doing. He noted he did not want to create a lot of work for staff, but thought the meetings that were already held in the Council Chamber could be handled without too much extra work. He reiterated he felt they had to rely on the Director of Public Health to make the call based on the data, which would be forthcoming in 2-3 weeks.

Mayor Treece stated they, as council members, were also being deprived on input from the Finance Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) and the Water and Light Advisory

Board (WLAB). He asked if they wanted to allow some boards and commissions to start back up in June or sooner.

Mr. Pitzer noted he would be in favor of allowing some boards and commissions to start meeting beginning on June 1. He thought the meetings could be a combination of virtual and in-person attendance.

Mayor Treece commented that he was reluctant to allow virtual meetings for most boards and commissions since it was difficult for staff and due to the perspective of the Sunshine Law. He suggested starting with some measured steps for the month of June by allowing only the PZC, BOA, WLAB, and FAAC to meet. He thought the rest could go another month without meeting. He noted City staff had just been brought back today, and they were working toward the physical distancing of work spaces. He felt those were the boards and commissions they relied on the most to keep their work moving.

Ms. Thompson stated staff had been discussing having the PZC, the Housing and Community Development Commission, and Building Construction Codes Commission meet in May. The BOA would resume on June 9. They would then start to bring back in the other boards and commissions that heard cases, such as the Citizens Police Review Board and the Human Rights Commission. Staff felt the boards and commissions that had cases to be heard were mission critical. She explained they were examining whether they would have to have a virtual component to the meetings or whether they had the capacity for in-person meetings. She agreed it was more effective to have in-person meetings. As a result that was the preference if they could accommodate social distancing and could allow them to meet in a safe environment. She noted they had to modify meeting spaces in order to make that happen. She pointed out the Commission on Cultural Affairs Standing Committee on Public Art also had to meet regarding the airport due to a deadline related to the project, and there could be others with a similar need which they would need to examine.

Mr. Pitzer commented that there were other boards and commissions to consider, such as the Airport Advisory Board as they would soon hold a hearing on an airport related project and the Integrated Electric Resource and Master Plan Task Force as it had some time sensitive issues. Ms. Thompson understood the Council had given some boards and commissions deadlines and tasks, but if there was not a statutorily required hearing, their work could be condensed. It meant they would have to work harder when they were able to meet due to a compressed time frame or be provided the understanding of Council in missing deadlines.

Mayor Treece stated he did not object to plan suggested by Ms. Thompson, but felt the WLAB should be included due to the task forces and the FAAC should be included due to the expenses and potential budgeting impacts.

Mr. Thomas understood the City was now issuing new building permits for construction projects. Mr. Glascock stated that was correct. Mr. Thomas understood the City was not processing solar interconnection applications for installing solar panels, and that it had stopped on April 7 and would remain that way for 2-3 months. Mr. Glascock stated that was not true. Mr. Thomas noted he had heard that from Dan Shifley of Dogwood Solar. Mr. Glascock explained Mr. Sorrell planned to reach out to Mr. Shifley to let him know that was not the case. He pointed out it was the home energy loans and rebates that were being delayed. Mr. Thomas understood the applications for solar connections would begin to be processed again. Mr. Glascock stated they had never stopped to his knowledge.

Mr. Thomas commented that physical distancing would be with them for at least a year or two. As a result, he was not sure they would be able to go back to the normal occupancy for restaurants. He pointed out he was reluctant to go into a restaurant at the present time, but thought they could help restaurants maintain revenues if they provided options for more outside seating. He understood some restaurants on the Business Loop were already planning to use parking lots, but that they might need a liquor license from the City to be able to serve beer and wine at those outdoor tables, and suggested they

make that as easy as possible on privately owned parking lots. He thought they could also consider shutting down some downtown streets during the evening hours to allow restaurants to put tables in the streets and sidewalks to increase capacity as there was far less traffic now. Mr. Glascock stated they would have to ask the Fire Department for their opinion because closing the street would affect access in the area if there were issues. Mr. Thomas asked about the liquor licenses. Mr. Glascock replied he would need to check with the Business License Office to see how that worked.

Mr. Thomas understood the election would be held on June 2, 2020 and that people could obtain an absentee ballot up until about two weeks prior to that date or go to the Boone County Clerk's Office to vote up until that date, and suggested they consider issuing a press release explaining the options for absentee voting for the upcoming election. Mr. Glascock stated they would ask Ms. Lennon, the Boone County Clerk, if that was acceptable to her. Mr. Thomas agreed they should check with Ms. Lennon.

III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None.

IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH16-20 Consider amendments to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan for CDBG and HOME Funds.

Discussion shown with R63-20.

R63-20 Approving amendments to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan for CDBG and HOME Funds and the City of Columbia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program Administrative Guidelines.

PH16-20 and R63-20 were read by the Clerk.

Mr. Cole provided a staff report.

Mr. Trapp commented that he was pleased but not surprised by how Mr. Cole had managed this response as it was really complex and they had not been provided guidance. He noted TBRA was a permanent housing voucher and they would not be able to put in \$300,000 per year. He understood there would be some attrition while some people moved to other housing grants or fell out of housing, but there would also be some carryover, and asked if they would see much larger TBRA allocations in future years. Mr. Cole replied he anticipated that as a potential need and that there would be good demand for a year or more. He thought the unemployment extension people were receiving would last 20 weeks, and they would then be hit hard as people came off of that in the fall. He also felt it would carry over into the next year. He stated it would have to be reevaluated at that point. Mr. Trapp commented that he felt Mr. Cole had made good decisions as housing vouchers were the big bottleneck. He was pleased with the capacity they had grown with the Columbia Homeless Outreach Team and the Functional Zero Task Force in that they had a by-name list to enable ongoing communication and the ability to locate people when housing was available. He noted this funding would provide a direct infusion into the rental housing industry, which might be one of the hardest hit due to impacts related to college students and short-term rentals. He thought there might be some good deals and some new landlords who might not have had the standards to serve those with a TBRA voucher previously. He felt it could be a good shift for the community. He applauded the work of Mr. Cole as it showed his knowledge of the community.

Mayor Treece noted they had dedicated \$90,000 in \$5,000 increments to businesses of

five people or less at the prior council meeting two weeks ago, and understood that money had been gone in four hours. He asked about that process. He wondered if it had been first come, first served, and whether the Loan and Grant Committee had been used. Mr. Cole replied they had not used the Loan and Grant Committee since groups of that nature were not meeting, but noted they had leaned on Chair of that Committee, Lynn Limback, who had connected with folks at Central Bank of Boone County to bounce some guidelines and ideas off of as they had done with other local community banks. He explained a first come, first served system was utilized. As a staff, they felt that put them in the best position to not have to pick winners and losers. In addition, it got the money out of the door quickly. Mayor Treece asked how many applications they had received. Mr. Cole replied they had accepted 22 applications and then had stopped accepting applications. They did not want people spending time completing applications when they knew they would not be funded so they shut the system down when it appeared as though they had 18 eligible applications along with a wait list of 4-5 other applications. He noted one of the businesses that had applied had not been eligible due to their income levels and three others had been unable to meet the parameters of the grant. He understood some other communities had provided for a lottery system. He commented that he believed the challenge was the need being so high.

Mayor Treece asked for the deadline for approving and disbursing the money discussed tonight. He understood these would be amendments to the FY 2020 plans and assumed they had the 2020 fiscal year to do this. Mr. Cole replied HUD would take back CDBG funds if they were not expended within eight years, but they could not wait that long because every year HUD conducted a threshold test and they could not have more than 1.5 times the annual allocation on hand in November when that test was done. As a result, they needed to have each grant expended within about two years, and not much longer.

Mayor Treece understood for the business loan portion, it would be a business located in Boone County or owned by a Boone County resident. He asked if Columbia was the financial intermediary of CDBG monies in the entire County or just within the city limits. Mr. Cole replied just the city limits, and pointed out they were requiring the business to operate within the city limits so the business had to have a physical business location within the city limits but could have an owner that resided within Boone County. He commented that he had gone back and forth on that item. He had initially had the requirement of operating and residing within the city limits, but felt uncomfortable being that restrictive since he did not know how many businesses operated within Columbia and had an owner that resided within Columbia. He stated a change could be made. He felt the need would be so high that they would not have trouble expending the funds. Mayor Treece agreed the need would be high and that they would likely only be able to fund 26 businesses based on the funding. He stated he was a little uncomfortable selecting 26 winners as it was taxpayer money. He commented that he liked the rent assistance as it would keep those on the bubble housed. He wondered if it would be better for the \$400,000 or a portion of the \$400,000 to be invested in some type of kitchen model. He noted Springfield had a model where those that needed a meal once a day could come. If they paired it with the commercial kitchen REDI was developing, they could potentially move the Turning Point and the Salvation Army meal efforts to that shared space. It would create synergies and potentially provide some job training. He thought it might allow for a greater impact to the community and those affected than to provide a forgivable loan to 26 businesses. He understood the 26 businesses would be helping their employees, but wondered if they could leverage a greater impact. Mr. Cole commented that he was not sure of the mechanics of planning for the kitchen described by Mayor Treece and how far along the partners were in coordinating it. He was not saying they could not work on it. He stated they had impacted 42 low to moderate income jobs and had helped 18 different businesses through the microenterprise program, so if they helped 26 slightly bigger businesses, they might impact more low to moderate

income jobs. In addition, they could deploy the funds into the local economy quickly. The kitchen project would likely take longer in terms of planning and mechanics. He noted they could look into that if Council directed them to do so and explained he would want to check in with all of the different players. Typically, proposals were brought to them so the process would be different in that instance.

Mr. Trapp commented that there were a lot of attractive things to what had been mentioned by Mayor Treece, but it would take a lot of planning and stakeholder input. Traditionally, they had waited for people to issue proposals and responded in terms of whether or not they wanted to fund it. He was not sure that was the best approach. It had worked fine as a lot of worthy projects had come forward, but they had not been able to set strategic objectives and move them forward. He noted Boone County social services had done more targeted RFPs. They had not waited for someone to propose a children's access center and instead had put out a targeted RFP. Columbia had not really done that with their social services or their CDBG money. In terms of the suggestion of Mayor Treece, he felt a good start might be to ask the University of Missouri about their willingness to allow a portion of Mizzou North for something like that. He did not feel it should take away from these immediate efforts, and thought it should be tasked with their long-term planning as they would still have the need next year. He liked the approach of Mr. Cole for this batch of funds because they could provide good value and be expended now while supporting struggling aspects of the economy, but liked the idea of Mayor Treece as a mid-term strategy because this virus situation had created more needs and put more people into play. He noted some people had been content living in the woods and panhandling, but they had not been able to live that lifestyle recently. In addition, there had been a wake-up call among some in the homeless community in terms of the risk of disease management associated with their lifestyle. He believed there was a great opportunity for change, and having a center like the kitchen was a great model. He commented that another property that might be in play was the Eastwood Motel as it was an attractively priced functional hotel with a kitchen, but Mizzou North would be ideal because it was centrally located. Mayor Treece noted the kitchen concept would do a few other things. Mr. Trapp agreed it could move the Turning Point asset out of a neighborhood. Mayor Treece stated it would also allow for a place to take leftover food when they were back to having large events as they could have a process in place in terms of refrigeration, etc.

Mr. Pitzer noted Mr. Cole had a slide with several different potential funding sources that might occur over a period of time, and asked if there was something there that could help jumpstart the kitchen idea. Mr. Cole replied yes. He explained the City was scheduled to receive \$573,000 on top of what he had discussed as part of round one of the CARES Act funding. He understood there would be a second round that was more dependent on the impact of COVID-19 on the community so it might be a similar amount or less. He thought they might receive \$500,000-\$750,000 within the next six months so they could look at a project as had been described by Mayor Treece. Mr. Pitzer felt that would allow time for someone to put together meetings to determine if they could create something that had traction. He commented that he felt there was an immediate need in terms of assistance for businesses to ensure there was a business for people to go back to, keep jobs, and keep people in jobs.

Mr. Skala stated he liked the idea of Mayor Treece as the synergy aspect had tremendous potential. He also liked the suggestion of Mr. Cole of considering it in the medium term. In terms of the residency requirement for the small business recovery loan, he felt the demand was sufficient for requiring the owner of the business to reside within the city limits of Columbia.

Mayor Treece commented that despite him raising the issue, he thought it might be premature. He stated he had been impressed and proud of the unity with the County in their preparedness, response, and hopefully recovery. He believed it was an obligation of the City to share with the County when they had assets and for the County to share with

the City when it had assets to share as well. He explained he had been curious as to whether CDBG funds went to the entire County or just to the City of Columbia.

Ms. Peters stated she would hate to restrict it if the business was located in Columbia. She felt it would be artificial to say the person that owned the business had to live in Columbia. There were a lot of people that lived right outside of the city limits for whatever reason, but their businesses were within Columbia and they paid taxes to the City. As long as the owner was within the County and the business was within the City, she felt it was reasonable.

Mr. Skala stated he was not trying to rebut the comments, but felt it was along the same lines as encouraging linemen, police officers, or firefighters with a residency requirement. He agreed with Mayor Treece in sharing resources with the County and felt enhancing the relationship was laudable, but suspected this would not make that much difference because the money would disappear quickly due to the demand and it not being an inexhaustible source.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

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

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Cole if there was a way they could efficiently and expediently distribute the funds in any way other than on a first come, first served basis or via a lottery. He also asked Mr. Cole if he could envision a way for businesses to provide matching funds or amplify the effect of the loans based on what they might be willing to do, i.e., provide for more than one low to moderate income individual. He wondered if there was a way to extend the dollars to obtain a bigger return on the investment. Mr. Cole replied he had talked with the banks initially, and they felt this could be a potential way to use some of their funds to allow people to access additional low cost financing from the banks, but the banks had been tied up with the paycheck protection program (PPP) and wanted to focus their attention on it as it involved more money. If there was a way they could rate and rank applications that could save the most jobs, he would be willing to try to accommodate it. He would want to ensure they could verify it easily on the back end so people were not just saying they were saving jobs. Mayor Treece stated that would enhance his comfort level. He commented that it was also important to him that it was fair. He hoped they were blind reviewed and that not only those that could afford to hire an attorney to complete the application, had heard about it, had access to a computer, or could get it done within 24 hours would apply. He explained he was not sure how to make it equitable. Mr. Cole stated it was a challenge, which was why they had gone with the first come, first served approach. It was the cleanest for them as they would not be put in the position of being accused of choosing one business over another. Mayor Treece felt that approach required a lot of lead time and awareness, especially with non-traditional populations that might not be members of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Cole commented that as a part of their public engagement meetings, they had been asked to expand their outreach to the minority business enterprise (MBE) community. He noted 10 of 18 had been either MBE or women business enterprise (WBE), but only four had been MBE. He stated he had a good follow up conversation with a few people to determine what could be done in the future to get the word out, and they planned to work with Jim Whitt and a group of volunteers to contact each MBE on Mr. Whitt's list. Mayor Treece pointed out there was a Hispanic Chamber of Commerce group that he felt should be contacted as well. Mr. Cole stated they could contact them as well.

Mr. Pitzer asked Mr. Cole when he planned to open up the application period. Mr. Cole replied it depended on when they received the grant agreement from HUD. They had provided the award letter and the grant agreement usually came quickly afterwards, but it seemed as though there was a bottleneck at the federal level across all agencies. He anticipated that they would receive it prior to Memorial Day. Once received and signed by the City Manager, they would do outreach and a press release on that following Monday and open up the application period that Wednesday. As a result, it would likely be around the first of June, but could be sooner.

Mr. Pitzer asked if someone that had received other government funding would be eligible for this as well. Mr. Cole replied their funds could not be put towards a business that had already received assistance through PPP. Someone that had been through PPP that had additional expenses that were not covered could apply, but it would have to be documented and demonstrated that they were not double-dipping. The agreements would include a subrogation clause under special economic development assistance saying they were committed to not applying for another source to pay for the same thing after receiving these funds. He noted they were trying to reach businesses that had not accessed other resources.

Mayor Treece commented that he would encourage more than 48 hours of notice. Mr. Cole stated they could look at a week or longer.

The vote on R63-20 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

PH17-20 Proposed Phase II construction of a tennis and pickleball complex at A. Perry Philips Park to include the construction of four (4) pickleball courts, a prefabricated concrete restroom facility, small shelter, parking lot and ADA compliant walkways.

Discussion shown with B102-20.

B102-20 Authorizing Phase II construction of a tennis and pickleball complex at A. Perry Philips Park to include the construction of four (4) pickleball courts, a prefabricated concrete restroom facility, small shelter, parking lot and ADA compliant walkways; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division; authorizing a financial assistance agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

PH17-20 was read by the Clerk, and B102-20 was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Griggs provided a staff report.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the fieldhouse expansion phase was totally separate. Mr. Griggs replied yes. It was likely a project they would consider for the 2021 ballot issue.

Mayor Treece pointed out no written comments had been received on this item per the ordinance passed on April 6, 2020 regarding receipt of public comment on non-federal and non-state statute public hearings.

Mr. Skala commented that pickleball had been mentioned a number of more times than tennis and stated he was glad they were diversifying for all of his pickleball friends. He pointed out much of this was well-managed because they had a dedicated sales tax and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department staff.

B102-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

B94-20 Authorizing a temporary deviation from certain City Code provisions relating to the renewal or term of licenses or permits for liquor, businesses,

- solicitors and canvassers, cigarettes, vehicles for hire, junk dealers and junkyards, and tobacco retail sales.
- B95-20 Authorizing a temporary deviation from certain City Code provisions within Chapter 19 related to utilization of employee vacation leave and employee eligibility for vacation donation for a COVID-19 qualifying event.
- B96-20 Approving the Final Plat of "The Gates, Plat No. 4A" located at the terminus of Rivington Drive and approximately 1,200 feet east of Abbotsbury Lane (2901 Rivington Drive); authorizing a performance contract.
- B97-20 Authorizing construction of Phase I of the Fifth to Wilkes Sewer Improvement Project to include sanitary sewer improvements from the intersection of Fifth Street and Rogers Street to Sixth Street; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division or authorizing a contract for the work using a term and supply contractor; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B98-20 Authorizing an intergovernmental cooperative agreement with Boone County, Missouri and The Curators of the University of Missouri for a chemical analysis project as it relates to the Hinkson Creek collaborative adaptive management (CAM) implementation process; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B99-20 Authorizing a contract of obligation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to satisfy financial assurance requirements for proper closure and post-closure care with respect to a permit for operation of a solid waste disposal area.
- B100-20 Authorizing a contract for transfer of real estate with Boone County, Missouri related to the County Fairgrounds Property located east of Highway 63 and Oakland Gravel Road.
- B101-20 Authorizing a first supplemental agreement to an airport aid agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission relating to air service promotion for the Columbia Regional Airport.
- R56-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of Discovery Parkway from Discovery Drive to south of the intersection of New Haven Road and Rolling Hills Road.
- R57-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of the Lenoir Street improvement project.
- R58-20 Setting a public hearing: consider design/build contract proposals for construction of the new terminal building at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- R59-20 Authorizing Aviation Project Consultant Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. for construction phase services for the Taxiway C2 and apron expansion project at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- R60-20 Authorizing a license agreement with Mid-Missouri Radio Control Association to use a portion of City-owned land used by the City Utilities Department - Sewer/Stormwater Division for the wastewater treatment

plant to fly remote control airplanes for recreational purposes.

- R61-20 Authorizing form of service agreements with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. for compliance with tariffs regarding the transmission of electric power from the latan II power plant.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- R62-20 Approving an amendment to the City of Columbia FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan - Citizen Participation Plan.

The resolution was read by the Clerk.
Mr. Cole provided a staff report.

The vote on R62-20 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

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

- B103-20 Vacating street right-of-way along a portion of the east side of Old Route K and north of Green Meadows Road (Case No. 72-2020).
- B104-20 Vacating portions of utility, access and drainage easements and street rights-of-way within Boone Prairie, Plats 1 and 2 located on the east side of Brown Station Road and south of U.S. Highway 63 (Case No. 238-2019).
- B105-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating designated loan funds for Phase I construction of the terminal building project at the Columbia Regional Airport.

X. REPORTS

- REP23-20 Business Loop Community Improvement District (CID) - Remaining Appointments to Annual Membership.

Mayor Treece stated he had sent a letter of remittal to Council seeking the appointment of three members to the Business Loop CID. He explained he called everyone that had applied asking them if the CID was a not-for-profit, a chamber of commerce, or a political subdivision, to read the State Auditor's audit of community improvement districts, and whether they wanted to see their name or their CID in that audit. Based on those conversations, he wanted to appoint Michele Batye, Karen Geotz, and Crystal Garza-Matthews with the consent of Council. He asked if there was any objection, and no one objected.

- REP24-20 Strategic Planning Process Update (COVID-19).

Ms. Rhodes provided a staff report.
Mr. Trapp commented that when he had first heard they would press pause he was not sure it was a good approach, but understood they were really talking about pressing pause while moving forward with a public presentation with regard to what they were

doing. The part he really liked was the systematic process of reevaluation based on the changing conditions. He believed strategic plans were even more important in times of revenue decline and when possibly losing positions instead of adding positions since outcome objectives would look very different. He noted they had whole new array of opportunities and threats along with some glaring weaknesses that had been exposed that they would not have guessed they had. He pointed out they also had some incredible strength, resiliency, and new talent. After receiving clarification, he was very supportive of the process and felt it would be even more important due to changing times. He commented that he suspected it was overly optimistic to think about October 2020 as the reconstruction and post-COVID time. He thought that would likely be in the midst of the fall waiver and that this was the new normal for the rest of his political career. Reconstruction would be left to those that followed. With those caveats, he noted he was an enthusiastic supporter of the process. He felt they should all reexamine everything they wanted to do due to the present conditions as was being done by staff in this situation.

Mr. Skala commented that he thought this was a wonderful approach and felt the reevaluation had been absolutely necessary. He stated he wanted to see an executive summary of what they had started with before this public health crisis had occurred. He explained it would be informative to him to know what had happened to the process after some of the early and great organic work that had taken place. He congratulated staff for adjusting as quickly they had. Ms. Rhodes thanked Mr. Skala and noted an executive summary would be an excellent addition.

Mayor Treece stated he thought it would be wrong to adopt it the way it was and to ignore the current threat. He was supportive of the approach of staff.

REP25-20 Amendment to the FY 2020 Annual Budget - Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds.

Mayor Treece understood this report had been provided for informational purposes.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Mayor Treece listed the comments received by the City Clerk by the 4:00 p.m. deadline.

Steve Callis, the Missouri State Coordinator for International Compost Awareness Week, provided written comments with regard to International Compost Awareness Week, which was from May 3 through May 9. He noted Mayor Treece had issued a proclamation with the theme of Soil Loves Compost and provided information on a couple online workshops and an e-book reading list. These comments were filed with items associated with this meeting.

Frank Schmidt, 505 Silver Thorne Drive, provided written comments suggesting the exploration of a temporary accommodation to allow restaurants to set up tables in the parking spaces in front of their businesses and/or in front of adjoining businesses with consent as it would increase the limited capacity. These comments were filed with items associated with this meeting.

Maria Oropallo with Transparency Matters provided written comments indicating several groups and informed individuals had collaborated in providing material regarding homelessness in Columbia and Boone County. Included in the comments was a link that would allow the Council to read their letters, references, and list of supporters. The written comments were filed with items associated with this meeting.

Susan Maze, 902 N. Seventh Street, provided written comments inviting Council to her porch to witness the actual situation of the unsheltered population visiting Wilkes Boulevard Church during 4-7 p.m. when they came to Loaves and Fishes to eat as it was the most active time. She noted she felt a solution was needed to help them. The comments were filed with items associated with this meeting.

Pat Fowler, 606 N. Sixth Street, provided written comments asking a number of questions with regard to B97-20, which had been on the consent agenda, and Mr. Sorrell

had already followed up with her and she had been satisfied with the follow up at this time. The comments were filed with items associated with this meeting.

Mr. Trapp commented that a bus driver had brought up the issue of masks for bus riders. He knew personal protective equipment had been in short supply and that they had an active mask-making community. He thought it would be better to protect bus riders and provide a point of education if they could provide masks.

Mr. Trapp stated he reiterated and echoed the call of Mr. Thomas with regard to restaurant seating and was glad the City Manager had agreed to follow up with the Business Licensing Office and the Fire Department in terms of what could be done with select downtown streets. He could definitely see the issues of logistics and traffic.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:14 p.m.