



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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Monday, June 15, 2020  
7:00 PM

Regular

Council Chamber  
Columbia City Hall  
701 E. Broadway

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#### I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri.

Mayor Treece explained a number of the chairs had been removed to encourage social distancing and that written comments received by 4:00 p.m. from those that might not be comfortable attending the meeting would be referenced throughout the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was taken with the following results: Council Members SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, and TRAPP 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 June 1, 2020 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Skala and a second by Mr. Trapp.

Mr. Pitzer asked that R76-20 be moved from the consent agenda to new business.

Upon his request, Mayor Treece made a motion to allow Mr. Pitzer to abstain from voting on R78-20. Mr. Pitzer noted on the Disclosure of Interest form that he had a professional conflict of interest. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skala and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Thomas asked that R78-20 be moved from the consent agenda to new business.

The agenda, including the consent agenda with R76-20 and R78-20 being moved to new business, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Treece and a second by Mr. Trapp.

#### II. SPECIAL ITEMS

None.

#### III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC5-20 Board and Commission Applicants.

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Rogers, Kittie, 504 N. William Street, Ward 3, Term to expire May 1, 2025

COLUMBIA AND BOONE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD

Anderson, Bradd, 2306 Ridgefield Road, Ward 4, Term to expire June 30, 2023

Mayor Treece stated he wanted to continue to readvertise the vacancies to the Columbia Housing Authority Board.

COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ART

Berta, Valerie, 715 W. Worley Street, Ward 1, Term to expire July 1, 2023

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

Bowders, John, 1342 Overhill Road, Ward 4, Term to expire June 15, 2023

Fields, Hazel, 1304 Pearl Avenue, Ward 1, Term to expire June 15, 2023

Powell, Rene, 1201 Paquin Street, Apt. 202, Ward 1, Term to expire June 15, 2023

Mayor Treece explained they had received a resignation letter from Ms. Fowler so there would be a second vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission. He noted Ms. Fowler's term was to expire September 1, 2020 and asked if there was any objection to leaving that open and delaying advertisement so that anyone appointed could serve a full term instead of just the balance of Ms. Fowler's term. No one objected.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Geuea Jones, Sharon, 910 W. Broadway, Ward 4, Term to expire May 31, 2024

MacMann, Michael, 607 Washington Avenue, Ward 1, Term to expire May 31, 2024

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Bexten, Saige, 223 N. Ninth Street, Apt. 304, Ward 1, Term to expire March 1, 2021

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

Oetting, Marty, 2 Shad Bush Drive, Ward 2, Term to expire July 15, 2024

Wilke, John, 1855 Mountainash Court, Boone County, Term to expire July 15, 2024

Mayor Treece stated he would like to readvertise the Tax Increment Financing Commission vacancy.

WATER AND LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD

Hasheider, Jay, 1812 Cliff Drive, Ward 6, Term to expire June 30, 2024

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ferguson, Asher, Boone County, Term to expire June 1, 2023

Gautam, Shruti, Ward 5, Term to expire June 1, 2021

Howell, Emma, Ward 5, Term to expire June 1, 2023

Lee, Haeam, Ward 5, Term to expire June 1, 2023

Schelp, Jacob, Ward 4, Term to expire June 1, 2023

Seye, Saly, Boone County, Term to expire June 1, 2021

Shull, Molly, Ward 4, Term to expire June 1, 2023

Mayor Treece understood there was a vacancy on the Personnel Advisory Board with a term ending September 30, 2020 and that the Human Resources Director had suggested that vacancy be advertised later for a full three-year term since someone did not need to be appointed right away. He asked if anyone objected to that, and no one objected.

**IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT**

SPC21-20 Grady Harrington - The Columbia Police Department's reactions to mental crises.

Grady Harrington stated he was a long time Columbia resident currently living in the Third Ward. He noted he was terrified of public speaking, but felt it was important for the voices of people significantly more courageous and compassionate to not go unheard in these official spaces. He explained he wanted to speak on the event that had taken place downtown last Monday on Broadway as he believed it had been shameful and mishandled by the Columbia Police Department (CPD). When he had approached, the

area of the intersection of Broadway and College Avenue had been blocked off by heavy police presence, but due to the layout of the area, it had been easy to get close to the scene. He had seen a black man who was clearly in distress and moments from taking his own life with knives he was holding in his hands, and the response by the Police Department, which he felt was inappropriate, was to keep a “non-lethal” shot gun aimed at the man while he was experiencing that crisis. He explained he knew the orange pump on the weapon indicated it was non-lethal, but did not feel any person staring at the barrel of the gun would know or would be relieved of that fact. He was not sure how anyone could explain responding to a cry for help with a non-lethal weapon. He thought it should be obvious that the last thing that should be done when someone was inches away from taking their own life was to point a gun at them, but that had been the response from the Police Department, and it had not deescalated the scene as the man had remained extremely agitated and distressed. He commented that thankfully, a group of young individuals had approached the scene and had started expressing love and encouragement to the man. Instead of pointing a gun, they said things like “we love you” and “your life matters.” The impact of these words on this man had not been immediate, but over time, those young people had gotten through to him. As a result, the man had put down his knives and had allowed himself to be taken into police custody. Mr. Harrington stated he was thankful that scene had not resulted in a black man taking his life in the middle of downtown, and it had been thanks to those untrained, but extremely compassionate young people, who should have never been put in that type of situation, i.e., a life and death situation where they did not know if one wrong word would trigger an already distressed person. He commented that the resources necessary to train someone to be prepared for these situations was immense as were the resources needed afterwards to tend to those responding to traumatic experiences. He noted those young people would carry that trauma for the rest of their lives. He pointed out the consequences of the event had been immediate for one of those young people as one person had indicated he had had difficulty sleeping that night, and as a result, had overslept causing him to miss work, and when he had called in, his employer had responded by saying to never bother coming in again. He noted that person had been fired from his job, and he believed that was the fault of the City and the Police Department. He reiterated he felt the negligent militaristic response to a man experiencing a mental crisis would have lasting damage and consequences. If they wanted to live in a community they could take pride in, he believed immediate and long term changes, such as mandatory widespread and in-depth mental health response training for every first responder, were needed. A more radical, but lifesaving idea, would be to hire a large group of unarmed social workers to be on call to respond to these events instead of a militarized police force. He noted small scale changes could also be made now, such as updating the City’s website to increase transparency and make what resources existed for mental health and crisis intervention more easily known and available. He commented that even finding the form to sign up for public comment at council meetings was difficult and thought that needed to be changed.

SPC22-20

Rebecca Shaw - Response to City Manager's question of how to do better going forward.

Rebecca Shaw commented that on June 3rd, the City Manager, John Glascock, had issued a public statement that was different than what they had previously seen from a City official. She thanked Mr. Glascock for putting out something that felt very sincere. She also recognized Police Chief Geoff Jones as she felt he was walking a thin line in an effort to please his police officers and the public, and noted she would not want to be in his shoes. She stated she wanted to address some of the points that were in Mr. Glascock’s statement. One comment made was the need to educate themselves regarding systematic racism and to determine how to break down those systems, and she wondered what educating themselves might look like. She noted she had been on a

journey for about 1.5 years whereby she had broken down where she had come from, the internalized biases she had, how her family had taught her things, the way she looked at other people, etc., and asked what the City Council, as people, were doing. She challenged them to read books, watch documentaries, etc. to become more educated. She stated another comment made was that they needed to speak up when they saw injustices, and noted that was what those in the streets were doing every night. They were out there communicating their concerns directly to them in the only way they could. They had done the nice things and were now out there fighting for their lives and the lives of their brothers, sisters, and moms. They were scared every day and that was no way for anyone to live. She asked why the City Council had not specifically addressed this. She commented that attending the NAACP rally and kneeling was a great gesture, but they had not said they could do better and they had not apologized. She wondered where the apology was in the statement. She believed something was wrong in the City if those out on the street were saying they needed help. She commented that when her kids fought, the first thing she told them was to say sorry to each other. They then talked it out to determine the real problem. Those in the streets were calling for a need, and they needed to hear that the City was sorry. She noted many of the systems that created inequities were rooted in racism and needed to be combated. Public policies in Columbia had systematically removed people of color from their homes and had destroyed black businesses. In 2015, Columbia had recognized the history of the Sharp End, but asked where the apology was for it. She understood they had installed placards, but asked if there had ever been an official apology from the City saying they were sorry for decimating what African-Americans had built. She explained the history of policing in America went back to the creation of patrols to return property, i.e., slaves, to people. She stated they could not forget that and had to learn from it. She commented that they needed to recognize the ways their own processes and policies were problematic and make changes when they were identified. She thought people were looking for change now and asked if the City would work to place explicit anti-racist language in its code of conduct policies, such as social media, which they had asked about previously. She pointed out Officer Tate was still on the force and was in charge of a group of officers. She noted his personal biases were being passed down to the officers he supervised. She did not feel he should be in charge of other people, and believed he should be out. She asked if the CPD policy review meeting would be brought back as she felt it was essential. She stated they had seen the response from Chief Jones regarding the "8 Can't Wait" initiative whereby they could point to some policies, but there were also holes, and the CPD needed the public to help fill those holes. She did not believe an incident would not occur in Columbia. She noted they needed to have hard conversations with each other and hold each other accountable. The public wanted to meet with them and list and discuss their concerns. She commented that she had stood in front of the Council presenting images from the Columbia Police Officers Association (CPOA) Facebook page over a year ago, and noted she had been seething this morning when viewing another post from Dale Roberts. There was a problem with the CPOA culture. She explained Mr. Roberts had posted a statement in 2013 indicating a woman that was sexually assaulted by an officer got personal assistance, and asked if they wanted a man with morals of that nature leading the police union. She pointed out she believed in unions and stood up for unions because she knew how important they were for the working people, but they could not have leadership that showed their biases and hatred.

SPC23-20

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp - Responding to City Manager's request of how Columbia can do better: Face institutional racism head on!

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp commented that she was an angry black woman. She understood Chief Jones was trying to move an institution, which was difficult. She noted they welcomed his engagement and accessibility. He was affable, funny, smart, and

cared deeply about the organization, and they respected his commitment to his team. They also recognized that righting an entrenched institutional culture was no small task. At the same time, she believed there had to be a point when the institutions run by white folks needed to recognize the humanity of the people that were not white. Race Matters, Friends had started coming before the City Council in 2015 in an effort to avoid what had happened in Ferguson, Missouri. They had talked about institutional racism, procedural justice, and community policing, which she was not sure they would have because she did not believe there was a political will to say that was the philosophy they wanted. She referred to the 2014 recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence and noted they had piecemealed and leapfrogged over parts of that. She explained the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing had asked the CPD to say how they were applying community policing, and there were a lot of holes in it as well. She stated they felt the City Council had consistently failed to make equity and justice a priority with funding to do the work. She believed a budget was a moral document. If the City Council was serious about doing better, facing themselves in the mirror as an organization was step one. She felt the Council, Mayor Treece, and Mr. Glascock worked very hard to systematically and institutionally prioritize certain folks first, i.e., people with property. It was not a personal issue, it was an institutional issue. Columbians, as well as developers, were able to be first on the list all of the time. There was a reason the City's social services funding, which in 1980 was at about \$50 per low-income person, was now at about \$22 per low-income person, and .018 of the general fund budget, while public safety was about two-thirds of that same budget. She stated they had to do something different. If there was only one police officer within the CPD that was willing to call out Dale Roberts, she felt they had a rotten agency. She understood there might be contract complications, but the fact that no one in leadership was willing to stand up to tell him to shut his mouth was disgusting. As long as Dale Roberts was able to be racist and put items on social media, they could not say they were doing the right thing. They could not have it both ways. She felt they either believed institutional racism was an issue that they wanted to remove from the CPD or they were fake. She noted the Council had a decision to make regarding where they stood on moving forward in terms of institutional racism. They could either speak up or be complicit.

SPC24-20

Caitlin Cunningham - CPD response to protests.

Caitlin Cunningham commented that while they understood there were limitations under every system and institution, they believed there were some obvious actions that could be taken. While their first point was not actually directed toward the CPD or the City of Columbia's leadership, they felt it was the duty of leaders to direct attention where it was deserved. When ABC17 reached out to the City and the CPD, they should have turned ABC17 toward the direction of those leading the movement. At this point in time, when things bigger than them all were happening, they should not have taken the spotlight when it so obviously did not belong to them. Statements by the CPD in the report by ABC17 indicating it was their job to serve and protect the community and that some were trying to test their boundaries were exceptionally condescending. The individuals in question might or might not have been a part of the protests, and they were definitely human beings with rights that deserved respect and consideration. Citizens in the community who the police were there to serve and protect were not variables within an experiment. They were not there to test boundaries with the CPD, and the CPD did not exist to see how far violence could be taken. They challenged the CPD to consider how it would appear if the statement had been reversed in that the police were testing the boundaries of the protestors and seeing how far they could be pushed. They asked if they could see the problematic nature of that wording now. They cautioned everyone to be very careful about claiming the CPD was ahead of the curve when the same report included information that CPD was considering a position under its Internal Affairs Sergeant that would look at policy through the lens of equity. The mere fact that such an action was only now being considered placed them well behind the path of progress and

equity. With regard to the impacts of CPD's community outreach, they had concerns. They noted the protestors had overheard a conversation indicating the police officers were just going to kneel so they could get them to move. In addition, the situation mentioned previously by Grady Harrington had been ill-handled. They commented that all of this had led them to know more about past actions between the CPD and the community, and what they had found were the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence from November 2014. They felt plenty of things in it were good and some of these recommendations, had echoed the points of "8 Can't Wait," such as requiring de-escalation and exhausting all alternatives before shooting, but did not feel there had been follow through with regard to many of the recommendations, and listed some of the recommendations. They asked the City to do better.

SPC25-20

Paula Herrera-Gudiño - Mental health resources.

Paula Herrera-Gudiño stated she lived in the Third Ward and explained she had planned to speak about the availability of mental health resources, but felt it was more emotionally pressing to speak about her experience at the June 10 Citizens Police Review Board (CPRB) meeting. She noted a woman had filed a complaint against a CPD officer for misconduct, and initially, the person that was facilitating the CPRB meeting had not known the complainant was in the room and had proceeded with the meeting as though she was not there. She stated he had to be reminded that the complainant was present, and she was then allowed to speak, but she had to try to explain why she had been unable to respond to a letter sent to her within the allotted 21-day period. Some on the CPRB had spoken to the fact that the policy they had to abide by was not more than a technicality, but because of it, they were unable to review her complaint as they did not have jurisdiction. A member of the CPRB, who had resigned because she was moving out of the State, was the only one that had actually addressed the complainant personally. She commented that they had never brought up the issue of why the complainant was even complaining about the conduct of an officer. The content of her complaint had never been addressed and she had not been allowed to speak about it. The CPRB was entirely focused on a policy regarding the letter response time and never addressed the reason she was there in the first place. She noted the complainant ultimately left the room alone and seemed to be upset as her lip was shaking. As a result, she ran after the complainant because she did not want that person to be alone. She stated it was the job of the people on the dais to bridge the gap between constituents and the police, and the only person that had bothered to address the complainant was another woman who was not the chair of the CPRB, and the complainant had not been given the opportunity to speak about herself. She explained the complainant had indicated to her that the complaint was about an officer that had physically and verbally assaulted her in a sexual manner. The complainant wondered what she was supposed to do. Ms. Herrera-Gudiño stated she had grown up in Columbia and everything she knew about being a person, i.e., loving, caring, and doing the right thing, had been learned here. She commented that the complainant had also wondered why she had even bothered to come there. Ms. Herrera-Gudiño stated she had been assaulted in Columbia and had carried around the shame and the weight of her silence every day. She noted she had always been proud of her life here because, despite the challenges, she had been able to envision a better and more peaceful place due to the community and the joy it had given her. She believed the City of Columbia had failed the complainant in every regard, and when given the opportunity to lend a hand, the CPRB revealed itself to be fraught with coldness, bureaucracy, and callousness. The conduct of the CPRB had been inhuman since it had been so indifferent. A black woman had come forward through all of the channels that had been deemed appropriate to talk about her sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pain and the misconduct of an officer, someone that should be subject to the law at its highest measure since it was what they had chosen for themselves and their life. She reiterated the complainant had been treated as though she was invisible and it was an everyday item. She believed, as a community,

they had again failed to protect a black woman, and the result of the meeting on June 10 was an encapsulation of why people were outside the door and in the streets protesting. The officer that had violated that woman was only allowed to act that way because City leadership allowed it. She stated justice was what love looked like in public and accountability was what love looked like in private. She noted the Council was in the position of power and bore a lot of responsibility in terms of the lives of people. She did not feel they should be allowed to absolve themselves of guilt or absolve anyone of guilt, and pointed out most women had experienced something similar. She commented that the complainant had been brave to come forward and was an example that should be followed, and she would not let her fight this alone as she deserved better.

Mayor Treece thanked Ms. Herrera-Gudiño for bringing this issue to the attention of Council and for sharing her experience along with the experience of the complainant in front of the CPRB. He noted he had contact information for Ms. Herrera-Gudiño, and could obtain contact information for the complainant via her complaint to ensure she had a more fair process for her complaint.

## V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The following resolutions were read by the Clerk.

- R73-20      Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of a sidewalk along the north side of St. Charles Road between Demaret Drive and Battle Avenue.
- R74-20      Setting a public hearing: proposed replacement of a sanitary sewer under Providence Road, south of Nifong Boulevard.
- R75-20      Declaring the results of the June 2, 2020 municipal election.
- R77-20      Authorizing an agreement with the Boone County Historical Society for the display of aviation-related items and photographs at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- R79-20      Approving the Preliminary Plat of "Cottages at Evergreen Place" located on the west side of Ballenger Lane and north of Dehaven Drive (Case No. 86-2020).

**The resolutions were then read again with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, TRAPP. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolutions declared adopted, reading as follows:**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- B119-20      Repealing Section 3 of Ordinance No. 024211 to lift the temporary waiver relating to the issuance and payment of parking meter hoods; declaring an emergency for enactment.

The bill was given first reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Nichols provided a staff report.

Mr. Pitzer asked how many parking spots would be involved in the pilot project. Mr. Nichols replied 25 spots within the Downtown Community Improvement District (CID) area. He noted the representative of the Downtown CID, Nickie Davis, could explain why

those locations had been chosen.

Ms. Peters understood the 25 spots would be spread throughout the downtown area. Mr. Nichols stated that was correct, and apologized for not including a map. He commented that parking enforcement would assist, and pointed out it might be difficult to know who was at one of those spots, for what reason, and for how long. He understood Ms. Davis had indicated the Downtown CID would work with businesses to monitor the situation and that enforcement would be complaint driven.

Ms. Peters asked if the spots would be located on every block. Mr. Nichols replied they would be scattered, and noted there would be one on Park Avenue and another on Orr Street. They would be at targeted locations.

Mr. Skala understood there were about 50 spots for curbside services now, and this would reduce the number to about half. Mr. Nichols stated he thought there were more than 50 now. Those that had requested a hood had been given one since the City had not been enforcing parking. He pointed out this would include non-restaurant businesses as well.

Mayor Treece asked for the average monthly revenue from a parking meter. Mr. Nichols replied the targeted spaces were estimated to generate about \$5,000 so it had been suggested the cost be split. Mayor Treece asked if that was per meter. Mr. Nichols replied no. He noted it was about \$6 per day per meter.

Mayor Treece asked for the charge to hood a meter under normal conditions. Mr. Nichols replied \$10 per day.

Ms. Fowler asked how many parking spaces were currently metered. Mr. Nichols replied over 2,000. Ms. Fowler understood the pilot project would include 25 of the 2,000 meters. Mr. Nichols stated that was correct. Ms. Fowler asked if the calculation was \$6 per day for all 2,000 meters. Mr. Nichols replied no, and explained it varied. Ms. Fowler understood it was dependent on the intensity of use.

Nickie Davis, 11 S. Tenth Street, stated she was the Executive Director of the Downtown CID and explained they were asking for 25 curbside pick-up spots. She noted they would ideally like to have them for free during this first month, and then reassess the situation. She commented that they had reviewed the locations of restaurants and other businesses to determine where to place them throughout downtown. She stated they were more than happy to work with the City with regard to locations and enforcement as they did not want people in those spots for more than 10-15 minutes. She understood City staff was concerned about the number of complaints they would receive, and the CID was happy to handle any calls and only take those that were the most concerning to the City for enforcement.

Ms. Fowler commented that she was troubled by the number requested by the Downtown CID because she did not feel it was enough. If the Council was agreeable to additional spaces, she wondered if the Downtown CID had a process to determine additional locations to meet the needs of more businesses. Ms. Davis replied they could reach out to the businesses to determine locations they might have missed or whether certain blocks were overly burdened by curbside pick-up. She noted they would also create a list of questions and answers so the businesses understood to contact the Downtown CID with issues prior to contacting the City.

Mayor Treece asked if the pilot program only involved restaurants or if blocks without restaurants could have a designated location if it had a retail business. Ms. Davis replied the program was for all businesses. It was not only for restaurants. Between Broadway and Cherry Street on Ninth Street, they planned to have one on both sides of the block, and those spaces would be for anyone.

Mayor Treece noted he had heard from restaurants that wanted to keep the hoods and retailers that wanted to restore parking fees so turnover increased. He understood the Downtown CID did not object to charging for meters again. Ms. Davis stated she thought that needed to be done so they could have turnover. As much as the hoods were helping some businesses, they were also hurting other businesses since people were parking



there for long periods of time. If they could have curbside pick-up in the needed blocks while enforcing the time people were there to 15 minutes or less, it would help the businesses.

Mr. Pitzer asked how they had come up with 25 spots. Ms. Davis replied they had reviewed the most congested areas and had tried to consolidate what already existed. She stated they were more than happy to work with the City and the businesses to determine whether adjustments were needed. Mr. Pitzer asked if they had identified only 25 spots that would be high priority or if they had identified more than that. Ms. Davis replied they could identify more, but they had chosen to start with 25 so it would be approved quickly. Mr. Pitzer asked if the cost would come from the operating funds of the Downtown CID or if they would ask for more money from the downtown retailers. Ms. Davis replied they wanted to have these 25 spots or more for free for a month. Afterwards, they wanted to review the locations and make adjustments as necessary. She then anticipated the costs being shared between the City and the Downtown CID.

Mr. Skala asked if there would be signage on the hoods indicating 15 or 30 minutes. Ms. Davis replied they had very simple signs on the meters at this time, but if this was approved, the CID would provide for better signage. If this ended up being more permanent, they would want to work with the City for more explanatory permanent signage.

Mayor Treece noted the Council had received several written comments and listed those.

Christina Kelley, 25 S. Ninth Street, the owner of Makes Sense, stated she understood the City's need for revenue, but asked for a compromise. She suggested all two-hour meters remain free for two hours with ticketing if a car remained longer than two hours. She also suggested redoing curbside pick-up locations to two spaces on each side of the street at each end of the block for a total of eight spaces per block and continuing to charge for long-term parking spots.

Susan Hart, 6251 S. West Way Drive, stated her opposition to ending free parking downtown and free curbside pick-up until July 31, 2020 as she felt the downtown had been economically hit the hardest during the shelter in place order.

Kurt Mirtsching explained he was representing Shakespeare's Pizza and noted the current arrangement for meter hoods to allow curbside service had been very beneficial for his business. He wondered if an arrangement could be made to make it permanent, even after COVID issues were resolved, as he believed it would provide the downtown a competitive edge. He also noted that refraining from enforcing the rules was great, but it allowed some to park for days or weeks, and suggested the laws restricting parking for durations be enforced.

Rebecca McCorkle commented that she was in favor of waiving parking fees until July 31 to encourage people to support local businesses.

Tracey Summerfield stated she believed the City should continue free parking in the downtown.

Paula Elias commented that free parking was a simple thing that could make a big difference for those in the downtown as they had struggled immensely and could use all of the help they could get.

Those written comments were filed with the documents associated with this agenda item.

**Mayor Treece made a motion to waive the rule requiring consideration of this ordinance at two separate meetings and to place B119-20 on its second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skala and approved unanimously by voice vote.**

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.

Ms. Fowler commented that she was agreeable to restarting parking enforcement at the meters because, traditionally, there had been a car storage problem in Columbia. In addition, she believed it would benefit the businesses for the cars to turnover more

through a system they understood. She noted she was concerned about the number of hoods suggested to allow for pick-up at restaurants or other businesses due there being to perishable items or for the convenience of picking up something. She felt they should be more generous to the downtown businesses as she saw the ripple effect. As parking turned over, more people would come downtown to patronize the businesses that were open or pick up their items, and that would help with sales tax revenues. As the word got out that people could come downtown to park in a curbside spot to pick up an item, the person coming downtown might come back later and stay longer when they saw more businesses were open. She noted the City was dependent on sales tax and they wanted to see a vibrant downtown. She asked that they consider a much broader implementation of metered hoods to benefit the businesses on every block that had a storefront business for a period of time until they were sure the downtown was back on track.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Fowler if she had any objection to restarting the parking meter fees. Ms. Fowler replied no, and stated she thought that was actually good for the businesses.

Ms. Peters noted she was also interested in restarting enforcement of the meters. Someone there for more than two hours should pay the meter or move their car. She agreed with Ms. Fowler in that there was a storage problem. She also wondered if 25 hooded meters were enough. She asked if they originally had 50 and were going down to 25. Mr. Glascock replied he did not know the exact number, but understood it was more than 50 now. Ms. Peters suggested increasing the number from 25 and seeing how that worked over the next month. In addition, if it worked, she wondered if they could go from hooded free meters to 15-minute meters as that would be more clear to people.

Mr. Skala stated he felt it would be confusing to people if they continued to change what they were doing. He pointed out he was in favor of restarting the enforcement process and believed signage of some sort was needed to let people know of the expectations of those pick-up spots. He commented that he did not have an objection to changing the number of meters involved, but thought they should be cautious of constant changes without helpful direction.

Mr. Glascock cautioned Council about incorporating too many meters at the beginning. He noted this was a pilot project and the Downtown CID had come to them with a request for 25 spaces, and he thought they should honor that request. If more were needed, they could ask for more once they finished the pilot program. They would want to determine if the spots were in the right locations or if they needed to be moved. He stated he thought they really needed to determine the effectiveness of it. He agreed they could do more, but felt they should start slow. If they started with 50 spots, but only needed 25, it would be hard to go back to 25.

Mayor Treece thought it was important to keep in mind that any business could currently hood a meter.

Mr. Glascock reiterated he would caution providing for too many spots in the beginning.

Mr. Pitzer commented that he thought it might be counterproductive to make it too strict and to then try to open it back up. It was open now, and making it stricter and then loosening it up again might create more issues. He thought they should move in one direction. Since everything was open now, he thought they should take a first step toward making it a bit stricter. They could then move to the next step of making it even more restrictive 2-3 months from now when businesses looked as though they were closer to recovering. He stated he would rather have a larger number of spaces available first. He pointed out this was not in the bill so he was unclear as to whether they should go ahead and pass the bill, amend the bill, or needed a different bill.

Mayor Treece understood they would repeal the ordinance that granted the waiver on the fees and would give the City Manager, via their discussion tonight, direction to start charging. He asked for the magic number of hoods.

Mr. Skala stated he thought it was reasonable to give the City Manager the authority to

do this. He noted he was also inclined to support the City Manager with regard to the pilot project and provide him the authority to determine if what had been suggested would work.

Ms. Thompson commented that the City Manager could move forward with the pilot project based on the Council's directive, but they would need to come back with a City Code change of a more permanent nature later. The Council could then determine if they wanted to place any further restrictions or parameters on that project.

Mayor Treece asked how long they anticipated having carryout meters. He wondered if it would last through the winter and into next year. Mr. Glascock replied he thought the Downtown CID wanted it to be permanent. Ms. Davis stated they wanted it through at least July 31, but noted she anticipated it being somewhat of a permanent situation as people were used to it now and it was the way of the future. As a pilot program, they wanted to see it in place through July 31.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Davis if she distinguished between companies like Grubhub and Ebay Eats versus people that were just running in to grab their bag. Ms. Davis replied no. She thought those delivery drivers could utilize those spots to grab an order the same as anyone else.

Ms. Fowler commented that what troubled her about the idea of a pilot was that the businesses were struggling now. She felt a pilot was something they did when things were going really well and they were thinking about making a sea change along the way. She stated she worked for a small business that had been blessed as they were steady, but if they had not been steady, she could imagine the kind of pain they would have worrying if they had enough money for payroll.

Ms. Fowler made a motion to expand the number of hoods in the described pilot program to one per block so businesses on the ground floor had access to at least one meter for drop-off and pick-up at no additional charge to downtown businesses for the time being. She thought the Downtown CID could manage the signage appropriately as a compromise on the pricing.

Ms. Fowler stated she was not troubled by Grubhub or any other any other delivery as they had the incentive to get in and out fast since they made their money on volume. She felt it was a time to show small businesses that even though the City was stretched financially, they understood their pain.

Mr. Glascock asked if it was one per street length or one on each side of the street. Ms. Fowler replied one per side of a block. If she was standing on the north side of Broadway and the cross streets were Seventh Street and Eighth Street, there should be at least one hooded meter for those businesses. If there was already a restaurant on that block, the other businesses had already benefited from it and could continue to expand their customer base. She reiterated every block between streets on each side should have a hooded meter as she felt that would help businesses to come back with one less thing to worry about. She also reiterated delegating the signage responsibilities to the Downtown CID. She felt a cost-sharing arrangement might be appropriate when there was an uptick, but understood they might have some trouble determining that since there was always a 60-day delay in the reporting of sales tax revenues.

Mayor Treece asked if they should take up B119-20 as written and consider Ms. Fowler's motion as a motion directing staff to proceed with the pilot program with the suggestions made. Ms. Thompson replied yes. Mayor Treece understood B119-20 only repealed an existing law. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct, and explained it was only a repeal of the waiver of fees for parking meter hoods. The particular section of the City Code that addressed parking meter hoods or special hoods was Section 14-424. Following an opportunity to see how this worked, the Council could decide whether a permanent change to that City Code section was headed and under what circumstances to allow meter hoods to be installed for purposes of delivery and pick-up.

The motion made by Ms. Fowler to expand the number of hoods in the described pilot program to one per block so businesses on the ground floor had access to at least one

meter for drop-off and pick-up at no additional charge to downtown businesses for the time being was seconded by Mr. Pitzer.

Ms. Peters suggested they allow the Downtown CID to make the decision as long as they ensured the spots were spread out and benefited the most people. She commented that she thought it was easier to know there were two pick-up spots at the end of the block versus trying to determine where the pick-up spots were located while driving. She noted her only concern with the motion was that it might involve too much micromanagement. She reiterated she felt they should allow the Downtown CID to make the decision.

Mr. Trapp stated he agreed with Ms. Peters. He thought they should look at the financial data and felt the decision was better made at the staff level. He believed the pilot idea was a good one and was more agreeable to the original proposal. He stated he would not support the motion. He thought they should repeal the special ordinance, run the pilot program, and then evaluate it to determine what they might want to do in the future.

Mayor Treece commented that he would like to see limits, such as a minimum of 25 hoods and up to 40 along with some type of time frame, whether that was the end of this summer, the end of this year, or a year from now. He noted he also trusted the City Manager and the Downtown CID to work it out. In addition, he stated he liked the idea of some type of cost-sharing and signage.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Fowler if she wanted an amendment to this bill or if she wanted to direct staff to work it out with the Downtown CID. Ms. Fowler replied she would like them to follow the path that could be implemented more quickly because she believed they were in a time sensitive environment. If they provided the flexibility for additional meter hoods to be included, she was okay with it, but pointed out she wanted to ensure they met the need and allow for enough flexibility to meet the needs of the small businesses.

Mayor Treece thought some blocks might need two hoods while others might not need any. He suggested they let the businesses work that out. Ms. Fowler felt it needed to be more than 25 as she believed that was too few.

Mr. Pitzer asked if they needed to vote on 25 or more than 25 spots. The proposal brought to the Council tonight only involved 25 parking spots, and it did not appear as though there was consensus for more than 25. He stated he would support 25 to whatever maximum they wanted to set, and for the Downtown CID and City staff to work out the details.

Mayor Treece commented that he was not sure of the right number. Mr. Pitzer agreed. Ms. Peters suggested they chose a range of 25-40 or 25-50 and allow the Downtown CID and staff to work it out realizing they were trying to do the best they could for the downtown businesses. She noted she was not sure that needed to be a motion.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Glascock if he had the direction needed. Mr. Glascock replied yes.

Mayor Treece stated he thought Ms. Fowler would get what she wanted by providing the City Manager direction. Ms. Fowler explained she wanted it to be implemented as quickly as possible, and it was fine if that could be done without amending the bill. She wanted to ensure they did not jeopardize the revenue stream that was gradually being brought back to the businesses.

**Ms. Fowler revised her motion to direct staff to proceed with an arrangement with the Downtown CID to restart enforcement of parking meter fees and to have some type of existing or expanded hood program. The revised motion was seconded by Mr. Pitzer and approved by voice vote with only Mr. Trapp voting no.**

**B119-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, TRAPP. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

R76-20

**Authorizing a fireworks display agreement with J & M Displays, Inc. for the 2020 Fourth of July Celebration Event.**

The resolution was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Pitzer commented that it was announced the fireworks would take place at Bethel Park and noted he had heard from a few people that were surprised the fireworks show would take place across the street from where they lived. He understood City staff intended to block off the parking lots, but some still had the perception that people would travel down there to watch the fireworks. He asked if City staff was encouraging people to stay home. Mr. Griggs replied yes. He explained that due to COVID-19 and the restrictions on mass gatherings, they only wanted to shoot off fireworks off this year. He understood only twelve cities within Missouri were shooting off fireworks this year. He explained the fireworks show would begin at 9:15 p.m. and everything would be contained in Cosmo-Bethel Park. He commented that they would not even have to block off Bethel Street unless the wind changed direction. Rock Bridge High School and Gentry Middle School would be closed to the public starting at about noon, and Bethel Park would be closed all day.

Mr. Griggs displayed a diagram of the fall zone, i.e., the fireworks discharge zone, and explained they chose Bethel Park because of its height in relationship to Columbia. At the Bethel Park location, they could shoot shells that were up to six inches and would go up to 500-600 feet, and at 500 feet, it could be seen for 27 miles. They believed Bethel Park would provide the opportunity for many in Columbia to see the fireworks without having to leave their own neighborhoods. He displayed a parking plan and noted it was an interdepartmental event as many other departments were participating. He pointed out they would shut down all of the parking lots around there and stress in media releases that people have a safe Fourth of July at home or find a good viewing spot from their own neighborhood to watch the fireworks display.

Mr. Pitzer asked what would be done if people tried to come to the area. He wondered if direction would be given or if people would be able to do what they wanted. Mr. Griggs replied this was the first time they had ever done anything like this. They usually had a self-contained event in the downtown where people could come in mass. This time it would be a fireworks only event. They hoped there would not be a lot of traffic in the area although they knew some people would likely drive to the area to be closer. He explained City staff would clean up after the event as they had done when it was held downtown, and noted they would also patrol the neighborhoods like they did for the Roots N' Blues festival in terms of traffic. He stated he assumed some of the nearby businesses would be open for dinner prior to the event. He reiterated he thought some people would drive to it, but hoped it would not be that many.

Mr. Pitzer noted the Corporate Lake area to the south was an open area. Mr. Griggs understood and pointed out City staff had sent letters to all of the businesses informing them of what would be happening and what they could do if they wanted to block off their own lot or make an event of it themselves.

Mr. Pitzer understood the debris would fall within the park given normal wind conditions. Mr. Griggs stated that was correct.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the fireworks would fall into the lake and if it would pollute the lake. Mr. Griggs replied he did not know. It was a paper product that would discharge so he could not imagine it being harmful. He reiterated they would clean it up after the show.

Mayor Treece noted he had received several emails and a voicemail expressing concern. One involved the location and its impact on the less affluent people that did not live in the surrounding neighborhoods. If it was a visual array of only 5-6 miles, it was different from the type of population they would attract downtown. He wondered if they were limiting people inadvertently by holding this in a more affluent part of town. Mr. Griggs replied City staff knew that would be a concern and had tried to look at other areas. The downtown only had a few spots that were large enough to handle this type of display. He commented that they started considering this as a possibility in April when they realized

there might be restrictions due to COVID and did not have time to try to identify a private business and work out an agreement. As a result, they had concentrated on school and park sites. He explained the largest shells shot in the downtown were two inches so those only traveled a couple hundred feet. The shells that would be utilized this year would travel 2-3 times higher.

Ms. Peters stated she had received emails from people concerned about the noise levels and presumed the bigger shells would make more noise. Mr. Griggs agreed. Ms. Peters noted that would scare more dogs and those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) would have problems. She asked if there had been any thought to canceling the fireworks this year. Mr. Griggs replied they could have canceled, but had decided against that. He explained the funds were donated by sponsors, and once they knew the typical event would not happen, they had contacted the sponsors who were all on board with only a big fireworks show. He pointed out those same concerns existed when the event was held downtown, and that those that had concerns could choose not to be around. Although the fireworks would be bigger, they would also be higher and further way. Instead of being 100-200 feet high, they would be 500-600 feet high when they exploded. He stated it was a catch-22 situation.

Ms. Peters asked how long the display would last. Mr. Griggs replied about 20 minutes.

Mr. Skala stated those that lived on the urban fringe like him, i.e., close to the unincorporated areas of Boone County, had the noise issues as well.

**The vote on R76-20 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, TRAPP. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:**

R78-20

Authorizing an interconnection and net metering agreement with Shelter Mutual Insurance Company for a 300 kW solar photovoltaic system on property located at 1817 W. Broadway.

The resolution was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Thomas explained he had been contacted by a solar installer last week who had indicated Utilities Department staff had told him that the Council had blocked issuing rebates for solar installations, which had surprised him as he had not been aware they had taken that action, but understood it could have been authorized within one of the emergency ordinances. In addition, he understood Shelter Insurance was receiving a \$31,000 solar rebate within this bill, and asked for an explanation. Mr. Sorrell replied the Council had not stopped the rebate or loan programs or the energy efficiency programs. It had been a decision made internally within the City Manager's Office. A halt had been placed on them in late March or early April, and they had begun to process them again on Monday of this week. He explained the halt had been put into place to prevent people from coming downtown and intermingling. It had been done to help prevent spread with regard to COVID. Those that had already started the process had been processed. The ones that had come in since then would be processed this week. Mr. Thomas understood he could let the solar installer know his request would be processed. Mr. Sorrell stated it would be processed once the project was completed.

Mr. Thomas suggested Mr. Sorrell talk to his staff as this was the second time this had happened to the same solar installer. The installer had also been told the City was not accepting permit requests several weeks ago, and when it had been brought it up at a council meeting, it had been resolved quickly.

Jay Hasheider explained he was the Chair of the Water and Light Advisory Board (WLAB), and the WLAB had reviewed and unanimously endorsed this. There had also been discussion about the rebates as they had been told the rebates had been halted, but Shelter Insurance would get a rebate for this project. He noted there had been some objections due to the timing of the application. He commented that he was happy staff had now re-started the rebate program, but stated what had troubled some of them was the fact it had been halted. It appeared this decision had been made on April 6 and that

it had not had an end date, which perplexed him. He understood there might have been some rationale, but there had not been any transparency or reason given. It had only been announced. He noted it had negatively affected solar installers and customers that might have wanted to do something with regard to solar. He pointed out climate change had not stopped even in the midst of the coronavirus. The highest parts per million had been set last month so they really needed the Utilities Department staff to be on board with getting as much solar as possible to power the community. He commented that the WLAB would discuss this further at its next meeting. He noted he thought it was good for a major corporate customer like Shelter Insurance to make an investment in the community of 300 kW of solar as it was the biggest private investment he was aware of within Columbia.

Mr. Skala asked if the halting of the solar rebate program had been tied to the suspension of building permits or if it had been independent of that decision. Mr. Glascock replied the City had sent people home, and could not process applications as a result. It was a decision made due to COVID as some of the staff had not been in the office. He agreed they could have possibly worked from home, but it had been one of those things they had decided to stop processing for a period of time. He apologized and pointed out they were all inconvenienced by COVID. He noted they had continued to accept applications, and those applications would now be processed. Mr. Skala stated he appreciated the explanation and only wished it had been more forthcoming.

**The vote on R78-20 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SKALA, THOMAS, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, TRAPP. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSTAINING: PITZER. 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.

- B120-20 Amending Chapter 11, Article IV, Division 2 of the City Code related to communicable diseases within the city.
- B122-20 Voluntary annexation of property located on the southeast corner of Highway WW and Elk Park Drive; establishing permanent District M-N (Mixed-use Neighborhood) zoning (Case No. 76-2020).
- B123-20 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Reliable Community Bancshares, Inc. to allow the establishment of a light vehicle service and repair use for a gas station and convenience store, and a drive-up facility as an accessory use to a financial institution (bank), on property located on the southeast corner of Highway WW and Elk Park Drive in an M-N (Mixed-use Neighborhood) zoning district; providing a severability clause (Case No. 77-2020).
- B124-20 Approving the Final Plat of "Southfork of the Grindstone, Plat No. 1-A" located on the southeast corner of Highway WW and Elk Park Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 78-2020).
- B125-20 Approving the Final Plat of "The Gates, Plat No. 4B" located on the north side of Sella Court, approximately 600 feet east of Rivington Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 111-2020).
- B126-20 Authorizing a third amendment to the solar power purchase agreement with Truman Solar, LLC.
- B127-20 Accepting Stormwater Management/BMP Facilities Covenants.

- B128-20 Repealing Ordinance No. 024235 which authorized 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; authorizing a new revised first supplemental agreement.
- B129-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds for the terminal project at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- B130-20 Authorizing a contract for sale of real estate with DFR, LLC for the acquisition of Lot 53 in Deerfield Ridge Plat 2 Subdivision located north of the intersection of Scott Boulevard and State Route K for the intended purpose of future construction of a fire station.
- B131-20 Accepting a donation from Maxito Lindo for the City's roadside pollinator program; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B132-20 Authorizing a cooperative agreement with the County of Boone, Missouri for radio consultant services and the installation of a single site repeater at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- B133-20 Authorizing approval of an Abatement Order On Consent with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.
- B134-20 Rezoning property located on the west side of Sixth Street and south of Wilkes Boulevard (811 N. Sixth Street) from District R-MF (Multiple-family Dwelling) to District R-2 (Two-family Dwelling) (Case No. 90-2020).
- B135-20 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to JSAE Enterprises, LLC to allow for the construction of an accessory dwelling unit on property located at 507 S. Greenwood Avenue (Case No. 84-2020).
- B136-20 Vacating a tree preservation easement on Lot 1 within Chapel Hill Meadows located east of Louisville Drive and north of Chapel Hill Road (Case No. 97-2020).
- B137-20 Approving the Final Plat of "Chapel Hill Meadows, Plat No. 2" located on the northeast corner of the Chapel Hill Road and Louisville Drive intersection; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 109-2020).
- B138-20 Approving the Final Plat of "The Villages at Arbor Pointe Plat 4" located on the west side of Arbor Pointe Parkway between Waco Road and Flatwater Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 102-2020).
- B139-20 Vacating a utility easement on Lot 1B1 within Broadway Farms, Plat No. 13-A located south of Broadway and west of Fairview Road (Case No. 44-2019).
- B140-20 Authorizing construction of Discovery Parkway from Discovery Drive to south of the intersection of New Haven Road and Rolling Hills Road; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.
- B141-20 Authorizing a waterline relocation contract with Public Water Supply District No. 9 of Boone County, Missouri relating to construction of the Discovery Parkway extension project, from Discovery Drive to south of the intersection of New Haven Road and Rolling Hills Road.



- B142-20 Authorizing construction of the Lenoir Street improvement project.
- B143-20 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the Lenoir Street improvement project.
- B144-20 Authorizing a right of use permit with Missouri Network Alliance, LLC, d/b/a Bluebird Network, for installation and maintenance of fiber optic cable within the City rights-of-way.
- B145-20 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the Glenwood Avenue PCCE #25 Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project.
- B146-20 Authorizing an agreement with The Curators of the University of Missouri for the 2020 Missouri State Senior Games and Show-Me STATE GAMES.
- B147-20 Authorizing an agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to allow the installation and maintenance of an African-American Heritage Trail marker in right-of-way located on the southwest corner of Providence Road and Ash Street.
- B148-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating restricted hotel tax revenue to the terminal project at the Columbia Regional Airport.
- B149-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to close out a loan received from the Missouri Transportation Finance Committee (MTFC).
- B150-20 Establishing an administrative delay in the enforcement of land use and business regulations related to short-term rentals.

## X. REPORTS

- REP29-20 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES Act Funding Update.

Mr. Cole provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece asked how many people might be able to be served by the \$300,000 being proposed. Mr. Cole replied he thought they could assist about 100 people. He explained they would allow it for up to three months, and understood the CoMo Helps group had done up to \$1,000 per month in assistance for up to three months. He thought they would likely model that program. Mayor Treece asked if it would help those that might be on the bubble of homelessness. Mr. Cole replied the program would assist individuals that were in housing now but might have had a job loss due to COVID causing them to be behind on their rent so it would hopefully help keep them in housing. He explained there were different pots of funding going towards this effort, and provided some examples and the differences.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Cole what he had in mind for the other public services for homeless individuals. Mr. Cole replied he was thinking about assistance with leasing a space. In addition, isolation and quarantining was a possibility. They would only use CDBG funds for the portion that FEMA might not cover which was the 25 percent match. He noted he would likely work with Steve Hollis in the Human Services Division as there would likely be additional operation needs. He explained his Division usually handled the facilities side while Human Services handled most of the operational needs, but they could potentially work together if there was a need for more operations funds.

Mr. Pitzer asked Mr. Cole how they identified and verified who might qualify for rental and mortgage assistance. Mr. Cole replied they would look at the last two months of income. If there had been a job loss, they would ask for verification. He pointed out they would

work with a non-profit in that regard, but the City would verify that was done when the invoices were submitted. He explained they partnered with non-profits for some of their programs.

Mr. Pitzer understood the City of Miami, Florida had a utility assistance program utilizing CDBG funds and asked Mr. Cole if he had looked into that program. Mr. Cole replied that was an eligible activity, but he had not felt the need to push that recommendation in terms of CDBG funds because Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) was receiving additional funding for that type of activity. He noted he wanted to be careful of duplication. If CMCA could demonstrate a need beyond their funds, it was something that could be considered. Mr. Pitzer asked how many people CMCA was reaching through that program. Mr. Cole replied it had been about 14,000 households within an eight county area in a normal year about ten years ago. He thought it was likely a bit higher now. He noted Boone County usually made up about 40 percent of what they served so it was likely about 7,000-8,000 households. Mr. Pitzer asked if CMCA had the capacity to handle people that had lost income due to job loss or a reduction in income as a result of COVID. Mr. Cole replied he would need to check with them, but believed they had successfully operated utility assistance programs in the past so they would have the capacity. He pointed out the City had a Cash and Help program so there was capacity there as well. Mr. Pitzer thought that might be the best avenue to help those that needed it the most. He pointed out utilities were sometimes a tipping point in causing further problems and asked Mr. Cole to look into the use of CDBG funds if there was additional need that CMCA was not able to meet due to funding. Mr. Cole replied they could include it and make it a rent, mortgage, and utility assistance program so there was flexibility if CMCA could not meet the needs as long as there was verification that they were not duplicating efforts.

Ms. Fowler understood the special funds that had come from the federal government were for needs that had either been caused by the COVID pandemic or exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. Those that lived in the North Central neighborhood area had seen an intensity of use at the Turning Point among unsheltered homeless that had not existed before because the unsheltered homeless had previously had other places to go to use the bathroom or get meals. They were now left without those facilities due to the pandemic shut down, and were thus, spending more and more time around Wilkes Boulevard and the church causing impacts on the neighborhood. She asked if they could look at ways to deal with the intensity of use and the unsheltered homeless problem that had been exacerbated by COVID by directing some funds for relief for them as humans along with the neighborhood that felt they had done more than their fair share in compassionately helping the homeless. Mr. Cole replied yes, if they could tie it directly to a response of the pandemic. He would think a reduction in services for the homeless along with the increased intensity on the neighborhood would mean there was an opportunity. He assumed it might be an additional day center space to relieve some of the pressure on the neighborhood. Ms. Fowler commented that when it came down to the steps that should be taken with any available funding, she would leave the decision up to the neighbors. She stated the neighborhood had asked for the opportunity to come together with Mr. Cole, Mr. Trapp, and Mr. Hollis to have a more focused conversation, and asked how she might facilitate that. Mayor Treece replied Mr. Cole did a good job of engaging constituencies. She asked if she should work with the City Manager to put something together. Mr. Glascock asked Mr. Cole if he could put something together. Mr. Cole replied yes. He noted he had spoken with someone at the Turning Point today that had seemed very mindful of the impact so he felt the moment was there to get people together. Ms. Fowler thought it should be done while funding was there as well.

REP30-20

**Small Business Recovery Loan Program Application Rating Criteria.**

Mr. Cole provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece asked if there had been an RFP whereby they had been trying to identify a not-for-profit to help administer the funds. Mr. Cole replied no. He stated the plan was to

administer them internally. He noted a working group, which was a result of the first public engagement event they had back in April, had been formed, and listed some of the people within that group that would help reach more minority owned businesses. He explained they would utilize the list Jim Whitt had and it included 300 minority owned and women owned businesses and call each business to ensure they had the information necessary to apply.

Mayor Treece asked for the time frame for rolling this out. Mr. Cole replied it was dependent on HUD and thought it would be late July or early August.

REP31-20

### Dignity in Work.

Mayor Treece understood \$50,000 had been set aside as a budget item that City staff had indicated would not work as intended.

Mr. Hollis provided a staff report.

Mr. Trapp stated he appreciated the close work between Mr. Hollis and Mr. Cole in dealing with this and applauded the shifting of gears in the face of the pandemic. They all had plans and dreams for 2020 and none of it had happened as they had thought. He believed it was important for them to be nimble and flexible. He thought permanent housing was the best solution. In addition, it was not just a matter of writing a check as people needed case management support to maintain housing, and those programs needed to be administered. He noted it was one of the many weaknesses of their recovery-oriented system of care even though they did better than most. He stated the standard was all of their residents having adequate facilities for handwashing and disease management. He felt forward thinking in terms of Room at the Inn (RATI) was wise. They had to have some inclement weather shelter. Since all of the restaurants were closed, they were seeing more homeless gathering at the Turning Point and more problems in the neighborhood. There were not any other places for them to go. He noted they had created some additional grassroots spaces to accommodate a portion of that need through mutual aid, but only the City could coordinate the response. He could tell Mr. Hollis and Mr. Cole were coming from a place of knowledge and were leading them wisely with their limited resources to address the issues. He hoped they could do more at the Council level to support their efforts. He commented that this was an opportunity to address some longstanding needs in the community as their fractured and insufficient system had been exposed. They would need to address the root causes over time.

Mayor Treece asked what the Council wanted to do with this money.

Mr. Pitzer commented that there were a few different pots of money in terms of CDBG funding and this funding that had been put to the side for a goal, but it was not a goal that had a plan behind it. Philosophically, he would prefer to see that money returned to reserves or savings, and when there was a plan that needed funding, they could review the plan to determine whether there was funding for it. He believed the setting aside of pots of money had gotten them in trouble in past when something did not happen, and years later, people did not know the purpose of that pot of money. He stated the cleaner solution was to return it to the general fund and look at funding something later based on a plan.

Mr. Skala stated he liked the permanent housing and capacity aspects of what had been mentioned by staff, particularly if it could be leveraged with other funding in the future. He also agreed with Mr. Pitzer in that they could not just hang on to these pots of money. Once a program of which the Council was supportive was in place, they could the allocate funds. He thought they should return the money to the general fund for now.

Mayor Treece stated he agreed and pointed out he did not want to appropriate funds during the reports process of the meeting. He noted money had been set aside for a makerspace had lapsed back into the general fund when that project had not come to fruition, and would like the same to happen here. He commented that if they received a third round of CDBG CARES Act money for infrastructure, he hoped staff would work with REDI with regard to a kitchen space and move some of the Turning Point assets there. He pointed out he did not feel the City should be in the business of operating a crisis

shelter, but felt they could provide some infrastructure for the Salvation Army, Turning Point, and others to use to help the neighborhood.

Mr. Hollis noted Turning Point and Room at the Inn (RATI) were supposed to be interim solutions that had turned into very long interim solutions.

Mayor Treece asked if there was any objection or counterpoint to placing those funds back into the general revenue fund until they had a plan. Mr. Trapp replied he liked the case management support of expanding the Voluntary Action Center concept and wanted to see that brought forward. They could then have an up or down vote and discussion about how to spend the money so it was not a philosophical discussion during reports as he thought Council would be supportive when they saw that specific plan and the incredible need.

Mr. Hollis commented that the rental and utility assistance to rehouse people from the streets was used for what they called rapid rehousing. It was not just to keep people from becoming homeless. Every two weeks they met to house people off of the streets with those funds.

REP32-20      Commission on Human Rights Report in Support of a Proposed City Contractor Nondiscrimination Ordinance.

Mayor Treece understood the Commission on Human Rights was asking the City to adopt, as part of the nondiscrimination ordinance, a requirement for businesses that did work under contract with the City to also be obligated to comply with that ordinance. He explained he had asked for the Commission to look into this issue and provide a recommendation. One of the reasons was due the Municipal Equality Index in which the City had scored a perfect score the last four years. He noted a checkmark item was whether the nondiscrimination policy applied to businesses that did business with the City. He pointed out the Council had signed a statement of Community Principles that had indicated rejection of discrimination in all forms. As a result, he did not know why they would want to do business with someone that did not adhere to that same statement. Interestingly, the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled today that LGBTQ persons were protected in their employment against discrimination on the basis of sex. He felt this would be consistent with what was already a policy. He noted there had been an incident at Orr Street Studios around Christmas when the building had been leased for a corporate party, and although it was a civil action between the parties, the person impacted had asked what the City could do. He had then looked at the portal to see if that company had ever done business with the City since he felt that was not a company with which they should conduct business. It appeared the City did not do business with that company, but the City also did not have a policy stating that value. He thought the nondiscrimination ordinance should be extended so it applied to companies that did business with the City and asked if there was any objection. No one objected. He understood there was likely language in other municipal codes.

Ms. Thompson stated staff could find that language. She pointed out the City currently included nondiscrimination language in their contracts, but codifying it provided another level of protection to ensure it applied across the board. She noted the language was more expansive than what was included statewide or federally.

REP33-20      North 763 Community Improvement District (CID) - FY 2021 Annual Budget.

Mayor Treece explained the North 763 CID had submitted their budget in compliance with state statute. They had also submitted some names for appointment, but those were not due until the end of this year so he would ponder that in the meantime.

REP34-20 Updated Timeline for the Establishment of a Residential Parking by Permit Only Program.

Mr. Nichols provided a staff report.

Mr. Skala stated he had spoken with some that had been involved in lengthy discussions regarding the permit program and other tools, such as stripping, which had decreased the need for a program. He asked what other tools were available to assist other than painting the curb and signage. Mr. Nichols replied they could draft some different enforcement policies for particular neighborhoods with the assistance of the consultant.

Mr. Nichols pointed out they would not just move forward with a permit program. They would first try to determine if they could solve the problems without a permit program, and he wanted to continue in that manner moving forward.

Mr. Skala asked if there was outreach or if it was initiated by the neighborhoods. Mr. Nichols replied the neighborhood would need to bring a petition to the City demonstrating participation by 60-70 percent in a defined zone. He explained that many of the past meetings held had only involved 1-2 disgruntled people while the rest did not want changes. He noted everything had been on hold lately, and hoped to soon be able to hire a manager whose duties would involve this.

Ms. Fowler asked who would come forward to request the services of a residential parking permit program or any tools in the toolbox. She had noticed the memo had discussed residents, but her experience in some neighborhoods that had the worst challenges with parking was that the residents might not be aware of it. Those that owned investment real estate had participated in the meetings and had been opposed to a residential parking permit program. She wondered if the more appropriate recitation of "residents" in the memo was property owners. At the meetings she had attended, the property owners were almost unanimously opposed to a residential parking permit program. She pointed out that when traveling north of downtown, the first couple of blocks of the North Central neighborhood had a car storage problem. People parked there due to its proximity to downtown and the University. She asked if a portion of a neighborhood, i.e., the lower third of the North Central neighborhood, could come forward to request a residential neighborhood permit program, or if they were subject to a 60-70 percent rule for the entire boundaries of the neighborhood. Mr. Nichols replied it could be whoever wanted to come together. Ms. Fowler understood they only had to be contiguous and approximate. Mr. Nichols stated that was correct. Ms. Fowler noted a portion of many neighborhoods had these difficulties.

Ms. Fowler stated she was not surprised by the lack of interest in a permit parking program at this time since there were a lot of people missing. In addition, COVID would change the financial picture for a lot of people when the University convened again. It might create a different dynamic with cars, but it might also be the time they have to come back to this. She commented that she was pleased there was a manual, but was also disappointed by the fact it was still being discussed. In the 2011-2013 timeframe, a residential parking permit program had been implemented in the North Village neighborhood area, but there had not been any since in any other neighborhood that had real challenges. Mr. Nichols explained there had not been a lot of interest in the permit program in the last few meetings held. There had, however, been interest in other solutions. He noted they still had a consultant on retainer to help guide them through the process. Tonight, he just wanted to convey that they would continue the program and that they still had a revenue stream from the garages. Once a manager was hired, he thought they would be able to reach out to the various association presidents with steps to move forward if there was an interest.

Ms. Fowler asked that there be precision in the report with regard to whether they were speaking about residents or property owners going forward because the issue tended to arise when there was dense rental property and more cars than places to park. Mr. Nichols replied he thought property owners had brought the issues forward. Ms. Fowler

commented that the report mentioned engagement processes with residents, and she knew there were differing views between those that lived there year-round and those that owned the property. She asked for clarity in the reports coming forward as to whether they were speaking about the property owners or those that lived there year-round due to the differences in interests. Mr. Nichols replied he understood and noted he believed it had been the property owners in the past.

Mr. Thomas stated he liked the idea of modeling the program on the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program as he believed that program worked well. It was data-driven and had a range of different implementations. He commented that he also liked the infographic.

Mr. Trapp pointed out they had a pot of money without a plan and no one had objected to it. He understood they were in the process of developing a plan, which was the reason it had been funded. He felt everyone's interests should be handled similarly. Mayor Treece stated he agreed.

Mr. Pitzer asked how much revenue from the parking utility went into this program. Mr. Nichols replied there was a \$5 fee associated with two of the garages, and about \$260,000 was in the fund now. Mr. Pitzer asked for the annual revenue stream. Mr. Nichols replied about \$200,000. Mr. Pitzer asked if it was \$200,000 per year. Mr. Nichols replied yes.

Mr. Pitzer asked for the cost to create a permit program in a neighborhood. Mr. Nichols replied it varied based on what it looked like as there could be contributions to it by those in the neighborhood. They did not know the cost since they had not gotten to the point of defining a program. No one wanted to move to permits for parking in front of homes based on the meetings they had held in the past. Some did not want the program, and others felt other tools had addressed the issue. The program had not been defined yet.

Mr. Skala commented that early discussions had involved parking meters. Mr. Nichols agreed, and noted this was a way to not require parking meters since they had another funding stream.

Mr. Pitzer understood there was a \$5 fee from the garages and the funding would be used to remove parking meters. Mr. Nichols stated it eliminated the need to put meters into the neighborhoods to offset the cost of a permit program. He explained meters had been utilized in the North Village neighborhood, but others they had spoken with did not want meters in their neighborhoods.

Mr. Pitzer asked for the actual cost of the program. Mr. Thomas replied it had to do with the enforcement of the rules as to who could park and the checking of permits. Mr. Nichols stated it was the issuance of permits and paying someone to go to the neighborhood to ensure those parked there had a permit for parking. Mr. Pitzer felt that should not cost \$200,000 per year. Mr. Nichols explained Council had agreed to the funding before a program had been developed. Since then, they had been trying to develop a program to which people were agreeable. Mr. Pitzer stated he was starting to recall that discussion and thought he had voted against it because there was not a plan. He noted they were just stockpiling money.

Mayor Treece asked how much they had paid the consultant to tell them the public did not want this. Mr. Nichols replied the initial fee was \$100,000, but they had not spent near that amount. After the second or third meeting, everything had been put on pause. The consultant had not been utilized for at least six months.

Ms. Peters suggested they review whether progress was made in another six months or a year and if there was not any, they should reallocate the money elsewhere. She agreed with Ms. Fowler in that past parking meetings had been very contentious without any forward movement. There was just a lot of vitriol. She commented that if they did not have the issue now since there were not any students, they should determine how that changes in about a year, and if it does not, she felt they should reallocate the money.

Mr. Glascock pointed out the money would have to stay with the parking utility, and the City had a lot of garages that needed maintenance.

Mayor Treece asked about the status of the crossing arms in the garages. Mr. Nichols replied he thought they would be implemented Monday morning. Mayor Treece asked about the one across from the Tiger Hotel. Mr. Nichols replied that would be upgraded in early July. They were starting with the Tenth and Cherry and the Plaza garages on Monday morning. He noted a press release would be issued.

Mr. Pitzer asked for an update to be provided. Mayor Treece thought they could talk about it during the budget process as well.

REP35-20

#### Administrative Public Improvement Project - Bus Shelter Installation at the Clark Lane and Olympic Boulevard Bus Stop.

Mr. Nichols provided a staff report.

Mr. Skala stated bus shelters on Clark Lane were a good thing. He understood there were two options, i.e., to proceed in this manner or to go through the standard public improvement process, and asked for the distinction. Mr. Nichols replied they could come to Council via a report for anything under \$50,000 asking for permission to utilize this process.

Ms. Fowler commented that she was supportive of bus shelters wherever the City had the ability to place them since they provided a necessary service. She asked if trash receptacles were included when bus shelters were installed. Mr. Nichols replied yes. Ms. Fowler asked if trash receptacles were also provided with bus stops without a shelter. Mr. Nichols replied they sometimes included trash receptacles with benches. Ms. Fowler asked if there was a process by which citizens could ask for that if they lived adjacent to it. Mr. Nichols replied citizens could ask the department to consider providing one.

Ms. Fowler noted there had been bus shelter outside of Wilkes Boulevard Church at one time and it was no longer there. She asked Mr. Nichols if he had any information regarding the situation there. Mr. Nichols replied he thought they were asked to remove it due to behavior issues that were disruptive to those that lived nearby. Ms. Fowler stated she understood the difficulty there. She only wondered if there was a process to ask to have one removed. Mr. Nichols stated he would need to look into how that had been initiated. He thought it had been requested by the Church or the Police Department and would follow up.

Mr. Skala commented that there were bus stops that essentially only had signage without any trash receptacles, and asked Ms. Fowler if she was asking about the possibility of placing a trash receptacle in those locations. Ms. Fowler replied she wanted to know if that was part of the process delineating where the bus stops were located. She noted she had received complaints of trash at bus stops without trash cans. She wondered what went along with a bus stop versus a bus bench and a stop, and a bus shelter and a stop.

## XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Jeffrey Bryan stated he was a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and had lived in Columbia since 2002. He noted he was a parent of five children, two of which were white and three of which were black. As a parent, he pointed out that racism was institutionalized in the schools and police departments within the community. His son had already had an experience with the University of Missouri Police Department (MUPD) this summer when he was a student on campus. He commented that he believed they really needed to take the moral weight of this moment to make substantial change. He did not feel it was acceptable to allow racist police officers to remain on the police force regardless of the legal risks to the City. He reiterated real change was needed to ensure the children and citizens of Columbia were safe, and stated he felt that acutely as a parent now. He explained he had not felt that with his daughters, but watching the difference in the way his children were treated in school and other systems was terribly eye opening to him. He noted he was embarrassed his eyes needed to be opened and

he had since educated himself. He hoped the Council would take this seriously by making substantive changes in the short term.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Bryan what he recommended. Mr. Bryan replied he thought they had to push the police reform suggestions all of the way through. He had read the report of the Police Chief and felt more work was still needed. He also believed they needed much more substantial anti-racist training in the schools. The teachers did not understand. They felt they were good people who treated everyone the same, but they did not. Mayor Treece asked Mr. Bryan if he would share that with the Columbia Public School Board. Mr. Bryan replied he had already spoken to members of the School Board. He commented that the problems were primarily at Gentry Middle School under Principal Beiswinger and more recently at Rock Bridge High School. He pointed out Rock Bridge High School had been put on blast on social media for some very substantial racist events. He stated this was something his children had reported to him all along. He noted his car, which his son was using, had been searched without any reason. Nothing had been found and there had not been any reason for the search. His son's permission was barely obtained and his permission had not been obtained. The situation had included a CPD police officer. It was a warrantless search and attempted seizure in which they found nothing. He pointed out the traffic report was damning. He explained his wife was a statistician that had helped Race Matters, Friends look at the traffic report numbers. They were bad enough on their face, but when one compared them to the number of actual drivers and cars within the City, they were worse. The traffic report made excuses, such as not having a choice but to pick up drivers with warrants. It, however, did not take into account what the warrant involved, such as a citation for a tail light being out that had not been repaired causing the person to be an arrest statistic. He did not believe it should be handled in that manner. He commented that he believed they should listen to the Police Chief, and noted the Police Chief needed support to stand up to the CPOA. He reiterated they had to make changes in this town. He stated he could not imagine what would happen if there was a major incident here, and noted he could not watch another George Floyd die.

Adrienne Mann commented that she was a resident of the Third Ward and a public health nurse that was deeply concerned with the COVID-19 pandemic and the health and financial impacts it had on the City. She explained she had solutions for COVID-19 and racism, which was another public health crisis within Columbia. She stated the City spent over \$20 million on its current imagining of the Police Department, and thought they could reduce those costs while still improving services to all members of the community. She suggested requiring every officer to carry their own liability coverage and stopping the payment of settlements for conduct and bad behavior. She pointed out she did not know how much the City spent on settlements as she had not been able to find that information, and noted she would submit a request for that information. At least one settlement based on publicly available information had been over \$3 million. She commented that they could also stop arresting people for nonviolent crimes. Not only would this improve the interactions officers had with the community, it would also free up jail space, which was very important during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, it would save the City a significant amount of money. She stated she appreciated the comments of Mayor Treece earlier in terms of his nod to the Supreme Court decision that would outlaw discrimination based upon sex and the anecdote of the City not doing business with companies that were found to be discriminatory. Based on those comments, she did not feel they should be doing business with the CPD. She explained she had the pleasure of working with the protestors that were meeting at the columns. They were smart, passionate, and organized, and currently, they were focused on removing police officers that had lost the public trust. She suggested the Council act decisively to regain public trust or they might not be in their leadership positions in the future.



Doug Mann noted it had been stated earlier that budgets were a moral document as they showed the values of local government. The 2020 budget had allocated \$26,229,694 to police, while a combination of seven different programs equaled approximately that amount, i.e., \$26,587,797. Those programs included the public transit improvement fund, cultural affairs, economic development, sustainability, community development, health and human services, and community relations. He reiterated budgets were a statement of the values of a community and government. He understood they needed to provide funding for police, but pointed out they were working under a system that had existed for a while and one they had kept around because it was what they had. He commented that earlier they had heard someone speaking of an incident the police had responded to which they had no business responding to as sending people with guns into a mental health crisis situation would only exacerbate the situation. If they took some of the money they were spending in the Police Department and provided it to the Health and Human Services Department, they could send people into those situations that were actually trained and capable of handling them. They would then also not be reliant on citizens utilizing their own compassion to help resolve issues. In addition, if more money was spent on community relations, community development, and economic development, they would see a reduction in crime and would not need to spend as much on policing as they did currently. They could also reduce the Police Department budget by getting rid of those police officers who were not fit for the job. He was not sure why this Council and this government were allowing those officers to maintain their positions.

Markiez stated he was with the People's Defense and had been one of the organizers of the march that was held on Sunday, June 7, 2020 and had brought thousands of people downtown. He explained he planned to talk about police brutality and the Black Lives Matter movement. He noted police brutality in this country was not a new subject, and it was really hard to believe it was only now being discussed by so many. He did not feel it should have taken this long. He commented that he was happy to be a part of the change and a part of the conversation. He was hoping strides could be made so the men and women in blue were respectful protectors and upholders of the law. He explained Black Lives Matter was a movement that had started in 2013 when Zimmerman had been acquitted for the murder of Trayvon Martin. It became more global in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, two black men. He pointed out many more black men and women had lost their lives from 2014 to 2020. Recently, it was George Floyd, a man whose neck an officer had kneeled on for eight minutes and forty-six seconds, even when Mr. Floyd stated he could not breathe and called out for his mother. He understood a lot of people were disturbed by the Black Lives Matter movement as if they were saying the lives of other races were not important. He explained they were important, but black lives were the ones being murdered in cold blood and receiving harsher sentences for the same crimes committed by white men, and they were tired. For those screaming "All Lives Matter," he asked them to imagine their house being on fire and the fire department spraying water on every other home on the block except for their home since all lives mattered even though their house was the only one on fire. The same thing applied to the Black Lives Matter movement as it was black lives that were being targeted and in danger.

Roy Lovelady explained he was one of the original members of the People's Defense and was organizing the peaceful meetings at the columns. When he had first come out, he had seen that it was chaotic and had noticed some wanted to riot. He wanted to ensure the protests were peaceful so he had brought structure to the protests. He stated he wanted to continue that structure so he had set up a meeting with police officers in an effort to build rapport and a relationship between the community and the officers as trust was an issue. He explained he was a black man and had been treated unfairly on several occasions, but he had not given up on trusting police officers. He noted he only wanted

to be treated equally. He stated he drove a nice car and had been pulled over several times with officers asking who owned the car. Mayor Treece asked if that had occurred in Columbia. Mr. Lovelady replied yes. He commented that he was also a business owner and sometimes had large sums of money, and would be questioned as to why he had some much cash. He stated he had even been charged with resisting arrest by simply moving when he did not want to be touched and not posing a threat. Although he had experienced those things, he wanted to build a rapport between the community and police officers. He pointed out the meeting he had set up for this Thursday had been canceled, and asked the Council to help him build the rapport between the community and the police officers. He believed confusion and chaos were the reasons the meeting was canceled, but noted he would not give up. He stated he would attend future meetings to relay information to the Council to pass on to the CPD. He reiterated he was with the People's Defense and they would march continuously until they saw change.

Dani Perez stated she was also a member of the People's Defense and a photographer documentarist. Earlier in the evening, a gentleman had spoken of an incident that had occurred with a black man with knives wanting to kill himself and the brutality and over-reaction of the police. She noted there had been another incident of brutality a couple days ago in front of the Sycamore restaurant, and a video was circulating with regard to it. She commented that she did not want to only concentrate on the police. She also wanted to concentrate on why this man, who the police said would obtain the help he deserved, was back out on the streets when he was clearly not mentally sound. When she had asked the question, an ex-CPD officer had explained that if they had taken him for a 96-hour evaluation, it only meant he had to speak with a mental health professional. It did not mean the person was admitted. The 96-hour hold was a misdemeanor and did not mean he would have to stay in the hospital regardless of what the officers wanted. After 96-hours, the person was usually released with a list of resources, but any follow up was the responsibility of that person, who might not be mentally sound. She stated the mental health system was as much of a revolving door as the jail and prison system. She believed this meant they had a huge mental health crisis, and as a person who had been through the mental health system, she noted there was a huge stress in that system. She explained this was the reason they were even talking about defunding the police. Social workers were overstressed and had very little money. They could not keep up. As a result, more funding was needed for that system. She stated it was clear to her they were not taking care of the people that desperately needed that help. Those people were just thrown back on the street, and in this instance, that man could have hurt himself or other people. She did not feel that was okay, and wanted to point out the issues were beyond just the police. They needed to look into all of their systems.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, explained every person had a different load they had to bear each and every day. He understood many were speaking of Black Lives Matter, and commented that all lives mattered. He stated he believed education was needed across the board. Those that were educated needed to teach younger generations what it meant to be respectful and that violence was not needed to achieve results. He commented that options were needed so people did not feel the need to rob others or break any laws. He noted he believed they needed more empathy as a society. They were all human beings and they all wanted to be respected and honored regardless of skin color or anything else. He commented that he felt order was needed for life.

Jacquelyn Watts noted her sign said "We Need Equality" in about fifteen different languages. She explained her eleven year old daughter had made the sign because she saw what was happening in the world today. She did not feel her daughter should have to see, live, or worry about this issue. She commented that it was crazy for the CPD to

have their guns drawn on mentally ill people. They should first try to de-escalate the situation instead of making the situation potentially worse. When someone was begging one to kill them, she did not feel police should come in with guns drawn. She noted there was a video circulating showing a CPD officer assaulting a man in the back of the car. Mayor Treece stated the video did not show that. Ms. Watts pointed out the video showed the officer kneeling the man and there had been a physical struggle in the back of that car. She noted she had viewed several different videos from different angles that all showed a struggle in the back of the car. It was out of line and crazy as those same officers would protest and kneel with them. It was like the man that would beat his wife and bring her flowers saying he would never do it again. It left the impression that they were only doing certain things because they did not want citizens protesting. They wanted them to shut up and go on with their lives instead of facing the issues and taking the necessary actions to fix things.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Watts what she would do to fix things. Ms. Watts replied they needed officers that were certified in dealing with people of color, those with mental health issues, sexual trauma issues, homeless issues, etc. She thought they might need to fire them all and rehire people that already had these certifications. She believed certain certifications should be required to become an officer as she felt it would help with a lot of the trust issues and people being concerned about their lives when encountering the police.

Barbara Jefferson commented that she thought the Council would continue to see what they were seeing tonight. People were speaking up as racism was alive in Columbia. She felt it was a matter of time before they saw a video that equaled what they had seen with George Floyd. She stated it was definitely happening in Columbia, but they had just not seen a video yet.

Ms. Jefferson felt the elderly had been let down this year because they did not have any place to file their taxes. They were told to go online. She believed that was a failure. People were assuming everyone had internet accessibility and knowledge.

Ms. Jefferson commented that anyone that did not feel racism existed should be black with her for a week. She stated she had seen six law enforcement personnel and four law enforcement cars last week at a park. She wondered why they needed that type of show of force. The citizens of Columbia were paying their salaries so they were paying them to behave in that manner. She stated reforms were needed in the CPD, to include learning how to de-escalate situations.

Be'honsay Williams explained she had been hit last Monday and did not feel the police officers were doing their jobs. She stated she deserved justice and would not stop until the officers did their job. She noted she was intentionally hit and they were not doing anything about it. She felt the Council needed to ensure they did their job, and reiterated she would continue to fight for justice.

Patrice Williams stated she was the mother of Be'honsay Williams and noted she was highly disappointed in the CPD not moving more quickly on this issue. She commented that she had been a citizen of Columbia for a long time and a substitute teacher in the community. She explained her home was a safe home for kids in the community when they did not have food or any place to go. They were good citizens and this was ridiculous. She believed something needed to be done. She paid her taxes and abided by the law like those on the Council as did her daughter, and she did not feel this was acceptable. The person that did this crime needed to be held responsible. She did not care if the person was seventeen as that person knew right from wrong. She asked them to imagine if it was their child.

Sterling Brown stated he had moved to Columbia in an effort to find a less tumultuous environment to raise his kids, and noted he did not profess to know the inner workings of

the community yet. He explained he was fully invested and had a lot of hope that this was the community in which he could raise his kids. He commented that the Council had a problem on its hands. The protestors wanted to defund and/or dismantle the local law enforcement structure. He noted that when he moved to Columbia, he immediately threw himself into service via student support at the School District. He believed children were their brightest light and future. As a person who was fearful when he saw police lights shine behind him, he did not want to see the CPD dismantled and defunded, but if it did not change from the ground up with an effort that was genuine to mitigate the anguish and cries of the people in the community and surrounding communities, the Council would have failed at its job. He understood some of them wanted to desperately serve the community from the seats in which they sat, and he believed it would take absolute, resolute, genuine, rhetoric-free conversation along with action. The community would otherwise not stop asking for and demanding something that was truly needed, which was a diverse, representative, cohesively interactive law enforcement agency.

Mayor Treece understood Mr. Brown believed increased diversity was needed in the Police Department and asked what else was needed. Mr. Brown replied his black and brown kids, to include his seven year old daughter, found the image of a police officer to be boogiemer-like. He did not want her to be afraid of someone like her uncle or his best friend, who were both police officers, but the image was thoroughly engrained. He believed they needed to change the appearance of the police force. He recognized there were some complications in changing the way they looked due to operations, but suggested collecting qualitative and empirical data whereby officers were dressed more casually, like Mr. Trapp, while keeping all of the equipment. He believed they needed to try different things, and if they did not, the community would erupt. He reiterated the need for genuine, earnest, and rhetoric-free conversation and action.

Mayor Treece asked if holding a town hall meeting would be a good idea, and wondered where it should be held, how they could get the word out, etc. He explained he had received a lot of emails and comments from people wanting to defund the Police Department while others, like him, did not, and wanted to know how to fix this. He understood it required more than three minutes at the end of a council meeting and more than a town hall meeting, but wondered if that was a good start and desirable or if it was just more talk. Mr. Brown replied that if it was not acted upon and seen through by the decision-makers in earnest, it would just be talk. Mayor Treece asked who the best messenger was for that. Mr. Brown replied him. He explained the people had put their power to the ballot and had gifted Mayor Treece with this yolk of circumstance. He commented that when someone approached them indicating a meeting that had been well established and discussed had later been canceled, it created discord and distrust. He stated the logistics were a quandary, but he did not feel they would have an issue with the networking aspect as they would show up if the venue and avenue by which the dialogue was exchanged was earnest. Mayor Treece asked what a good mutual space might be. Mr. Brown replied he was not sure, and pointed out many had chosen to stay in the lobby this evening due to spacing needs. He felt a location with audio capacity might be needed, and suggested something like a high school stadium along with screenings due to health concerns. He understood the police were no longer available to protect them and thought maybe some of those funds could be reallocated to accommodate a community conversation. He reiterated he believed the community would respond if the City put resources toward it. He explained that although he had indicated he did not want to defund the police, he felt policing reform was imperative for every community where people of color lived, which might come in the form of defunding, disbanding, rebranding, etc. They needed to take a hard look at the interactions with the CPOA as they were a stakeholder as well. He understood the City had their hands tied in that situation to some extent. He reiterated the protestors wanted some level of change and that action was needed along with conversation.

Mayor Treece commented that he had seen the Police Chief try to recruit officers and

was surprised he had not tried to recruit Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown stated he was not interested because the job was too hard since they did not equip officers with the items they actually needed to do their job efficiently and effectively. They were given guns, mace, zip ties, handcuffs, etc. They were equipped as though they were paramilitary officers to take on the duty of policing. He asked if the Council knew the etymology of the word "police." He pointed out titles and labels identified them and that sense of identity went with them everywhere they went. He noted he was an in-school suspension coordinator and liked the bad kids because they were not bad. He commented that when elected, Brian Treece had become Mayor Brian Treece, and that sense of identity put him in the position to say he was sensitive to meet with him on his level, which could be interpreted negatively. This was the reason a dialogue needed to happen. Contextually, the policing function was one that involved raid parties, vigilante efforts, militia men, and rogue overseers that would band together to monitor wooded areas looking for runaway slaves, slave uprising leaders, and those traveling via the underground railroad. They would police the field to take slaves back to their masters for a bounty. He stated he did not believe every police officer felt they were an overseer, but it was something that was programmed and engrained in the communities. He explained branding and marketing had everything to do with the human mind. He commented that they had a lot of work to do if they wanted the reprogramming of minds for tangible change in the community. He noted the defunding might really be a rebranding, recharacterization, or dismantling, i.e., making it out of a brand new material and then deploying it into the community with the voice and eyes of the community behind it and allowing the citizens to be a much more valued stakeholder in the process. It would also allow them to be more reflective of those they served.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Brown to think about his questions and to give him a call at the office tomorrow as he wanted to continue the conversation.

Wayne Boykin-Rudolph commented that most people around town knew him as Amanda Lay as he was an entertainer and the reigning Miss Gay City of Columbia America. He pleaded to the Council to listen to the many people of color that deserved to be heard. It was a sad issue in Columbia whereby people of color tended to be silenced or not heard. He noted he had previously worked at the Fulton State Hospital, which was a dangerous place to work, and they did not have guns or the other weapons police had. As a result, it appalled him to hear the story about the man who had been suicidal and the responding police having their guns out. He explained he had been trained to de-escalate situations. He did not understand why police officers were not trained in that manner or why they did not have other people in the department that were trained to handle those types of situations. There were many different techniques of manual holds or de-escalation, and the need to put a weapon in someone's face who was trying to commit suicide was not necessary. He felt that was the last thing that should be done.

Adam Scalin stated he had been protesting every day, and the protesters were from this community and were relying on the Council to do their job to make Columbia a better community. Those in attendance only included a fraction of their numbers, and they had formed at 2:00 a.m. in the middle of Providence Road when it seemed as though the situation would turn into what had happened in Kansas City and St. Louis. He noted leaders had stepped up to speak out to ensure there was not destruction. The protesters included people of different ages, races, genders, backgrounds, etc. that wanted change, and they were relying on the Council to make that change. He stated they were out there every day so their voices could be heard. He commented that they were passionate, loving, and driven for change, and he considered them family. They wanted something new. They needed change, and for that change to include reforms and better training within the CPD. He asked the Council what actions it would take to appease them.

Mayor Treece commented that he did not feel it was a matter of appeasement. It was a

matter of defining the problems they were trying to fix.

Mr. Scalin explained the problems involved the injustices that were occurring within Columbia. He felt the way police were trained and the actions they were taking were not appropriate. He believed better training was needed and that they needed to use less brutal force. He commented that the police should not tower over the community in a brutal, distrusting, and unjust manner. He did not feel he and the other protestors should have to be out marching. He also expressed frustration in having to body-block cars from hitting younger protestors since the police were not protecting them. He understood the issue of overtime, but pointed out it was also a service they paid for as taxpayers. He reiterated he wondered why the first instinct was for there to be 8-10 police cars for one man in a mental health crisis and for the officers to pull a gun. He did not feel it should be handled in that manner, and believed officers needed more social work training. He suggested embracing people with open arms and telling them it would be okay instead of embracing them with a shotgun. The officers needed to get the person help and not throw them in the back of a squad car in such a manner that the person's head hit the window. He did not understand why six people were needed to apprehend one man and place him in a car. That was not the kind of force needed in the situation. He pointed out he had taken NJROTC throughout high school and had received basic police training then. He had never been taught to place his knee on the back of someone to get the person into a squad car. He reiterated grabbing a gun or pepper spray should not be the first action of an officer that should be there to protect them. They were paid to help citizens. He invited the Council to come out and talk to them to hear what they were saying. He noted they would continue to protest as they were on a hunt for change and would not stop until that change occurred.

Mr. Trapp stated he wanted to thank those that had come out and had brought new energy and enthusiasm for the issue of police reform. It had been a longstanding issue that he had worked to address. He commented that after eight years on the Council, he was disappointed. They had made some movements around the edges, but some of the core problems with regard to race and policing had not been addressed or had worsened in the time he had been on the Council, and he was sorry for that. It was difficult as there was a lot of slop in the wheel in terms of sitting behind the dais and impacting policing on the ground. In addition, it was done in the national context of race, policing, and a history of racism. He stated he was not from Columbia originally. He had lived here six years before being elected to the Council and had not been aware of a lot of the racial history and nuances in some of his early decision-making. He commented that he wished he could have done better. He explained this was his last year on the Council and was going to take this time to create action. As much as they needed dialogue, there were limitations due to COVID on how they did it. In addition, they had already had a lot of public processes, and while it had been done, the racial stop data had increased. He noted Mr. El-Jayyousi had done some great data analysis indicating the racial stop data had grown by 30 percent in the past six years. He had been on the Council that entire time working to try to reduce that discrepancy but it continued to grow. In May, in his meetings with the City Manager, he had directed him to direct the Police Chief to review pretext stops in terms of whether they were needed. Early on with COVID, when they had released the police from doing a lot of their day-to-day activities and had reserved interactions to only life-threatening emergencies, they had not seen a big spike in crime. They also had not seen community policing, but they had seen community. They had come together to take care of themselves as a community. The police services had been reserved for those most violent and dangerous situations. He reiterated he asked the City Manager to direct the Police Chief to stop doing pretext stops. They had looked at a lot of the data and he believed the reasons for the racial disparity data was due to that. He pointed out that in conversations with law enforcement, they were enforcing the laws passed by City leadership. As a result, he thought they should look at what they were doing with regard to how they organized policing and how they addressed the issues. He

wondered what they could do differently to reduce the disparities. He noted the racial disparities, such as being more than four times more likely to be stopped as an African-American than a white person, were not just showing up in the traffic stop data. The disparity also existed with marijuana arrests even though white people used marijuana more than African-Americans. He commented that one pretext stop that should be ceased was the dim license plate light. When he had participated in a police ride-a-long, a person had been stopped because their license plate light was dim. It was a pretext stop since it was not a safety hazard. The person was being pulled over so the officer could have a conversation to see what they might be doing and if they could find some kind of criminal activity. He stated he did not feel that was effective and believed it eroded the trust of the community. There were a small number of people that drove in certain neighborhoods or drove certain types of cars that were stopped over and over again. It eroded their desire to cooperate with the police and to have trust in the police. He reiterated he believed the ending of pretext stops was action that could be taken now. In addition, at the Council level, they could make items, like the dim license plate light, to no longer be primary offenses. He asked for a report on non-safety hazard items the Council could consider changing so those were not primary offenses. If they passed laws and hired people to enforce them, they could not blame them for enforcing the laws they enacted. He reiterated they needed to take action and suggested they all direct the City Manager to look at stopping discretionary stops. He noted there would not be an alarm when people who were speeding, running stop signs, or breaking obvious traffic safety laws were stopped, but trying to find a pretext to pull someone over for a technical violation of a law they might otherwise look past due to the neighborhood, time of day, or type of vehicle needed to be stopped. He commented that he appreciated the difficulties of policing and liked the fact they were looking at costs associated with some kind of unarmed crisis response through the Department of Health and Human Services. He felt that would be a great use of resources as he felt they asked too much of the police. He stated crises opened them up to change, and they were in a crisis and needed to change in a positive way. If they could reduce the load on the police by finding other ways to manage issues, he thought they should take a look at it as they discussed the budget this fall.

Mr. Thomas thanked everyone that had spoken tonight, marched every night, and sent emails. He stated he was impressed by this well-organized and well-articulated campaign as it had raised an issue they had all been aware of but had not known how to address. He believed having the power of people behind it would make a difference. He commented that they were fortunate and had a great opportunity in having leadership to work with collaboratively to make improvements in some of the tremendous injustices that existed. He reiterated they had the opportunity to meet and talk and make a plan together. He stated he had been disappointed to hear the Thursday meeting had been canceled and hoped it could be rescheduled as soon as possible. He explained he had read about it in the newspaper and thought it was great that the CPD would meet with the leaders of the protestors as there was a great sense that both sides were moving toward a productive dialogue. He reiterated he hoped that the meeting could be re-arranged as soon as possible and with the best heart everyone had. He commented that the problems went far deeper than the CPD or the entire policing institution in the country dating back to the slave patrols. It also involved terrible economic inequities that were built into the system in this and many other countries. He was not sure how to solve those issues, but felt they could take some first steps. He pointed out he agreed with much of what Mr. Trapp had stated and thought they should try things, such as stopping pretext stops and determining how many officers really needed to respond to a particular situation. An evaluation was needed as to whether it was a really dangerous situation whereby a saturation response was needed or if it was one person in a crisis. He commented that he strongly supported an exploration of repurposing some of their

general fund dollars that went to the CPD for mental health counseling, housing services, and other human and social services as he believed those services would do a better job of solving the problems that were the root cause of a lot of the work the police did. He understood that would take an analysis of what the police was responding to, and from a pragmatic point of view, they always had vacancies within the CPD, and that part of the budget could be transferred immediately for a pilot program to hire mental health counselors. He pointed out Eugene, Oregon had a good model as a similar funding decision had been made there many decades ago, and it appeared to have saved the City money by solving problems instead of making them worse. He commented that he also supported evaluating whether the Columbia Police Officers Association (CPOA) stood up to the Principles of Community. If it did not, he felt they should explore whether they could stop negotiating with the CPOA. He understood that was what the Police Chief in Minneapolis, Minnesota had decided. He believed they had to be honest and admit the CPOA had not helped and had directly harmed many efforts to actually implement the vision of community policing they had discussed for many years. He stated he would commit himself to doing what he could to bring some fairly dramatic changes to fruition.

Mr. Skala commented that he appreciated the dialogue and believed it would take longer than just addressing the Council tonight. They would have to get out and really communicate. He explained they previously had a program involving four underserved areas that allowed for dinners to invite people in the neighborhood for discussion and had resulted in some emergent leadership. People that would not normally attend council meetings started to show up to ask for simple solutions to some of the profound problems they had. The solutions included things such as street lighting and sidewalks. He noted they had a crew of a few people that had been used like social workers as they would knock on doors to provide information about resources. There had been a desire in the community to expand this type of policing throughout the entire City, but the problem had been that they had disbanded the existing program in an effort to try to get there. As a result, the people that had come to rely on the dialogue had felt abandoned since that dialogue had disappeared. He stated that was a program he regretted abandoning. He explained he would love to have community policing and establish the principle citywide, but they had done away with a system that had been working fairly effectively and had not replaced it.

Mr. Skala commented that the City had saved up about \$75,000 over two years to move forward with a request for proposals to review all of the ordinances via an equity lens. It was something they could not do in-house and they had never hired anyone due to COVID and a few other factors. He felt this was an ideal time to renew the conversation and requested a report indicating where they were now in the context of the Black Lives Matter protests. He reiterated he believed it was an opportune time to reconsider committing some money to that effort.

Mr. Skala pointed out he had asked the City Clerk to provide the Council with a copy of a draft equity resolution provided by the Racial Equity and Leadership (REAL) group, which was a part of the National League of Cities (NLC), for them to review. He read portions of it and asked the City Manager to have the Law Department review it to determine how it might be tailored to Columbia. He understood there was a lot going on and felt this would help continue the dialogue and show that they were doing something.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Trapp if he thought there was room for a town hall meeting to continue the dialogue given what they had heard tonight. If there was not any tolerance for more talk, he felt that was the wrong move. He explained he was trying to determine how to take protests to policy, but was not sure there was consensus on what that might entail. He thought a town hall lead by the Deputy City Manager or someone else could



help flush out what those changes might be. He commented that he struggled with the mental response and why it happened that way. His sense was that someone had called 911, and that dispatcher likely did not know whether to contact a social worker, mental health worker, or the police. He reiterated he wanted an honest discussion of what the public might want, what the City might be doing that was not good enough, what the barriers might be, and what they might not have even thought about yet. Mr. Trapp stated he was not against talk, but noted he was against just talk. He thought they should take some actions that could be implemented right now. He pointed out there were new stakeholders. They had engaged the public in the past, but not this public. He commented that he was not against a town hall, but wanted to ensure that was not the only thing that was done. Mayor Treece wondered if that might be the first step. Mr. Trapp stated it was a step.

Mayor Treece asked if everyone was okay with that as a step.

Ms. Peters stated she thought the town hall was okay as a step, but agreed with Mr. Trapp in that there was much more they needed to address, such as the vehicle stop data, the "8 Can't Wait" movement, etc. She commented that she did not witness the mental health crisis situation that had occurred recently downtown, but noted police officers were asked to do an awful lot. She was happy the citizens had stepped up to help the police officers. A person with a machete could hurt himself, but he could also charge into the crowd injuring the public, and the police had to try to address both situations. She reiterated she agreed with Mr. Trapp in that they had to move away from talking and determine what they might be able to do over the next year to two years with regard to the budget and this great, engaged group of citizens she had never seen before. She stated she was happy to have a town hall meeting, but felt they had heard many things already.

Mayor Treece commented that another thing he had heard was a potential problem with the CPRB process. Since the CPRB was appointed by the Council and was advisory to Council, he thought he would reach out to the Chair of the CPRB to discuss the process and how that person might have had a better response. He noted it took a lot of courage to stand at the podium at a council meeting, and he could not imagine how it would feel at a CPRB meeting while not receiving a deserved response.

Mr. Trapp pointed out this was not the first time the limitation had created a problem. He thought they had asked for it to be looked into previously, and thanked Mayor Treece for following up on it.

Mayor Treece stated he was trying to ask himself what problem they were trying to solve, and felt if they were going to change something, they needed to measure it, and the CPD had a lot of measurements. He understood they had over 140,000 contacts with citizens annually and had a use of force report that showed about 435 incidents of use of force, which had generated eleven complaints. Of the 11 complaints, none were well-founded, but there had also been three internal affairs complaints and discipline had been applied twice. He wondered if they were capturing all of the complaints because he thought he had heard more than eleven tonight. He understood staff walked those that called the Mayor and Council phone line through the process of finding the form and filling it out. He thought they needed to ensure that avenue was preserved and independent.

Mayor Treece stated he believed Chief Jones had done a good job with regard to the policies associated with the "8 Can't Wait" movement. He understood they were good with regard to six of the eight, and they were pretty good on the remaining two in terms of CPD already having those policies in place. He understood any future Police Chief could change those policies with the stroke of a pen effective immediately, and wondered if the Council should ask for an ordinance indicating any change in the use of force policy required City Council approval. That would ensure feedback was received if there was

ever a change to the policy. He pointed out all of the policies were online, and he had been reading them and researching them, but he was not sure he would receive an alert indicating the policy had changed.

Mr. Skala commented that the CALEA accreditation had been in the works for some period of time and it was supposed to be the gold standard in policing. He noted they had not received a report on it for some period time, and asked if they could be provided a report as to where they were with respect to accreditation in the CPD. He understood there were not too many police departments across the country with the CALEA accreditation, and felt that might help to alleviate some of this pressure as well.

Mayor Treece noted the Council had mandatory ethics training at its next pre-council meeting and asked in which room they would like that training to be held so that it was most productive. He wondered if it should be done in Conference Room 1A/1B and whether that would work for Ms. Thompson's presentation. Ms. Thompson replied it could be held in Conference Room 1A/1B.

Ms. Peters asked why they would not hold it in the Council Chamber since it was an open meeting. Mayor Treece replied all of the pre-council meetings had been held in Conference Room 1A/1B pre-COVID. Ms. Peters thought they should have a discussion as to whether they should go back to that room or keep it in the Council Chamber because it could be streamed allowing more citizens to hear the information they were receiving in those meetings. In addition, it was difficult to hear at times in Conference Room 1A/1B, and since it was a smaller room, there was more of a limit to the number of people that could attend.

Mr. Thomas commented that from a transparency point of view, the Council Chamber made more sense since more people could come and be physically present and they could also stream it.

Mr. Pitzer stated he agreed unless someone had a reason to move it back to Conference Room 1A/1B.

Mr. Skala commented that the only issue he could see was scheduling, but felt that should not be much of a problem.

Mr. Trapp stated that when they held closed meetings, they might want to hold it in Conference Room 1A/1B as it would accommodate that type of meeting better. Ms. Peters agreed closed meetings could be held there, but felt open meetings should be in the Council Chamber.

Mayor Treece asked how much longer they wanted to continue with the written comments as he understood there was some confusion since not everyone knew of the agenda item. In addition, he wondered if the comments were being provided because they could not come to the meeting or just if it was an email in support of an agenda item. Mr. Trapp replied he thought that it should continue until COVID was over unless it was onerous on him because those that were fragile or high risk would not be able to attend the meeting. Mayor Treece stated he only wanted a level playing field for everyone, and not everyone expected their email to be read aloud. He noted he did not read them verbatim, but tried to be fair.

Ms. Fowler stated she applauded the suggestion of holding the work sessions in the Council Chamber where they could be streamed. As the representative of a ward that traditionally had less involvement in City government, she was concerned about the obstacles they had placed in the path of people to be able to be more engaged in their dialogue and discussions. She noted she would invite people in her ward to send her suggestions she could then filter to the rest of the Council. She thought they need to think about broadening the ways people could bring comments to them, particularly during COVID, but also irrespective of it, because people had transportation issues,

childcare issues, etc., and suggested video. She believed they also needed to find ways for citizens to participate with and view more of what happened at board and commission meetings as those also affected their quality of life. It was a conversation she wanted to continue to have with the Council.

Mayor Treece listed the written comments received by 4:00 p.m. today.

Denver Lybarger had indicated he was patiently waiting along with thousands of other members of the community for the City to listen to the voices that were ready to save Columbia from the catastrophic outcome they would inevitably face if the lockdowns continued. He understood City officials were claiming they were saving citizens from the virus, but Columbia had some of the lowest numbers in the country. He did not want to seem insensitive, but felt the restrictions would kill more in the long run and destroy small businesses. He asked the City to stop the hypocritical stance with regard to local businesses while they allowed big businesses to do what they pleased.

Mary Summit asked the Council impose a moratorium on small cells and other wireless infrastructure permit processes and deployment until COVID-19 was over.

Daniel Young asked the Council and City Manager to work with the Columbia Public School District to remove resource officers from the schools as he did not believe they helped as much as intended and for alternatives to be encouraged.

Those comments were filed with other items associated with this meeting.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 11:04 p.m.