



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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**Monday, November 2, 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 a bit after 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2020, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was taken with the following results: Council Members PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, SKALA, and THOMAS were present. Council Member TRAPP was absent. The City Manager, City Counselor, City Clerk, and various Department Heads and staff members were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2020 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Skala and a second by Mayor Treece.

Mayor Treece noted the regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2020 were not yet complete.

Mayor Treece made a motion to remove R145-20 from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitzer and approved unanimously by voice vote.

The agenda, including the consent agenda with the removal of R145-20 from the agenda, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Treece and a second by Mr. Skala.

#### II. SPECIAL ITEMS

SI18-20

COVID-19 Update.

Ms. Browning provided a staff report.

Mr. Pitzer thanked Ms. Browning and her staff for their work, and stated the fact the percentage of Boone County residents in hospitals was so low was a good indication of the work being done. In terms of hospital and staffing capacity, he understood hospitals had the ability to flex their arrangements as needed, and asked Ms. Browning to help put in perspective where on the spectrum they were in terms of a significant or mild concern, what would happen if they continued on this trend for a period of time, etc. Ms. Browning replied she met with the hospitals every other week, and during their call last week, she had sensed more of a concern with the numbers continuing to increase. She understood the VA Hospital had added extra medical surgical beds. One hospital that had initially indicated most of their people were in medical surgical beds versus ICU beds had said those numbers had flipped. She noted they would meet with the hospitals again this week to talk to them about reporting. She explained they had a standard way of reporting, which made it appear as though there were not issues, but they knew there were staffing issues because an operating nurse could not immediately take care of a COVID patient because there was a learning curve. She pointed out the hospitals had a lot of cases themselves, which also affected staffing.

Mr. Pitzer asked Ms. Browning if she had been involved with discussions with the hospitals with regard to scaling back on elective procedures. Ms. Browning replied the hospitals had not scaled back at this point. She understood there had been

conversations about that in the BJC system in the St. Louis area, but did not believe they had moved in that direction yet. She stated the hospitals would work together and do it collectively if they felt they needed to scale back.

Mr. Pitzer stated he knew they would hear comments from impacted businesses later this evening and noted he did not envy Ms. Browning in terms of her having to make these decisions. Eventually, there would be a recovery phase, and he felt they were all struggling to determine when that might occur in terms of a number of incidents or cases. Ms. Browning agreed they needed to find a point by which they were comfortable in terms of capacity with case investigations, contact tracing, hospitalizations, etc. She noted she appreciated that many of the businesses were willing to talk respectfully in trying to find solutions. She pointed out they would meet again this week. She explained they did not want to be in the way of businesses, but needed to consider safety.

Mr. Skala asked for clarification regarding the right side of the colorful graph that compared one week to the next. He understood it was lower in magnitude but more numerous, and asked what it represented. Ms. Browning replied the spikes were when they had seen a big increase in one week from the prior week. The right side indicated there had been an occasional spike here and there, but none had been as large as the spikes they had seen previously. Mr. Skala felt there were a lot more data points on the right. Ms. Browning commented that if they looked back, there were times they had not had new cases on any given day.

Mayor Treece understood the Governor had released a vaccine distribution plan on Friday, and asked Ms. Browning if she had been able to review it. Ms. Browning replied yes. Mayor Treece commented that it seemed to rely on local health authorities to help with the vaccinations and asked Ms. Browning if she knew what role the Boone County/City of Columbia Public Health and Human Services Department would have in the distribution of a vaccine once approved. Ms. Browning replied it would be different than H1N1 as the Health Department had been given the responsibility of storing it, allocating it, etc. She thought the State would be making those decisions with regard to this situation and the local health departments would just help in carrying it out. She noted one of the vaccines being considered required storage at -80 degrees Celsius, and there were not many places in the State that had that capability. She stated the University and places in the St. Louis and Kansas City area did, but not many others. Mayor Treece asked Ms. Browning if she saw that as a National Guard operation or Public Health operation. Ms. Browning replied she thought it would likely be a combination and that it would be a phased process.

Ms. Browning continued with the staff report.

Mayor Treece stated he was not opposed to reporting the data five days a week versus seven days a week, and understood they would still be looking at the daily data internally to make decisions. Ms. Browning stated that was correct. Mayor Treece commented that he thought expressing the data as a rolling 7-day average was a little better interpretation of the spikes. He was not sure Monday was the best day to report it, and wondered why they would not do it on Wednesday as it would even out some of the spikes in testing. He understood the number would be same since it was a 7-day average. Ms. Browning explained the 4:00 p.m. report that came out every day would continue to be provided except for Saturday and Sunday. They would update the Saturday and Sunday numbers on Monday morning so those that were watching the daily counts knew what had happened on Saturday and Sunday.

Mayor Treece thanked Ms. Browning and her staff for the number of hours they had invested in this issue. He understood her staff had had contacts with 34,144 positive cases or their close contacts. He commented that he thought the meeting they had participated in with bar and restaurant owners on Friday morning had been good. He felt they had some good concerns and he wanted to acknowledge the financial anxiety that was there. He noted these were not easy decisions. He thought the data that had been collected was helping to guide Ms. Browning, and understood she had extended the order

that was set to expire tomorrow for another two weeks and would meet with the business community again next week.

### III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None.

### IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC61-20      Traci Wilson-Kleekamp - Reimagining the Stakeholder Process.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp commented that she thought tonight would be a good night to talk about reimagining and rethinking public engagement due to the election tomorrow. She noted she had provided an email to the Council regarding the October 19, 2020 Council Meeting, and had expressed her non-apology apology for her comments to Mayor Treece. She stated the way the City did community engagement had a structural problem in that the City came to the table with its mind already made up about the direction they wanted to head, and that left out the ability of the public to drive the interests and concerns they had. She pointed out the consultants had one narrow range of items they wanted to discuss while the community had others. She encouraged the Council to watch the video and noted they would hear a lot about reimagining, dreaming, and hope. She commented that Race Matters, Friends had decided to do its own community-based participatory action research, which was a way of generating research about a social system while simultaneously attempting to change that system. She noted that while conventional social science aimed to produce knowledge about social systems, some of which might eventually prove useful for those wishing to affect change, action research sought to both understand and alter the problems generated by said social system. She stated they wanted a community process where they were in charge of the narrative and where they invited who they wanted at the table. They would not take direction from people who had a gaze that did not represent their lived experiences. She reiterated they would be working on that and would hopefully establish an institutional review board with the University of Missouri so they could carry it out. She commented that this last year, the University of Missouri had issued a report entitled *Speaking Truth and Acting with Integrity: Confronting Challenges of Campus Racial Climate*. She felt a lot of good things were in it that would apply to the City. The five key areas of importance were strategic planning, institutional mission, and guiding values; leadership expertise; building trust and respect across stakeholder groups; building institutional investment in continual learning for faculty and staff; and developing an evaluation and assessment of practices. She believed the Council needed to listen closely, for the sounds of the future, for the echoes of the past, to the agents of change, to the frequency of justice, and to those that were not permitted to be heard. A big challenge was to develop a two-way conversation through deliberate active listening as it would allow one to develop the capacity to hear critique, which she believed to be important. She closed with a little bit from one of the speakers from an event who had indicated it was about power and that those that were not in positions of power were trying to determine how to mobilize and organize their power. That speaker was not sure how that power would contend in terms of elected officials if everyone in power was white, and wondered what they were doing and what it meant if folks clearly did not have lens around race that was needed to really have the conversations. Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp asked the Council to lean into listening and capacity building to develop two-way conversations across stakeholders and to try not to think they could develop the narrative in advance of a community process that would allow the public to have the power to determine it themselves. Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp provided sources for her comments via email and that email will be filed with items associated with this meeting.

## SPC62-20 Tara Warne-Griggs - Policing Values.

Tara Warne-Griggs explained she was with Race Matters, Friends, and would also speak on the policing values stakeholder engagement process. She noted much had already been said and would continue to be said about the lack of transparency, the non-existent framework for engaging the public, and the misrepresentation of the discussions between stakeholders. She reminded everyone of the unanimous passage of a resolution on April 2, 2018 by the Council committing Columbia to the Principles of Community. She showed a short video involving various community members describing aspirational statements associated with that resolution. To date, most of the emphasis in the public conversation around policing and their public schools had been an exhortation for people to disagree respectfully and have conversations within the right tone, and there had been far less emphasis on affirming the inherent dignity and value of every human, affirming the value of human diversity, or taking collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias and discrimination. She noted Paula Herrera-Gudiño, a member of the People's Defense, had allowed her to share that she felt "we go high" only worked for white people because they were not the target of white supremacy and had indicated she was incredibly disappointed in the community. Ms. Herrera-Gudiño also indicated the stakeholder process was empty and that felt they were a hop, skip, and jump away from hosting clan rallies at IHOP. Ms. Warne-Griggs noted the City and consultant team had approached the policing values process as if it was a technical exercise and an equation that could be solved through some meetings and planning. This type of process epitomized the insidiousness of white supremacy or hegemony. Those with power want to be congratulated for their willingness to engage the community and then bristle when they were criticized for the way they had done it. The process as it was carried out was extractive and exploitative of the communities it claimed to service. Only those that were victimized by the City's police and schooling practices had their stories extracted, analyzed, and cleaned up for public consumption in a way that would produce little to no change. The City itself and the Police Department were exempt from such scrutiny, and members of the public were scolded if they spoke too harshly. She noted there was a reason she and Nikki McGruder had started the Inclusive Excellence for Business Journey with the Principles of Community. It was because it was organizational soul work. She stated it was notable that the Columbia Police Department (CPD) and the Columbia Public Schools (CPS) had declined to participate in any of the three cohorts that were offered. She pointed out they had quite simply refused to be held accountable or to engage in the kind of soul level reflection necessary to address past harm and move forward.

## SPC63-20 Lynn Maloney - Police Reform.

Lynn Maloney commented that Mayor Treece had previously declared that they must dismantle institutional racism in Columbia and she had a small handful of examples by which they could begin that work. In 2017, the Council had mandated the CPD to create a plan for department-wide community oriented policing, and three years later, they were still waiting for a plan with meaningful objectives and a concrete timeline that reflected the resolution made. The update reports by the CPD on community oriented policing in December and this past September had failed to outline an actual plan. She believed the work for Council would be to make a transparent and accountable commitment to the public to ensure the CPD did not renege on the marching orders they had been given. She noted this would require hard conversations among themselves and with the Police Chief with regard to exactly what they were intending when they had passed that resolution along with the objectives and timelines that needed to be in place in order for the CPD to succeed in meeting that resolution. She stated this would be a beginning to dismantling racism and inequity in Columbia. She commented that deciding which organizations the City was willing to negotiate with and when the City would say no to negotiations with an organization that failed to be in alignment with the Principles of

Community was another piece of hard work that would give the City the freedom to say no to the perpetuation of systemic oppression that was imbedded in some of their contractual obligations. She provided the Columbia Police Officers Association (CPOA) as an example. She noted town hall meetings that asked non-white citizens the same questions about policing repeatedly within a five-year period while failing to create a formal public apology attached to contract changes and plans to prevent stories of tragedies from being repeated was another area of hard work that could mark the beginning of dismantling racism in Columbia. The point was not to change those to whom they were listening, but it was to change the way they did business as usual. When they asked black citizens to share their experiences of inequity, she felt the City should come to the table with more than "that is just your opinion" or "sorry, that is just too bad" which was all the public had seen come of the numerous listening tours or town halls. Before another town hall or listening tour, they needed to acknowledge the scope of the resources and transformations they, as a community, were prepared to put on the table. She asked about the authenticity of their commitment to respond to what they heard when they listened. She commented that an initiative she had found hopeful was the creation of the Vehicle Stop Report (VSR) Committee by Chief Jones, which she understood had been intended to create a consensus of how they addressed the worsening racial disparities in vehicle stops. At one meeting of this Committee, a police officer had indicated stops were not that complicated and were usually over in about 45 seconds. A non-white member of the Committee responded by saying that same stop for him/her was more like 45 minutes. That opportunity to create consensus about what happened during a vehicle stop had been cut short before the work could even begin as the facilitators ended the interaction abruptly and hurriedly moved on to the next agenda item whereby the conversation was dropped. If they wanted to build consensus, facilitators that were skilled and experienced for going deep into opportunities such as that were needed. In addition, she believed the VSR Committee was set up for failure if the purpose was to build consensus. She commented that these were a few opportunities she had seen in Columbia whereby they had failed to engage effectively. She asked what they felt dismantling racism looked like and what concrete resources, skills, and commitments they were prepared to make, and noted the depth and integrity of their work would reflect the degree to which they were truly committed to racial equity.

SPC64-20

Tyson Hunt - Bar/Restaurant/Entertainment Venue COVID Restrictions.

Chelsea Bessey explained she was the General Manager of Logboat Brewing Company and Waves Cider Company, and that she was speaking for Tyson Hunt, the co-founder and CEO of Logboat Brewing Company and the co-founder of Waves Cider Company. She commented that Mr. Hunt was not only a representative of Logboat Brewing Company and Waves Cider Company, but he was also a husband to a CPS teacher and a proud father of two children who were in the sixth and fourth grades at CPS. She noted they were speaking on behalf of the restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues tonight with regard to how the restrictions on their industry had affected them. They understood this had been a difficult year for everyone and thanked the frontline workers, business leaders, and City leadership as they were working tirelessly to keep the community safe while accessible. They also offered condolences to anyone that had lost someone this year as they had both lost someone close to them this year. It was never easy and the challenges presented to them had made it even harder for them to find closure and peace. They stated the past seven months had challenged all of them, but it had also presented them with opportunities to shine and showcase the unique qualities that made Columbia truly special. They explained one of the qualities of a vibrant and welcoming community was the ability to communicate openly and honestly. In the spirit of honest and open communication, they were honored to speak as a single, unique voice for the numerous bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues, which they felt could all agree added to the rich fabric of the community. They believed Columbia was an incredible community and a place they should all be proud to call home. They all wanted COVID to

go away and to return to the lives they knew 8-9 months ago, but unfortunately, it did not seem that would happen any time soon. In recognition of a deadly virus and in an attempt to keep the citizens as safe as possible, numerous restrictions had been placed on bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues that had led to the financial ruin for some and a massive sacrifice, uncertainty, and financial disruption for them all to include the thousands of people they employed. There were numerous perspectives on what had transpired over the past year, and they simply wanted to show one side of the pandemic, i.e., the economic impact of the lockdowns, restrictions, and continued sacrifice from a vital component of the community, the locally owned bars and restaurants. Logboat was primarily a manufacturing facility, which made and packaged craft beer, supplied that beer to Columbia bars, restaurants, venues, and stores, and operated a taproom and outdoor beer garden. Since March of this year, they had seen their sales to bars and restaurants drop 60 percent in volume and 22 percent in fewer customers. Logboat had lost 33 customers within the City of Columbia since March, and by the end of the year, they expected that number to increase significantly. Thus far, those losses equated to 9,000 less equivalent cases of beer sold in bars and restaurants. Further extrapolating the data showed these 9,000 cases were equivalent to about 162,000 pints and \$900,000 in lost revenue for bars and restaurants solely on Logboat beer. It equated to over \$70,000 in lost tax revenue for the City in only seven months. Since March, an overwhelming majority of Columbia bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues had gone above and beyond to sacrifice and to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the community. They continued to work closely with the City and County leadership to develop operational plans to address the many restrictions that had negatively affected their ability function and to provide gainful employment for their thousands of employees. They felt the bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues, which were run responsibly and with the true intention of providing a safe and conforming atmosphere should not only be applauded, but should be allowed the opportunity to prove they could continue to provide a safe environment for the community without an all-encompassing time restriction on their operations. As they had shown, they were more than willing to work closely with their civic leaders to adapt safety protocols, which addressed the science of the disease and allowed them to run their businesses, provide for their families and employees, and continue to generate tax revenue for the community. They felt it was imperative that the relationship between private business and government be one of collaboration, and were hopeful that they would continue to be given a voice at the table that was heard and respected moving forward through this pandemic just as they heard and respected them.

SPC65-20

**Matt McCormick - Ordinances Effecting Local Economy.**

Matt McCormick stated he was the President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and commented that protecting the community at-large needed to be a continuous and united public-private effort. It required a balance of the success of the business community with the overall safety of the community, as a whole, to include the staff and customers of their businesses. The success of the business community helped to determine the community's long-term viability. The bar, restaurant, entertainment, and hospitality industries had experienced a paramount amount of challenges due to the imposed rules and ordinances they had to work hard to follow. With this in mind, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce wanted to follow up on a letter they had submitted at the last council meeting addressing the continued regulations placed upon Columbia bars and restaurants. He noted they were asking for the consideration of a framework for increasing operations at bars and restaurants and the development of customizable plans versus a one-size-fits-all plan. He commented that a casual family dining restaurant was very different from a sports bar or an event venue in terms of handling customers. He asked the City to help the bars and restaurants and the community at-large by continuing to communicate expectations and enforcement standards consistently. During the past 7-8 months, the Chamber had been navigating these difficult times, and they had relied

on their strategic initiatives of convening and collaboration. He thanked Ms. Browning and her team, Mr. Glascock, Mayor Treece, and Ms. Peters for joining them last week with a number of the local bars and restaurants to discuss how ordinances had been affecting their businesses and how they could move forward together. He noted they looked forward to continuing that conversation later this week with another meeting with the bars and restaurants and as they worked together throughout this complex time.

SPC66-20 Mike Nolan - Bar/Restaurant/Entertainment Venue COVID Restrictions.

Mike Nolan withdrew his request to speak.

## V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH37-20 Proposed installation of audible pedestrian signals with countdown timers and the reconstruction of sidewalk ramps at the intersection of Route 763 (Rangeline Street) and Smiley Lane.

PH37-20 was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Nichols provided a staff report.

Ms. Peters asked if the \$83,000 included the replacement of the ramps, the curbs, and the audible signal on all four corners. Mr. Nichols replied yes.

Mr. Pitzer understood this idea had been brought to them by the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri. Mr. Nichols stated that was correct. Mr. Pitzer asked if they had brought other projects or ideas to their attention. Mr. Nichols replied they had been working on a list, and City staff had been working with them since 2013. Seven out of ten locations had been completed to date that they had brought forward. This one was one they had prioritized to be next on the list. They had three more to work with them on. Mr. Pitzer asked about the time frame for addressing the other projects on the list. Mr. Nichols replied they were currently in the concept design stage for the one at the Providence Road and Green Meadows Road intersection. He thought they would address the one at the Worley Street and West Boulevard intersection in 2022 when they did an overlay to West Boulevard. The one at the Garth Avenue and Business Loop intersection would be tied to the Garth Avenue major maintenance project which would happen in 2023 or 2024. Mr. Pitzer understood these types of projects were built into the budgeting for those years. Mr. Nichols stated that was correct.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

Mayor Treece noted written comments had been received from Eugene Coulter, the President of the Columbia Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri, supporting this particular project and safety issues for both low vision and blind pedestrians. He stated those comments had been provided to Council and would be filed with items associated with this meeting.

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

Ms. Peters stated she thought it was fine to move forward with this project. She explained there was an audible signal at the bottom of the hill where she lived, and it could be heard in the homes up above the signal. She appreciated the fact they could adjust the sound associated with that audible signal. She hoped projects of this nature would continue to provide safety for people.

**Mayor Treece made a motion directing staff to move forward with construction plans and specifications for installation of audible pedestrian signals with countdown timers and the reconstruction of sidewalk ramps at the intersection of Route 763 (Range Line Street) and Smiley Lane. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skala and approved by voice vote with the exception of Ms. Fowler who had stepped out during the vote on this item.**

- PH38-20 Proposed construction of improvements at the Rock Bridge Park to include replacement of the existing playground structure and swings, installation of an asphalt overlay and restriping the basketball court, construction of a small shelter, installation of ADA compliant walkways and bike racks, and the replacement of park signage and baseball backstop.

Discussion shown with B297-20.

- B297-20 Authorizing construction of improvements at the Rock Bridge Park to include replacement of the existing playground structure and swings, installation of an asphalt overlay and restriping the basketball court, construction of a small shelter, installation of ADA compliant walkways and bike racks, and the replacement of park signage and baseball backstop; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division for a portion of the project.

PH38-20 was read by the Clerk, and B297-20 was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Griggs provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

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

**B297-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, SKALA, THOMAS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSENT: TRAPP. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

- PH39-20 Proposed construction of improvements at Fairview Park and the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary to include replacement of pedestrian wooden walking bridges, reconstruction of wooden benches, installation of educational signage along the trail system, expansion of the garden plot area, installation of water hydrants and a gravel walking path to the garden plots at Fairview Park, and parking lot improvements and lighting upgrades, installation of a play structure and a wooden pedestrian bridge across Scott's Branch Creek, and construction of pools to slow the flow of water and the installation of bouldering to prevent erosion along the Scott's Branch Creek at the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary.

Discussion shown with B298-20.

- B298-20 Authorizing construction of improvements at Fairview Park and the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary to include replacement of pedestrian wooden walking bridges, reconstruction of wooden benches, installation of educational signage along the trail system, expansion of the garden plot area, installation of water hydrants and a gravel walking path to the garden plots at Fairview Park, and parking lot improvements and lighting upgrades, installation of a play structure and a wooden pedestrian bridge across Scott's Branch Creek, and construction of pools to slow the flow of water and the installation of bouldering to prevent erosion along the Scott's Branch Creek at the Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division for a portion of the project.

PH39-20 was read by the Clerk, and B298-20 was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Griggs provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.



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

**B298-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, SKALA, THOMAS. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSENT: TRAPP. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

B289-20

Rezoning property located on the north side of Eastwood Drive and on the west side of Lakewood Drive (2509 and 2513 Eastwood Drive; 1401, 1403, 1405 and 1407 Lakewood Drive) from District R-2 (Two-family Dwelling) to District R-MF (Multiple-family Dwelling) (Case No. 175-2020).

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.

Ms. Peters asked if the applicants had considered a planned district or planned development as opposed to R-MF. Mr. Teddy replied the applicant was present so they could answer that question directly. It had been discussed at the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting. He noted he was not sure how seriously the applicant had considered it. Ms. Peters asked if staff had recommended it or if they had recommended R-MF. Mr. Teddy replied they were trying to get to the point where they were doing more base zoning. A planned district was often used to resolve these leaps between districts of relatively low density to relatively high density. He explained it was a lot of work with an uncertain outcome. R-MF involved some standards and protections for adjacent property, such as landscape buffering, prohibition of balconies or patios beside or behind R-1 or R-2 zoned property, etc.

Ms. Peters asked if the neighbors would have more protection with R-MF than they would with a planned development. Mr. Teddy replied it depended upon what they were seeking protection from. A planned development in his mind was something that was done when the developer had a specific plan idea and the plan did not conform to a specific district. It was a situation whereby it was a pretty good plan and worth presenting. In this situation, they had an applicant that wanted to maintain and refurbish existing structures, and did not want to be in jeopardy of losing some of the existing rights while still being able to accommodate the laundry structure. He stated it had been debated at the PZC meeting, and several of those that had voted in the four vote minority had made the comment that they would have preferred PD.

Ms. Peters asked what the applicant would have to do if this failed and they wanted to then present it as a planned development. Mr. Teddy replied the applicant would need to submit a plan. A conceptual plan was required at a minimum, and the applicant would have to come up with some specific rules they would follow immediately and with any future build out of the property. He explained it was customizing the zoning to the parcel.

Mr. Skala understood the purpose of the Unified Development Code (UDC) was to try to clean things up and provide more predictability and standard zoning categories. This meant R-3 and R-4 had collapsed into R-MF, which potentially meant it could have more density in terms of development. He also understood the PD category was now a clean-up category, but it used to be the way they did things, and the protections were negotiated with planned developments. He reiterated he understood they wanted to try to get away from that, but felt it might be appropriate for a situation of this nature as it could accommodate the topography of the land and provide the ability to mollify the neighborhood in terms of some of their fears as to what might eventually happen. He asked who had encouraged the proposed zoning and whether the information regarding PD zoning had been made available to the applicant. He also asked if PD would have been able to accommodate all of the uses the applicant had in mind. Mr. Teddy replied he thought the design professional for the applicant had advised the applicant of the options. City staff would discuss zoning when someone requested a concept review, which was usually done when the project involved a subdivision or the applicant had an

idea of some kind of development. This was less of a development and more of a maintenance condition. In terms of the uses, the PD could be tailored so it did only those things the owner envisioned.

Mr. Skala understood there had been discussion about the potential subdivision of this property and asked for clarification. Mr. Teddy replied that typically lots were subdivided so units could be sold off, and there might be a way to divide a property to create a common lot that was not for development. It was an artificial way of reducing density. With a not-for-development lot in the mix, the density calculation would only be based on the lot that remained for development.

Mayor Treece commented that in his reading of the PZC meeting minutes the focus had been the desire of the applicant to have a shared laundry facility that was currently prohibited in R-2 based on the number of units they had. He asked if there was any type administrative variance process that could be pursued to allow them to accomplish that narrow exception. Mr. Teddy replied there was not anything in the Code now. He noted it would have to be done as a text amendment, and they would probably want to reference certain preconditions. He explained this was a rare example of an R-2 where the buildings were grouped on a single lot and were a single unit of ownership. He felt the spirit of the prohibition was based on the idea that someone would open a laundry on their individual duplex lot that the entire neighborhood used. He pointed out that if they looked back in housing history before the mass consumption of appliances, there had actually been communal laundries.

Mayor Treece asked if there was an alternative of a stacked unit in each location. Mr. Teddy replied he thought that would be a good question for the applicant.

Bruce Jackson, 1411 Sylvan Lane, commented that he had emailed the Council and pointed out he was opposed to this plan. He noted he was talking on behalf of most of the neighbors in the area as he had canvased them. He explained there had been two halfway houses on their street for some years, and the idea of another 3.5 acres of halfway houses being placed in the neighborhood really concerned them. He stated the email he had provided included very specific rebuttals to the comments of the PZC members, and noted the neighbors were concerned specifically about property values. They felt this development would impact the value of their homes. He understood some felt they had to have a relationship with the people that lived in those homes and that they should be good citizens, but pointed out he would argue they had very little to do with them due to the turnover of the parolees that resided there. He noted In2Action had indicated they were upgrading the neighborhood, but explained they had only invested \$100,000 in all of the houses, which he did not feel was much. He commented that he did not feel the In2Action had been a good broker or neighbor as they had not spoken with the neighbors about the project, and they had very belatedly invited them to speak with them about it last week when the property had been purchased in February. He stated they were also concerned about the population density. There were a lot of halfway houses with parolees, and there was high turnover. It was too much for the size of the neighborhood and its demographics in terms of the number of children and old people. He noted they were concerned about the amount of parking and the number of cars. The house across from his had an average of 4-8 cars at a time. He explained they were concerned about the increased traffic on Eastwood Drive as it involved difficult angles on to Clark Lane and Sylvan Lane. The stated they were also concerned with the fact there were not any sidewalks within the entire neighborhood, which resulted in some of the people living in those homes walking through the yards of the neighbors. He commented that In2Action had indicated those living in the homes were drug-free and alcohol-free, but the neighborhood had witnessed residents purchasing bottles of alcohol, drinking it, and then throwing the bottles in their yards.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Jackson how long he had lived in his house. Mr. Jackson replied 23 years, and noted the neighbor next to him along with one across the street had resided there longer.

Dan Hanneken, 3104 Fox Trot Drive, provided a handout and stated he was the Executive Director of In2Action and a licensed clinical social worker and that he taught in the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri. He displayed a photograph showing the property for which they were requesting the rezoning along with the adjacent properties they also owned that were not a part of the rezoning. He commented that there were four buildings on what they were rezoning. The first building was the large duplex, and it was really the only building that was being repurposed. It had been converted into a small group home, which held ten beds. It had previously been a large duplex and could have easily accommodated ten people via a family of five at the bottom and another family of five at the top. Behind that structure was where the shared laundry facility would go, and to the right of that was six one-bedroom apartments. He stated there would not be any change in the use of those units, and behind it was a small two-bedroom house, which would not include a change in the use either. Behind that house were a two one-bedroom and a three-bedroom apartment. He explained that when he said there would be no change in the use, he meant those apartments would only be leased to In2Action graduates. He commented that they were providing an opportunity to their program graduates, which took anywhere from 6-18 months, to rent from them. He noted it was a stricter lease than one might normally see as it did not allow for firearms or alcohol, and the project manager had been through the crime-free training. He stated they were investing in the neighborhood as they had put over \$100,000 into the units to include a lot of in-kind work. They had stripped the units and had the wiring and plumbing redone. He explained that when they had taken possession of the property, it had included condemned units that were occupied. At this point all of the previous tenants had moved out and the units were being rehabilitated. He pointed out the units had been out of compliance when the property was purchased. The City knew that and had encouraged them to purchase it. It had also been suggested the property be rezoned so they could be in conformance.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Hanneken if he had known the property was zoned R-2 when they had purchased it. Mr. Hanneken replied he did not understand the zoning. They knew the lot was not in compliance. He thought it was mainly the condemned units that were occupied that they needed to address, but when they had applied for permits to repair the buildings, they had been told they were out of compliance and that they would have to bring the property into compliance in order to obtain some of the permits.

Mr. Hanneken stated the mission statement of In2Action was to provide transition and recovery support services to people recently released from prison. They were certified by the Missouri Department of Mental Health and all of their houses were accredited by the National Alliance of Recovery Residences. He noted they were the highest national standards for the type of work they did and there was a lot of accountability in what they did. He commented that they reduced crime and victimization in the community by providing the resources and supports that people needed when being released from prison and returning to the community. They were people from the community that were returning to the community. The question was not whether they would come back. It was what they would do when they returned. He pointed out they were a faith-based program and adhered to evidence-based principles shown to be successful, and they had over 10 employees, not including the live-in house managers. Those live-in house managers were certified peer specialists with the Department of Mental Health. He stated they had three full-time employees living onsite, and all residents had curfews, were randomly drug-tested, and were being connected to the supports and resources needed. The apartments would be used as they always had been except with greater oversight. He commented that they did not serve sex offenders, would not demolish or remove the existing buildings, and would not add any additional buildings. He explained Columbia did not need more In2Action homes. They had reached the saturation point. If they were to construct more houses or buildings, they would have to bring in people from other communities. He noted that if they wanted to serve people in other communities,

they would serve them in those other communities. He commented that he had agreed to a lease in Jefferson City today because there were people in Jefferson City that needed housing. He reiterated they would not bring other people here, and there was not any need for them to get bigger. He stated they did not tolerate any disruptive behavior from program participants or tenants of the apartments. He displayed a chart showing the recidivism rate and noted the Boone County rate was a little over 26 percent. The percentage involving people that graduated from their program after being in the program for at least six months had dropped to a little over five percent. He pointed out that outcome had gotten the attention at the State level as not many programs in Missouri were resulting in these outcomes.

Ms. Peters asked Mr. Hanneken were they obtained the funding to pay staff. Mr. Hanneken replied they had various funding streams. The Department of Mental Health was one of their larger funding streams. They also had private donors. In addition, as a crisis center program, they received significant church support. He pointed out they had been successful with grants as well, and noted they had a Missouri Foundation for Health grant now. He explained they also did very well with local foundations when it came to purchasing stuff, but they would not cover staff.

Ms. Peters asked how long In2Action had been around. Mr. Hanneken replied they had established their 501(c)(3) in 2011 and had opened the first house in February of 2012.

Ms. Fowler explained she had met Mr. Hanneken through Love, Inc. when she had a liaison position with the University of Missouri and he was starting In2Action, and she recalled the conversations and the intention of the programs he had wanted to build then. She noted she also appreciated the time he had taken to walk the premises with her on Saturday. She commented that what was in front of them tonight was a zoning matter, and understood he had provided additional information about the program due to the concerns of the neighbors. She asked about interactions with the CPD. She wondered about the number of calls to the police. Mr. Hanneken replied the residents would sometimes call the police on staff because they had to ask them to leave for disruptive behavior. The tenants of group homes signed a waiver of tenant rights. He commented that the police had been called to the six one-bedroom structure since the property had been purchased, but they had been called on existing tenants that were not involved with In2Action, and those tenants were no longer there. He stated they had a great relationship with the CPD and the Boone County Sheriff's Department. He pointed out they had also sent letters to all of the neighbors after the PZC meeting due to misinformation and confusion on what they were doing and why they were doing it. He noted they had held a meet and greet on Sunday whereby they had invited the neighbors to a barbecue to answer questions. He commented that he had tried to engage Mr. Jackson, the prior speaker, after the PZC meeting to talk through the project, but Mr. Jackson had not wanted to talk to him. The invitations to the meet and greet had been mailed, and they had also gone door to door to engage the neighbors. He explained they had not come across opposition when they had knocked on the doors, but not everyone answered their door.

Sandra Epple, 1502 Sylvan Lane, commented that she had lived on Sylvan Lane since June of 1996, and noted she supported the mission of In2Action. She explained her comments were not against In2Action. They were in opposition to the rezoning of the property. A third of the front yard of the property In2Action owned at 1410 Sylvan Lane had been converted into a parking lot as it was always full of cars. They also used a lot of parking on the street. She noted Eastwood Drive and Lakewood Drive did not have adequate parking, which was an infrastructure issue. She pointed out the neighborhood did not have sidewalks and their streets were very narrow. She stated they lived in a more depressed area of Columbia, and felt the values of their homes would decrease if the subject property were rezoned to R-MF. She understood In2Action had indicated they did not currently plan to demolish the existing buildings and rebuild new structures, but it did not mean they could not sell the property to someone who would. In addition,

Mr. Hanneken might not be the Executive Director in the future and the Board of In2Action could change as well causing a change in philosophy. She pointed out there were many long-time residents in the neighborhood. She commented that she understood In2Action operated on a month-to-month lease so those residing in those homes were very transient. They did not have an incentive to make the neighborhood better. She explained the residents of 1410 Sylvan Lane walked up and down the street, and she had seen them drink at the gas stations at both corners. In addition, alcohol bottles had been dropped in her yard. She stated they might not be drinking on the property of In2Action, but it still occurred. She noted she had a cousin that was a drug addict and had spent the last three years in a Missouri correctional facility. Her cousin had been released in July to a halfway house and had overdosed in the park area of that halfway house. She pointed out one of the tenants at In2Action could overdose on her property as it would back up to the property. She understood In2Action had invested money into their property, but noted she had as well in an amount of over \$30,000 just this year. She did not feel investing \$100,000 in a home that needed to be rehabilitated in the first place was unheard of or uncommon.

Tonia Turner, 1406 Sylvan Lane, commented that she lived next door to the 1410 Sylvan Lane property. She explained she was not against In2Action, but noted she had experienced a few issues, such as people walking in her yard. She stated one gentleman had come into her yard indicating he got the houses mixed up, and she understood that might have happened since she did not know how long he had been living there. Last summer, when her son had come home, someone had been in her backyard. The person had swept their patio and moved stuff around. The person had also been in their shed. Shortly after that, someone had broken into the neighbor's car in broad daylight. It appeared as though that person had been on drugs. She thought there were too many of these facilities in this one area. She stated she agreed with Ms. Eppler in that they had concerns about the future if the property was to be rezoned. She understood they currently wanted to add laundry, but noted the bigger home had a laundry facility within it. She explained she had lived in her home since January of 2004. She asked if there was a way to put in a laundry facility without rezoning the property. She commented that the big house, which had six rooms, had been the home of a family with kids. It would now become a home of men that had just gotten out of prison. The rezoning would really change the neighborhood.

Barbara Jefferson, 305 N. Fifth Street, asked the Council to think about neighborhood and those that had resided in the area for a long time. They had spoken of what they did not want in the places they had lived for 30 or more years. She felt there were likely other locations for the facility In2Action desired. She commented that in her experience people tended to say they would do this or that, but then ended up making significant changes. She reiterated those that had spoken had lived in the neighborhood a long time, and felt it should be left the way they wanted it.

Ms. Fowler commented that she was in favor of this rezoning due to the requirement of the City that the residents of one building could not walk to the other building to use their laundry facilities without being out of compliance with the City's zoning ordinance. She stated she understood the concerns of the neighbors, but felt that decision had already been made as the property had been purchased by In2Action and they were entitled to use it for the reasons indicated as it was a permissible use. She noted they were only there to discuss whether they were able to get a shared laundry facility via this mechanism versus another mechanism. She explained she lived in a mixed-use neighborhood where they had not-for-profits surrounding them and understood the challenges and fears of the neighborhood and immediate neighbors. She felt this was a land use issue involving a not-for-profit with a well-run program with lots of supervision. She was not sure of the right way to get them to the shared laundry facility, but since staff encouraged them to follow this route, she was inclined to support the rezoning.

Mr. Skala commented that some of this was due to the enactment of the UDC in terms of

trying to accommodate some of the negotiated zoning categories, i.e., planned unit development, by collapsing them into a standard zoning category. He pointed out they also had PD zoning which accommodated more flexibility. He noted he had spoken with Mr. Hanneken and Mr. Jackson on a number of occasions. He explained this was an unquestioned social benefit. He was not worried about some of the things some in the neighborhood had mentioned, and wanted to see Mr. Hanneken succeed as he felt In2Action was a vital needed piece in the community. He commented that he was not sure Mr. Hanneken was given bad advice. He thought he was likely not given any advice. He stated zoning was an esoteric discipline and it was not intuitively obvious which way to go and what advice to take. He felt a better choice would have been PD in order to accommodate the shared laundry facility and the neighbors in terms of alleviating some of their fears. He assumed the property would not be redeveloped densely, but the possibility existed with R-MF zoning. In addition, the upzoning of a property tended to result in it being worth more money and more marketable even if that had not been the original intent. He reiterated he did not have any complaint with the concept, and would encourage Mr. Hanneken to consider a planned development if this did not pass tonight as he would support that.

Mr. Pitzer stated he was inclined to agree with Ms. Fowler. Generally speaking, he had not been in favor of encouraging planned developments as much. He felt the UDC had been designed with neighborhood protections and other development requirements that would alleviate the stress and complexities of having a series of negotiated development districts all over the City. Theoretically, he did not generally encourage planned development. If development was to occur in the neighborhood, a number of things would have to happen, such as sidewalks, buffers, planned parking, etc. These types of protections had intentionally been built in the UDC, and as a result, he was not inclined to steer away from that which was already in the UDC. He stated he was inclined to agree with rezoning request.

Mayor Treece explained he was inclined to oppose the rezoning request. The neighbors had been in the neighborhood and knew exactly what had been there when they had purchased their homes. Likewise, the applicant had known the property had been zoned R-2 when he had purchased it just eight months ago. He thought there were alternatives to a shared laundry facility, namely individual laundry machines in each unit. He stated he was also persuaded by the concerns of the neighbors of having monthly turnover of tenants, and believed the approval of R-MF was disproportional to the need as there were other alternatives in place through separate individual laundry facilities, a PD, or some type of administrative variance to allow for what was needed without opening the door for a dramatic rezoning 5-10 years down the road.

**B289-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: PITZER, PETERS, FOWLER, THOMAS. VOTING NO: TREECE, SKALA. ABSENT: TRAPP. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

B291-20 Granting design adjustments relating to the proposed Final Plat of MPC Station #94 located on the northeast corner of Providence Road and Locust Street (104 and 126 S. Providence Road) to allow a lot line to bisect an existing structure (i.e., parking lot) and elimination of a corner lot truncation (Case No. 151-2020).

Discussion shown with B292-20.

B292-20 Approving the Final Plat of "MPC Station #94" located on the northeast corner of Providence Road and Locust Street (104 and 126 S. Providence Road) (Case No. 151-2020).

The bills were given second reading by the Clerk.  
Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.

Mr. Pitzer understood the applicant had withdrawn the requested adjustment that City staff and the PZC had objected to, and the two remaining adjustments were supported by both City staff and the PZC. Mr. Teddy stated that was correct. He commented that at the time the plat was voted on by the PZC, it had been voted down because it did not have the proper dedication of right-of-way. Mr. Pitzer understood there was nothing in the plat before the Council to which anyone had objected. Mr. Teddy stated that was his belief because the other two adjustments had passed by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. Skala understood Mr. Teddy had indicated the Council would not see as many of these due to a future change, and asked for clarification. Mr. Teddy replied that when a parking lot crossed lot lines even when the lots were owned by the same party, they had been requiring and recommending design adjustments. He thought they were coming to the conclusion to do a text amendment that was more permissive.

Joe McGowan, 1503 Forest Parkway, Washington, Missouri, explained he was present to request the approval of a plat for a development whereby Midwest Petroleum planned to rebuild a convenience store and gas station. They would rebuild the property so the building and gas station fit better. He noted they had accommodated the 18-foot right-of-way, which had been denied when they had only offered six feet. The revised plan provided for the 18-foot right-of-way and the truncated corner at Providence Road and Locust Street. It was a bit of a tired building so they would build a brand new masonry structure that would allow for more offerings of food and beverages.

Mayor Treece asked if the footprint and canopy stayed at the current location or if it would move slightly north. Mr. McGowan replied it would move slightly and was bigger. He thought there were four pumps now, and it would have six pumps in the future.

Mayor Treece asked if they were dividing the lot so that the lot with the kickboxing facility was on a separate lot. Mr. McGowan replied that lot would still be separate and the retail strip building would remain on that lot.

Ms. Peters asked if there was a sidewalk along Locust Street. Mr. McGowan replied currently there was not a sidewalk along Locust Street, but they were proposing one. He noted they would be adding a sidewalk as part of their development along Locust Street. He understood a sidewalk along Providence Road had recently been installed as well.

Mayor Treece stated he stopped at this gas station occasionally as it was on his path, and noted it was an awkward drive on to Locust Street. Unless one was turning right, it was hard to get across that lane to get into the middle lane to turn left, and inevitably, people would cut across. He understood they were keeping that drive. Mr. McGowan stated they were keeping it, but it would be narrowed slightly. He thought it was 80 feet now and would be narrowed to 60 feet.

**B291-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES:**

**PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, SKALA, THOMAS. VOTING NO: NO ONE.**

**ABSENT: TRAPP. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

**B292-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES:**

**PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, SKALA, THOMAS. VOTING NO: NO ONE.**

**ABSENT: TRAPP. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

B299-20

Authorizing a collective bargaining agreement with Columbia Police Officers Association, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #26.

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. McManus provided a staff report.

Ms. Peters commented that she thought they had all received a number of emails about the City negotiating with the CPOA, and understood the City was required to negotiate with them per the Missouri State Constitution. She also understood it was the decision of the CPOA as to who represented them, and that was who they would negotiate with. It was not up to the City to decide who they would negotiate with. She reiterated they did not have the opportunity to choose who they negotiated with, and asked if that was

correct. Mr. McManus replied the members of union were the ones that had chosen their representative for the negotiations. Ms. Peters understood the City was required to negotiate with the union, and thus their union representative. Mr. McManus stated that was correct.

Mayor Treece asked if the agreement had been ratified by the bargaining unit. Mr. McManus replied yes.

Jeffrey Bryan, 7550 S. Cave Creek Road, stated he understood the point about being required to negotiate with the person that represented the union and that the City might not have much flexibility in the matter, but he wanted to raise the question due to what had happened in this strange year. Since May 25, many of them had been confronted with the horrific reality of police violence, which had been evident for a long time, but had really not entered the consciousness of white people until now. He thought the Council was aware of the horrifyingly disproportionate police stops as there had been data on this for numerous years and it was not new information. He noted he had shared with some of the Council some of the data they had requested from the school resource officers on in-school arrests, and the ratio, when adjusted for the proportion of children in schools, was at best 2.6 black children to white children and at worst in Gentry Middle School with over 15 to 1 black children to white children. He noted his children of African descent had attended Gentry Middle School and had experienced that culture in that school. He commented that this was not an indictment of just policing. It was also an indictment of the public school system and culture. As they looked at this issue and considered these negotiations, he wondered when they would be serious as a community to correct the problem. It was not a problem they could ask the black community to correct. He stated there had been a lot of time to listen to their concerns, and he did not know how many black people they needed to witness die before they realized they had a sickness in the white community that was reflected in the CPOA. They were being asked to negotiate with an organization whose leader had published racist comments on social media in a public setting. He felt that was unacceptable. He understood they might not be able to change that right now, but he would hope the CPOA would think they should reject that leadership and it was distressing that they did not consider it more seriously. He asked the Council to vote their consciences on this and demand better of policing, schools, and each other.

Rose Metro, 203 S. Garth Avenue, understood it would be complicated to not renew the contract with CPOA since the City could be sued, but cities across the country were increasingly considering not renewing their contracts with police unions because those contracts were not beneficial to the cities. She noted collective bargaining was supposed to produce an agreement that was beneficial to both parties, and she did not feel that was what the CPOA was doing. She commented that she was not anti-union or hostile to law enforcement as she had family members in law enforcement and wanted them to be safe and respected. The CPOA under the leadership of Dale Roberts was not providing what the City needed. She stated they had heard Traci Wilson-Kleekamp, Lynn Maloney, and Tara Warne-Griggs talk about everything the City had set out for its goals in terms of improving relationships with the African-American community and for positive and proactive communication between the community and police department via social media, and the CPOA was not delivering any of that. Instead there were racist posts to include "Darren Wilson Day" and Dale Roberts calling the tactics used against protesters as "hug a thug." It was not okay with her that her tax dollars were funding the institution.

Mayor Treece asked how tax dollars were funding the CPOA. Ms. Metro replied their taxes paid the police through the leadership of the CPOA. Mayor Treece noted police officers had chosen to join the organization. He stated he wanted to draw a distinction between the CPD and CPOA. Ms. Metro thought Mayor Treece understood what she was saying. Mayor Treece stated he did, and noted he rejected that talk as well. He asked Ms. Metro if there were components to the collective bargaining agreement she thought would enhance the values they all shared. Ms. Metro replied she wondered, and



noted that was not her area of expertise. She asked if they could put something in the collective bargaining agreement about posting racist comments on social media or doing other things that might be detrimental to the goals of the City. She understood Chief Jones had posed with Blue Lives Matter flag, and its connotation was that black lives did not matter because that movement was in response to Black Lives Matter. It had been extremely disappointing that he had posed with a Thin Blue Line flag.

Ms. Metro stated she knew it was a complicated discussion, but felt the policing in Columbia was not working as well as it could. She noted violent crime was rising, and they needed to do something different. She thought they needed to consider different tactics. She felt reconsidering and revisiting the collective bargaining agreement would be a start to that.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp commented that with all of the correspondence Race Matters, Friends had sent in the past year about their concerns of the behavior of Dale Roberts on social media, they assumed their elected officials would have already engaged those ideas as a part of the collective bargaining process. She stated this was where structural racism started. They had created a system where they, as the public, were basically being told they had to put up with this racist person because that was how it was and there was nothing they could do about it. She noted no one had responded to them about how they could resolve the problem. She understood the City had responded with regard to Fred Parry indicating he was dishonest, but they had not responded to the comments of Dale Roberts or Brian Tate or the fact the Police Chief had stood by the Thin Blue Line flag. She commented that if they were reading the room and paying attention to this political moment, they would see black bodies were being used as a punching bag for a lot of rhetoric. She did not feel they should play semantics with black lives as it was wrong. She thought the Council should discuss the options because they were otherwise saying they were okay with racism. She stated they were not hearing the Council say they did not like that the black community had to listen to and put up with this kind of nonsense. She commented that she would continue to come to council meetings, be mad about it, and say bad words about it because nothing was as offensive as what Dale Roberts did on social media.

David Wilson, 1810 Riback Road, stated others in the room that had spoken were more knowledgeable than him, and he hoped the Council was more knowledgeable than him on this topic as well. He explained he wanted to point out the inequity of this moment in this room. Those in the room were made to feel they were there to help brainstorm a solution, but that was not what they were there for because that moment was done. For three years, the Council and City staff should have been brainstorming a solution. He was not sure what they would do in this moment, and thought they likely had to vote yes on the contract, but felt this moment should not have come to pass as it had. He pointed out that the Council did not have to be their friend or say nice things about Dale Roberts to the press. They could call a racist a racist and acknowledge racist speech as racist speech. He believed it was the least they all could do.

Jeremy Root, 2417 Beachview Drive, commented that due to the pandemic, his family kept quarantined and was very careful with what they were doing and the times and moments they chose to be in public, and this was one of those times for him along with a few times this summer when people in the community were outraged, frustrated, and disgusted with police violence throughout the nation. The City had a collectively bargained agreement before them tonight. He noted he believed in collective bargaining and workers' rights, and agreed it was very important for it to happen in good faith when workers came together to bargain together. He also believed that as the authorizing body, the Council had the obligation to stand up for the principles that were not in question in the community. Six years ago, in two weeks, the Council had received a set of recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence that had been 15 months in the making. Approximately two years ago, this Council had said to the then City Manager to implement community policing on a wider scale than had been

implemented before, and that City Manager and that Police Chief had essentially refused and now had different positions. He was glad neither of them enjoyed his or anyone else's tax money as part of their salary. He stated he did not understand why there was no language about community policing in the 45 page collective bargaining agreement before them tonight, or why they had a culture in the CPD that produced a leader like Dale Roberts. He felt it was the job of Council, as their elected representatives, to insist that the City Manager and Police Chief hold the force accountable. They could not keep waiting while people were dying. Fortunately, they were not dying in Columbia in the hands of police, but their families were suffering because the police did not prioritize the investigations into the violence that happened to their families. He believed they needed to make sure there was no mistake about those priorities in Columbia.

Dani Perez commented that at the previous meeting she had said that if the Council wanted to change the way people viewed them as white privileged people that they needed to start listening to the black community and take action. She felt this was a time the Council had the power to do something. She noted this was not the first time people had told their stories and perspectives on this matter. She wanted to remind the Council that they had this opportunity. She understood it might be radical and involve some interesting consequences, but felt it was very much needed for the morale of the community and for justice in general, especially in light of the important election tomorrow when they needed leadership. In this time of uncertainty, the community needed the Council to do the right thing and to be able to see them as allies. If the Council wanted the community to look at them in a different way, she thought they should take radical action.

Maria Oropallo, E. Briarwood Lane, stated she was hearing that the Council was stuck having to ratify something and that the officers did not have the opportunity to engage in another union or another representative. As a result, it seemed as though the only power in this situation rested with the CPOA. It was not with the officers or the Council. She felt this was a problem as the wrong people had the power. She asked them to think about that.

Mayor Treece explained the Missouri Constitution said that all employees had the right to bargain collectively with a representative of their own choosing. Since 1995, the courts had said that only the members of that bargaining unit could select their representative. He noted they could all reject racism and state clearly that the things Dale Roberts had posted on social media were unacceptable, racist, and did not reflect the City's values, but only they could change who their exclusive representative was. Since the debate was about him, it made it impossible for the Council to reject this agreement without inviting a lawsuit they would likely lose and then have to pay taxpayer money in damages to that bargaining unit.

Ms. Oropallo stated she understood and it was the reason she had chosen the word "stuck." She asked why the police officers did not have another option and wondered how long the CPOA had represented the police officers. She also wondered if they knew they could choose another bargaining unit to work with rather than the current CPOA. It appeared as though everyone was stuck except for the CPOA as they had the power in this situation and no competition. She understood changes could not be made in this agreement, but felt that down the line police officers needed to have other options. They could not have the same people representing them all of the time. She noted she said the same for many things involving the City in that they had to change consultants, external auditors, etc. She appreciated the fact the Council could say they rejected this kind of behavior, but felt they also needed to change the system by allowing the officers to have another option. If they continued to choose the CPOA, they had their answer and could take it another step. She stated she did not want to make this about Dale Roberts and was not sure how to fix him, but the officers needed to ask themselves why they continued to choose the CPOA to represent them.

Mr. Thomas stated he appreciated all of the clear statements about some of the

communications from the CPOA over many years, and noted he agreed with the outrage. The communications were problematic far beyond the embarrassment to the City or the confusion that was created in the minds of thousands of citizens. The racist and sexist attitudes that were presented in the communications were completely in conflict with the Principles of Community they had adopted unanimously a couple of years ago, which had recognized the inherent dignity of all people. He commented that there was a constant "us" versus "them" mentality threaded through so many of the posts, which was also inconsistent with the push they had been exerting for many years toward community oriented policing whereby they wanted to be in partnership with the community. He believed the ongoing communications made the job of the Police Chief more difficult than it needed to be when it was already an extremely difficult job. He also worried considerably that they could contribute to illegal acts of violence by police officers or other members of the community. He liked the idea of including conditions in the contract that would limit communications as a small step toward what needed to be done and was told that might be possible. Since the negotiation with a labor union involved a very predicated process that started this past January, it would not be possible to try to make changes at this point. He understood the next annual negotiations would start in January of next year, which was only a couple of months away, and had asked that this possibility be researched and be part of the discussion from the start of the next process. He explained that with that said he would support the ratification of this contract.

Ms. Fowler commented that she really did not have words to describe how distressed she was for the City as a whole along with their black and brown neighbors who had to put up with this inappropriate, insensitive, disgusting, and continuous display and the kind of hostile environment it created among police officers and other members of the community. She stated she too was troubled that it was really an administrative function for them to pass this collective bargaining agreement. She noted she would be as focused as she could with how they could change the terms and conditions when they reconvened in January and started again on those aspects of the collective bargaining agreement they could undertake. She commented that it felt horrible that they were kicking this can down the road even by a couple of months in terms of having an open, straight forward, and direct conversation about what they felt was wrong with the way their citizens were policed. She apologized for the fact they were at this place where she did not have much more she could change tonight and whereby she would have to vote to accept this contract. She agreed with Ms. Oropallo in that this whole system felt wrong, and understood they were stuck in part from their own actions and inactions over the years. She pointed out they had a new chance in January and noted she was committed to putting in the work to learn from the citizens what the conditions of that discussion should incorporate.

Ms. Peters commented that she believed the contract itself was good. The problem was with who the City had to negotiate. She suspected that the police officers were hearing loud and clear the discomfort they were having with Dale Roberts being their representative. She hoped they would change that. She reiterated she felt the contract itself was fine.

Mr. Skala explained they were constrained by who negotiated for them, i.e., City staff. In addition, they were not in a position to select who represented the CPOA. He stated he was disgusted by what had been going on for a long period of time, and felt there needed to be a way to relieve some of this pressure in the next document. He believed they needed to make their intent known to the staff in terms of this negotiating stance for the next contract beginning in January. He thought there were some things they could do and stipulate in terms of their position to give the City Manager and his staff the capacity to insist that some of this behavior be remediated. He stated they were stuck tonight, but believed there was some things they could do in the new year to achieve some well needed relief.

**B299-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES:**

**PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, FOWLER, SKALA, THOMAS. VOTING NO: NO ONE.**  
**ABSENT: TRAPP. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- B288-20 Authorizing the City Manager to apply to state and federal agencies for coronavirus emergency funding; ratifying grant applications and agreements; authorizing the City Manager and City Counselor to execute certifications and assurances; authorizing the City Manager to execute grant agreements; authorizing electronic filings.
- B290-20 Granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Owen Skinner to allow for the construction of an accessory dwelling unit on property located at 300 S. Greenwood Avenue (Case No. 174-2020).
- B293-20 Approving a Major Amendment to the PD Plan for "Lot 5-D of The Colonies" located on the east side of Colony Drive and approximately 400 feet south of Chapel Hill Road (Case No. 176-2020).
- B294-20 Authorizing a right of use agreement with WiTel Communications, LLC (f/k/a Williams Communications, Inc.) for underground communications purposes.
- B295-20 Authorizing a first amendment to the intergovernmental cooperation agreement with The Curators of the University of Missouri for integrated shuttle bus service on campus.
- B296-20 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to remove parking restrictions on a portion of Switzler Street and Trinity Place.
- B300-20 Authorizing an agreement with ArbNet for acceptance of a grant to fund travel expenses for two (2) tree collection trips to Arkansas for plant propagation; amending the FY 2021 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B301-20 Authorizing a financial assistance agreement with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for the Phase I construction of the Perche Creek Trail from the MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road; amending the FY 2021 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- R137-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed installation of traffic calming devices on Holly Avenue between Parker Street and Oakland Gravel Road.
- R138-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of Phase I improvements to Vineyards Lake Park to include construction of a portion of an eight (8) foot wide concrete lake trail loop, kayak/canoe lake access ramp, parking lot, small playground and shelter, and installation of a floating dock.
- R139-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of Phase I improvements to Battle Park to include construction of an entry drive from Battle Avenue to the park, installation of electric and water service, construction of a parking lot, small shelter, gravel trail and mountain bike trail, and additional grading work to enlarge the existing lake and prepare for future amenities on the west side of the park.

- R140-20      Setting a public hearing: proposed replacement and improvement of public storm drainage infrastructure adjacent to the intersection of Hickman Avenue and Sixth Street.
- R141-20      Setting a public hearing: consider the Water and Light 2020 Renewable Energy Report.
- R142-20      Authorizing various Adopt a Spot agreements.
- R143-20      Authorizing an agreement with Green Valley Rifle & Pistol Club, Inc. for range facility access and use by the Columbia Police Department for training purposes.
- R144-20      Authorizing FY 2021 agreements with various arts and cultural organizations; authorizing agreements of up to \$500 per agreement for arts programming or services for cultural organizations.

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

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

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

- B302-20      Granting a design adjustment relating to the proposed PD Plan Major Amendment for Discovery Park Subdivision Plat 5, Lot 501 located on the northwest corner of Nocona Parkway and Endeavor Avenue to allow a lot line to bisect an existing structure (i.e., parking lot) (Case No. 184-2020).
- B303-20      Approving the PD Plan Major Amendment for "Discovery Park Subdivision Plat 5, Lot 501" located on the northwest corner of Nocona Parkway and Endeavor Avenue; granting a design exception relating to entry door placement (Case No. 184-2020).
- B304-20      Rezoning property located on the north and south sides of Pergola Drive, east of Rolling Hills Road, from District PD (Planned Development) to District M-C (Mixed-use Corridor) and District M-N (Mixed-use Neighborhood) (Case No. 128-2020).
- B305-20      Rezoning property located on the north side of University Avenue and east of Ninth Street (909 Lowry Mall) from District C-2 (Central Business) to District R-MF (Multiple-family Dwelling) (Case No. 154-2020; Map Area #4).
- B306-20      Rezoning property located on the north side of University Avenue and south of the terminus of Watson Place (909 University Avenue) from District C-2 (Central Business) to District M-OF (Mixed-use Office) (Case No. 154-2020; Map Area #4).
- B307-20      Rezoning property located on the south side of Broadway, between Garth

- Avenue and Providence Road (30 E. Broadway) from District C-2 (Central Business) to District R-MF (Multiple-family Dwelling); granting the issuance of a conditional use permit to Columbia Cemetery Association to allow the continuation of the operation of a cemetery (Case No. 154-2020; Map Area #3).
- B308-20 Rezoning property located on the south side of Ash Street and east of First Street (110 E. Ash Street) from District C-2 (Central Business) to District M-OF (Mixed-use Office) (Case No. 154-2020; Map Area #3).
- B309-20 Rezoning fourteen (14) parcels bounded by Paris Road, Sylvan Lane, White Gate Drive and Towne Drive with thirteen (13) of such parcels rezoned from District C-2 (Central Business) to District M-C (Mixed-use Corridor), and one (1) parcel rezoned from District C-2 (Central Business) to District M-OF (Mixed-use Office) (Case No. 154-2020, Map Area #1).
- B310-20 Approving the Final Plat of "Wellington Gordon, Plat No. 2" located on the southwest corner of the East Business Loop 70 and Eastland Circle intersection (Case No. 166-2020).
- B311-20 Vacating a drainage easement on Lot 219A and Lot 220A within Copperstone Plat 7 located east of Silver Valley Drive and approximately 300 feet north of Copperstone Creek Drive (Case No. 177-2020).
- B312-20 Naming Vineyards Lake Park; approving the Vineyards Lake Park Master Plan; authorizing construction of Phase I improvements to Vineyards Lake Park to include construction of a portion of an eight (8) foot wide concrete lake trail loop, kayak/canoe lake access ramp, parking lot, small playground and shelter, and installation of a floating dock; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division.
- B313-20 Naming Battle Park; approving the Battle Park Master Plan; authorizing construction of Phase I improvements to Battle Park to include construction of an entry drive from Battle Avenue to the park, installation of electric and water service, construction of a parking lot, small shelter, gravel trail and mountain bike trail, and additional grading work to enlarge the existing lake and prepare for future amenities on the west side of the park; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division.
- B314-20 Authorizing an equitable sharing agreement and certification with the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of the Treasury detailing FY 2020 receipts and expenditures of shared funds by the Police Department.
- B315-20 Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for the use of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) system platform relating to the investigation and suppression of violent crimes involving firearms.
- B316-20 Authorizing an agreement with The Curators of the University of Missouri, on behalf of its Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, for emergency veterinary services.
- B317-20 Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the Missouri Department

- of Corrections to provide tuberculosis screening and testing services.
- B318-20 Authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc. for the Columbia Financial Enterprise Resource System (COFERS) project to cancel and remove the "Disaster Recovery Services" software module.
- B319-20 Amending the FY 2021 Annual Budget by appropriating CIP enterprise revenue contingency project funds to the Hinkson Creek transformer and switchgear improvement project.
- B320-20 Authorizing a collective bargaining agreement with Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 955.

## **X. REPORTS**

- REP70-20 City-Initiated C-2 Rezoning.
- Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.
- Mayor Treece asked Mr. Teddy what his response was for the mule barn letter and whether he had objections to what was being proposed. Mr. Teddy replied he thought staff would prepare a recommendation that would grant conditional uses to the existing uses they enjoyed now that might fall out if it was rezoned. They would then see where the hearing process took them on that issue.
- REP71-20 Administrative Public Improvement Project: Cosmo Park Roller Hockey Resurfacing.
- Mayor Treece asked if there was any objection to using the administrative delay process. No one objected.

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

Mayor Treece explained there had been two written general comments involving the Benton Stephens chicane planters and traffic calming gardens. One had been from Kittie Rogers on N. William and the other from Kimberly Croxville. He noted those had been emailed to the Council and would be filed with items associated with this meeting.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp reminded Mayor Treece that he owed her a thoughtful response to her letter regarding use of force. Mayor Treece agreed he did.

Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp commented that it was really hard to convey to people how emotionally exhausting it was to be a black person in terms of constantly correcting people, educating them, and reminding them that they were not considered like everyone else. She noted that when the President of the United States made them the punching bag, it was pretty ugly. She did not feel they were asking for much for them to make really long, overdue changes. She referred to a dissertation by Jason Jindrich from 2002 entitled "Our Black Children: The Evolution of Black Space" which opened with him indicating he had not included the voices of the black descendants in the report because they were not around when this all happened so he would just use the voices of the racist sociologists from the University of Missouri from 1930-1934. She stated they had continued the trajectory of not listening to black voices. She hoped the Council would watch the stakeholder video and try to hear what people were saying that they dreamed of and wanted, and not what the City expected them to give. She believed the Council and City owed them a lot, not personally, but in terms of the power structure. She asked them to think about what they could do to deepen their learning in 2021 that they had not taken the time to do in 2020.

Nick McKague, 4500 S. Rock Quarry Road, stated his family owned the Parker-Millard Funeral Home and they understood COVID was real. He explained he wanted the

Council know that when they created ordinances that specifically isolated people and changed the structure of their lives, it affected their mental health. He pointed out he believed Ms. Browning had done a great job considering the circumstances. He commented that he understood 20 people had passed away, and noted he had personally dealt with 40 people that had lost their lives to suicide, addiction, or overdose. He stated it had been worse this year than it had ever been. He understood livelihoods, money, businesses, and people's enjoyment were at stake, but the reality was that many people were suffering due to more than not having a paycheck. Kids were home in isolation since they were unable to go to school, and they were not sure of how to deal with their feelings or emotions. He explained he went to the homes of families, and could tell there was once a structure of good in the home. They were now dealing with the death of someone by their own taking because they had been isolated. He understood they could not fix what COVID had brought to them, but felt they needed to provide resources with solutions to help people. If they did not do that, they would only compound the problem. He pointed out they were only looking at one issue involving COVID, which was the capacity of hospitals. They were not addressing those that were not going to the hospitals and there were not any mental health professionals to help those people. He understood he needed to do more research and asked the Council to look at what was out there and what might help Ms. Browning assist the community in this time of need in terms of mental health as it was real and something most were not willing to talk about.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, commented that it was encouraging that they would deal with the issues of racism. He stated he believed in unions, and was glad some of the issues would be addressed in the new year.

Mr. Elkin stated concerns involving COVID and felt education was need.

Mr. Elkin commented that he also felt the black youth should be educated so they were able to be successful adults. Across the country, there were black individuals in high positions, and he felt they needed to let the kids know they could do anything they wanted.

Mr. Elkin hoped they had a good election tomorrow without any violence. He asked the Council to do what they could to make Columbia a better place to live.

Roy Lovelady, Woodside Drive, commented that Nick McKague was a client of his and they had learned they not only had a lot in common but also had a lot of differences. They both came from a small town, but there were privileges Mr. McKague had that he did not even though he had more education than Mr. McKague. He noted they were both learning from each other. He commented that he felt the system was failing them as black and brown people. He asked how he could trust the stakeholder process when nothing came of it. He understood that when Council wanted to make a change, they collected data. They had collected data on COVID, and had implemented a change and process within a short period of time. The fact they had been collecting data from black and brown people for several years with no plan said a lot to him. He understood the Council could not do anything with regard to the CPOA agreement tonight, and that they had to vote the way they had in order to avoid being sued. He asked what could be done so the voices of the black and brown community were heard. He stated there was a huge trust barrier, and that barrier was growing since they did not feel their voices were being heard. He knew of a meeting that had occurred between Mayor Treece, Rebecca Shaw, and Maria Oropallo, and he saw the interaction between them at the council meeting in terms of Mayor Treece replying to them. This did not happen when he and other black and brown people spoke. He did not feel they were being engaged or being asked for their opinions to address the situations. It felt as though they did not matter. He asked the Council to help make them feel as though they mattered.

Mayor Treece explained Ms. Shaw and Ms. Oropallo had asked for a meeting and he had agreed to it. Mr. Lovelady understood, but pointed out he would also engage with them at



meetings like he was engaging in conversation with him now. Typically, he only received a thank you. He commented that those two were asked how to fix the process when they had not been a part of the process and when others who had spoken had not been asked that same question.

Barbara Jefferson stated she understood the Council addressed the contract with CPOA every year. Mayor Treece noted it was a three-year agreement. Ms. Jefferson commented that they could have started thinking about the issues with CPOA three years ago so they would not be at a point whereby they had to agree to the contract. She felt the Council truly enjoyed having racism within the City of Columbia because there had not been changes. The results showed black people they wanted racism, and it hurt her and others like her.

Dani Perez commented that a lot of white people placed racism in two boxes. One was slavery and the other was segregation. It conditioned them to believe racism fit within those two neat little boxes that were bad. As a result, when thinking about racism many white people did not feel they were bad because they were not supportive of either box. At the prior council meeting, she had pointed her finger at the Council and had spoken almost two minutes over the time she should have been allotted without them stopping her, talking back at her, or making her apologize. She asked how many times Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp had been asked to apologize for her interruptions. Mayor Treece replied he had asked, but he was not sure she had ever apologized. He pointed out this was the time for public comment. It was the time they listened. When he closed public comment, it was then the turn of Council to talk, and what he could not have was outbursts from the audience while the Council was trying to talk because they could then not hear each other, which was not fair to the person taking the minutes. In addition, it was not a part of the process. He explained there were other opportunities to have conversation, shouting matches, etc., but at the end of the meeting was not that time. He stated that was what he had expressed to Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp as well. Ms. Perez commented that she understood, but thought they should consider why those outbursts were happening. She felt there was clearly something not being heard. She explained it was the fact that some people received more attention at the podium than others. She understood the Council might not realize it, but their body language was telling. She stated it was exhausting to witness and she was privileged since she had lighter skin. She noted Ms. Wilson-Kleekamp had expressed how exhausting it was to be black. She encouraged the Council to watch the video as it showed how people overcorrected others and involved a young man expressing how he did not want to keep talking about his existence over and over again. The punching bag analogy was real along with people having to relive trauma over and over in order to get their message across. She understood the Council had to vote for the CPOA contract, and although they had stated they were disgusted, she did not feel they acted as though they were disgusted because they continued taking the same actions over and over again. She quoted Albert Einstein who had expressed that doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results was insanity. She stated she and the black community were tired of it. She felt the Council needed to be more active as they had power and influence, and she agreed with Ms. Jefferson that the things they did subtly made it appear as though they wanted racism. It was not the character of Council. It was instead the actions and inactions of the Council that made them appear to be racist. She noted she had seen the Police Chief and others get defensive, and pointed out it was not necessarily the person, but rather systemic racism as a collective. She stated it would take a lot of uncomfortableness to undo that. She felt the Council was trying to remain comfortable versus listening to black and brown people and not placing racism in a box. She believed they needed to unlearn that box mentality.

Michael Baker commented that he had been in Columbia for ten years, and understood the sides of the Council and the public. He agreed with Ms. Perez in that it was not so much the person as he was fairly certain no one on the Council intended to be racist, but the system alone was racist, especially in terms of business and schooling. He thought if they could get past the idea of power and being superior, and could come together, they could make a difference. He provided the Kansas City Chiefs as an example as they did not win without each other. He viewed the Council as the coaches who provided plays to the citizens so they were able to win together. He believed that if they came together mentally, physically, financially, etc., crime would stop and killings would stop. He noted the 17 year old that had recently passed away had been a really good friend of his. It was not really gang activity. It was the fact they needed someone to be there for them and to look up to. He understood there were young people that looked up to the Council when they did not even know them because they wanted to be in their suits, ties, etc.

Mr. Skala stated tomorrow was a very important election, and asked those that had not already voted to go to the polls to participate.

Mr. Thomas commented that he wanted to make a statement about free and fair elections. He stated he was appalled the President of the United States had indicated he would refuse to agree to accept the results of the election and at the many examples of voter suppression happening around the country. He thought it was important to speak of those observations. He noted he was confident in the professionalism and fairness of the Boone County Clerk and the thousands of election officials around the country along with the resilience of their democracy, for which they needed everyone to fight. He encouraged anyone that had not already voted to vote, and to report any examples of intimidation at the polls.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 10:19 p.m.