



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, April 19, 2021

6:00 PM

Special

**Council Chamber
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway**

I. Roll Call

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a special meeting at 6:00 p.m., on Monday, April 19, 2021, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The roll was taken with the following results: Council Member MIKE TRAPP, Council Member KARL SKALA, Council Member IAN THOMAS, Council Member MATT PITZER, Council Member BETSY PETERS, Mayor BRIAN TREECE, and Council Member PAT FOWLER were present. City Manager John Glascock, City Counselor Nancy Thompson, City Clerk Sheela Amin, and various Department Heads and staff members were also present.

II. Comments of Outgoing Second Ward Council Member

Treece asked Trapp and Glascock to join him at the podium.

Treece commented that it was a great pleasure to recognize Trapp on his last day on the Columbia City Council, and paraphrased Shakespeare by saying "how could I repent these many long meetings with you." Treece noted Trapp's nine years on the City Council had prioritized good government and responsible planning, and had set them on a clear path for success.

Treece presented Trapp with a Resolution of Appreciation, a plaque recognizing his years of service on the Council, and a certificate for a heritage tree to be planted in his honor in the park of his choice.

Glascock thanked Trapp for his support of staff and the capital improvement projects he had voted for along with those he had not as Glascock understood he had faced many tough decisions. Glascock presented Trapp with a glass tile with the City logo and a certificate representing the sign that would be placed at his future Adopt-A-Spot.

Trapp explained he had been thinking about what he would say at this moment for about six and one-half years. Trapp commented that he would have never run if he thought he would win. Trapp noted it had been ten days prior to the filing deadline and no one had filed, and he had read an article in the Columbia Daily Tribune, when it still covered local news, which had asked "what would happen if no one ran." Trapp thanked Andrea Waner for running as he would still have to serve if no one had run, and she had been a great candidate that had run a great campaign. Trapp noted Waner had run against two active opponents, and had cleared a majority, which said a lot. Trapp stated Waner had the support of the Second Ward to include his support. Trapp commented that it took a village to run for City Council, and pointed out it also took a village to govern. Trapp thanked the voters of the Second Ward, who he had been honored to serve, for sending him back to the dais three times, especially since he had not had a typical background. Trapp explained that when he had decided to get into politics, he had decided to do some things differently, such as not talking in soundbites and instead talking about the nuances of the issue. Trapp had also decided to be real, genuine, and himself. Trapp commented that he had fallen in love with Columbia when he had come as a visitor, and six years after moving here, he had been elected to the City Council. Trapp thanked his

family, and explained he was jealous to see people's parents being able to see them do great things as his parents had passed away before he had been able to make much of his life. Trapp hoped they were watching from someplace and knew how well their kid did. Trapp explained he had been the first kid in his family to go to college, but had then gone on a hitchhiking trip and had not done anything with his education for more than a decade. Trapp commented that his brother, John, had worked on his campaigns from California before moving to Columbia, and had been a big support for him since moving to Columbia. Trapp reiterated he was thankful for him and his brother's partner, Flo, as he could not have done these things without their support. As a Council, they only had three employees, and there had been great people in each of those positions while he had served. Trapp noted he had inherited Mike Matthes as City Manager, but Matthes had taught him a lot about how city government worked. Trapp stated Matthes had uplifted the City and had made it a better place, and he had been proud to work with him. They had then replaced Matthes with John Glascock, and Glascock was a great City Manager. Trapp explained Glascock had previously been the Public Works Director, and had taught him what it was like to work with engineers. The City spoke engineering, and that resulted in miscommunication a lot of times. Although Glascock had indicated he felt he lacked vision since he was an engineer by trade, Trapp did not believe that was true as he had advanced the City with his steadiness during difficult times. Trapp thought the Council had made a great choice in hiring Glascock as the City Manager. Trapp commented that Bob Aulgur had been the Municipal Judge when he had been elected, and he had sat in his court, which was one of the great municipal courts statewide. There were a lot of problems in Missouri municipal courts, but not in Columbia. When Aulgur retired, the Council had hired Cavanaugh Noce, and Noce had been an incredible judge. The community support docket showed wisdom and excellence. Trapp commented that Sheela Amin was the only City Clerk he had worked with, and he would never do municipal service anywhere else or ever again because no one could be as detailed-oriented, friendly, helpful, and forward thinking in terms of potential problems. Trapp explained the 4-5 times he had noticed slight things in the minutes had been some of the best times of his political life because it was difficult to catch her in a mistake. Trapp recognized the other 1,500 employees of the City that had worked collaboratively with him, and listed a few. Trapp explained Finance Director Matthew Lue and the prior Finance Directors, Michele Nix and John Blattel, had taught him a lot similar to how Glascock had taught him about engineering, and Community Development Director Tim Teddy had been gracious with his time in teaching him the art of planning, which was something most that were elected to the dais had more experience with than him. Trapp recognized Public Health and Human Services Director Stephanie Browning for the herculean effort she had taken in leading them through this COVID disaster and the fact that she had taken a lot of abuse for her good work. Human Services Manager Steve Hollis was a friend and collaborative partner that had worked with him on homelessness issues, and Community Development Housing Programs Manager Randy Cole, had also addressed the pandemic magnificently and was involved with the Columbia Community Land, whose establishment was one of the most significant accomplishments during his time on Council. Trapp stated he wished he could thank every staff person as there were many people that did great things with the City's various programs. Trapp explained he had been hands on, which had enabled him to build relationships, and he encouraged the same of his colleagues to the extent they had that time. Trapp thanked the stakeholders, activists, etc., that attended the meetings and followed the actions of the City Council. Trapp appreciated their forbearance and noted he had learned a lot from them. Trapp explained that when he was meeting with civil engineers regarding projects, he would pick their brains regarding other projects as they were great unbiased experts. Trapp suggested those that were newly elected do the same as there were things they likely did not know what they did not know and needed to know. Trapp noted he had come from a fairly extreme political view and had some doubts as to

whether government was the best tool to solve most problems and whether there were better ways to organize and utilize their resources to help and lift each other up in terms of their social needs, but also realized he had a fiduciary responsibility for a giant organization with 1,500 employees who wanted to be paid and that there were many others throughout the community that did not see the world like he did. As a result, Trapp had decided to be a pragmatist in making the hard decisions, which he felt he had done. Trapp explained he had initially run on three things. One was livable streets because he did not have sidewalk in front of his house, which he did not understand. Since then, Trapp had learned there were over 300 miles of streets that did not have a sidewalk, and that sidewalks, on average, tended to cost about \$125 per linear foot. By the end of his campaign, Trapp had gone from saying every street needed a sidewalk to every busy street where people wanted one to the extent it could be afforded should have a sidewalk. Trapp commented that in order to be a good council member, one needed to listen, which was another issue he had run on. Listening did not mean they had to obey. It only meant they would hear every voice and could repeat every argument made in a fair and reasonable way. There were now sidewalks on Craig Street and Oakland Gravel Road. In addition, the Leslie Lane sidewalk would happen soon. Trapp recognized the roundabout at the intersection of Parker Street and Vandiver Drive and traffic calming on Derby Ridge Drive, which he had not realized the importance of as a candidate. When speaking of livable streets, Trapp pointed out he was talking about the front yard experience versus the back deck experience, and not as transportation policy but rather a neighborhood life policy. They had tripled the amount of traffic calming and doubled the amount of sidewalks in the area during his time. There was still more that needed to be done, but they had made real accomplishments on those issues. Trapp explained he had also run on a focus on the future, and the heart of that for him was sustainability. Trapp thought they needed to live within their resource base and pass on the great things they had, which had been given to them by their ancestors, to the little ones. Trapp stated the City was a giant Rube Goldberg machine, i.e., the mousetrap game, which had been handed to them by their ancestors that they would hand to their children, and no one knew how the whole thing worked. Trapp explained he had realized that when they had found a sewer line that was still discharging into the system when the maps had indicated it had been taken off line in 1945. No one knew how the entire thing worked, but those in charge of a certain piece knew a lot about it, and the Council had to step back to look at the whole giant thing, which included ensuring they made proper investments. A significant thing they had done, which Trapp was proud of, was to adopt the very strict energy efficiency standards within the building codes. Every building in Columbia was now built to a high level of sustainability. Trapp was also proud of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) along with what they had done to improve the environment and ensure the fiscal health of the City remained strong. Trapp commented that there were things he would have liked to have seen them do, which they had not been able to do, but overall, they had weathered difficult times while ensuring the City was still strong and a force for good well into the future. Trapp explained the other thing he had run on was good government. Trapp stated he was a big proponent of the good government movement, which Teddy Roosevelt had started because cities were corrupt in a way it was more the routine than the exception. The good government movement had brought them the manager-council form of government whereby they hired professionals and left their decision-making at the policy level versus the administrative level, which he believed was wise. Trapp commented that for him, good government meant explaining the City to the people and explaining the people to the City. Trapp pointed out his home phone number had been listed on the website, he had kept conversations and doors open, and he had made himself freely available to explain to the media what was happening. Trapp felt that was transparency, i.e., really informing people as much as possible without a lot of spin or being too boastful of accomplishments. Trapp commented that there were still some things that were undone, such as roll carts,

but a lot had been done as well. They were more transparent now and had more information available than nine years ago. People still questioned their decision-making, but they would always have critics. Those that did not like the outcome would always darn the process. After looking under the hood of the City of Columbia government, Trapp stated he could assure the public it was healthy. Trapp commented that everyone he had served with on the Council, regardless of their political ideology, had been selfless individuals that had gotten nothing out of it, and they had all served to the best of their abilities and had brought a lot of great expertise and wisdom to the table. Trapp mentioned some who he now considered friends, and they included Ginny Chadwick, Betsy Peters, Laura Nauser, and Ian Thomas. Trapp noted Helen Anthony, who had been a past Council Member had said Barbara Hoppe, another former Council Member, was the conscious of the Columbia City Council, and he felt Thomas had really stepped into that role.

Trapp commented that he and Laura Nauser had co-chaired the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence. In 2013, there had been a notable shooting in the downtown, and the Police Chief at that time had proposed a curfew, which some, to include himself, did not feel was a good idea. As a result, they had formed a task force. Admittedly, task forces were a great way of not solving a problem and kicking the can down the road, but that was not what they were about. Trapp explained he and Nauser had decided they would not prejudge the process. They would pull together this diverse group of people, most of whom they had not previously met, and let them decide how they would do it, how often they would meet, and what they would accomplish together. They had explored the issues for 18 months, and they had been well on their way when the Michael Brown shooting had occurred elevating the issues of race and policing and police brutality. Trapp wished there had been more concrete actions to show for it. Policing was an intrinsically tough issue to address, but the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence report continued to be a touchstone and pointed them in the direction of how they should address those issues. Trapp stated he was proud of that, and it had led him to think about what he should have run on. Trapp pointed out that Columbia had a history of being founded in slavery, having segregated businesses, and being a sundown town south of Broadway, which meant black people were not allowed south of Broadway after dark until the 1950s. Trapp noted he had seen segments of planning documents from the 1930s with overt racism within them and had learned of the taking of the Sharp End neighborhood via urban renewal based on overtly racist rationales. Trapp commented that he had also been made aware of redlining in banking and the racial terrorism that did not allow the black population to grow until very recently in their history. Trapp explained he had been from Michigan, and had only lived in Columbia for six years prior to running for the City Council. Although Trapp understood most of those things, he had not understood the implications until he had started to govern and had become a part of the white power structure. Trapp stated he had done some things, but wished he would have done more. African-Americans had been faced with this terrible legacy in history, they had been disproportionately impacted by COVID, and the police stop data still impacted them the most and was getting worse instead of better, and Trapp believed they needed to place those issues on the forefront of the agenda and address them. Trapp quoted James Joyce who said "history is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake." If they were ever going to wake up from the nightmare of their own history, they needed to tell the truth about it and ensure they were on the same page because they were a community of immigrants and transplants. Trapp proposed looking at a truth and reconciliation commission, similar to what South Africa did to move out of the apartheid era and into an era of multiracial democracy, which was still unfulfilled but was being worked towards. Trapp believed it was something that needed to be addressed by pulling people together to discuss what happened and allowing them to unify to be one Columbia.

Trapp closed with a poem he had written called *The Sins of the Father*. "The sins of the

fathers pass on to the sons, unto seven generations, and not just privilege and freedom come from being born an oppressor's son, now I don't blame the man who gave me my name, he did what he did, he survived, but the karmic web of the disenfranchised debt tells me to pay for his crimes, I rejoice in the struggle and battles not yet won, I believe in the redemption of the father through the redemption of the son, I believe in the spirit of wholeness that calls us all to one."

III. Oath of Office of Newly Elected Second Ward Council Member

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Andrea Waner, and Treece presented her with a framed Commission of Office.

Everyone then took their places at the dais.

IV. Comments of Newly Elected Second Ward Council Member

Waner thanked her family for being in attendance as she appreciated all of them. Waner explained that growing up her mother had relied upon the help of family and friends to provide them with childcare when access to quality, affordable care was not an option. They had relied on payment plans and assistance programs when their utilities had become too much to bear, and when they had been forced to make a decision between electricity and medication, they had relied on the experience and knowledge of their local officials and community service agencies to help them navigate through the chaos that was their social safety net. They had also relied on the kindness of strangers that had brought their family food when her mother had cancer. The success of her family, her parents and siblings, had been made possible by the dogged determination of their community who believed they all did better when they all do better, and for that, Waner was forever grateful. Waner commented that in the fifth grade they were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up. Waner had said she wanted to play for the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), and anyone that knew her understood that was laughable. Waner noted she had also said she wanted to be President because she wanted to help people. Waner explained she believed in the power of good government, and though she no longer wished to be President, she found herself on the precipice of the unique opportunity to be able to use her experience and the experiences of her family to make real and lasting change in Columbia. Waner stated she was thankful for the voters of the Second Ward and the trust they had placed in her, and she would take the opportunity to advocate for change to truly address the systemic inequities that held their community back. Waner commented that she would also take this moment to champion the programs and policies that would help move Columbia forward. As the first woman to hold this seat since 1988, when she had been one year old, Waner noted she would take this opportunity to demonstrate to other young women, mothers in particular, that they could be involved in government, that their voice mattered, and that they deserved a seat at the table like everyone else. Waner pointed out her son, Henry, was the why behind everything she did, i.e., the late nights, stacks of books, and the countless meetings were for him. Waner wanted Columbia to be a community Henry could be proud of, love, and that would love him back. Waner quoted Leslie Nope, "If I seem too passionate, it's because I care. If I come on strong, it's because I feel strongly, and if I push too hard, it's because things aren't moving fast enough. This is my home, you are my family, and I promise you, I'm not going anywhere."

Skala commented that Trapp had been a nine year Council veteran, and he had reminisced as Trapp had spoken. Skala noted he had lost a heartbreaking election in 2010 by 54 votes after serving from 2007 to 2010, and had met Trapp on Facebook whereby he had discussed the possibility of running in the Second Ward. Skala explained he had encouraged Trapp to run knowing the incumbent had not planned to run again, and stated he had never regretted doing that as he felt it had been a wise decision.

Skala commented that they had differed at times but it had always been cordial. Skala appreciated this body for its dynamics, collegiality, and how they made it work, and for him, Trapp was one of the cogs in the wheel that helped to make it work. Skala stated his appreciation for Trapp and wished him well on his future endeavors. It had been a privilege and treat to deal with each other all of those years.

Skala thanked everyone that put themselves out there and for the staff that supported all of the people that put themselves out there.

Skala wished Waner well and stated he looked forward to the partnership.

Thomas welcomed Waner to the City Council and agreed with her statement of them all doing better when they all did better. Thomas felt that was a great proverb for them all to keep in mind.

Thomas stated it had been a tremendous pleasure to serve alongside Trapp. Thomas noted he always knew what Trapp was thinking about the issues, and if he did not, he would ask, and Trapp would tell him in a straightforward way. Thomas stated that was appreciated in the work they did.

Pitzer welcomed Waner and stated he looked forward to all of her input and guidance.

Pitzer explained he had heard the story about how Glascock had told Trapp that Trapp could ask questions he could understand. Pitzer stated he felt the same way when he had been elected to Council as Trapp was able to explain issues in a way someone not familiar with all of the workings could understand, and it was something he appreciated. Pitzer recalled an issue that had been somewhat divisive or controversial whereby Trapp had said the public process was out there and alive, and that was something he had really learned to appreciate in his time on Council. Pitzer thanked Trapp for bringing that to light for him. The public process was not always neat, clean, pretty, or even fun, but it was how democracy worked, and it was what this country was founded upon. It was essential to the good government attributes Trapp strove to ensure. Pitzer stated his appreciation for that. Pitzer noted Trapp had left the City better than how he had found it, which they were all thankful for.

Fowler commented that she had met Trapp when he had been working on a service project associated with homelessness, and Trapp had explained to her and the Service Learning students that had been with her about the nature of homelessness. Trapp had immediately changed any preconceived notion they had about persons experiencing homelessness. Fowler stated she had found that to be a transformative way for her to engage with the community in terms of service learning, and noted she had not forgotten. Fowler explained the guidance and articulation of Trapp with regard to the things they were not looking at where homeless was concerned were still important to her and continued to guide her efforts, and thanked Trapp for that.

V. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

Treece made a motion to reappoint Skala as Mayor Pro Tem. Treece stated he valued his seniority and perspective, and noted Skala had served in the role for at least the last two years.

The motion made by Treece to reappoint Skala as Mayor Pro Tem was seconded by Waner and approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Appointment to New Century Fund Inc. Board and CAM Stakeholder Committee

Treece explained he currently served as the Council liaison to the New Century Fund, Inc. Board and stated he would like to continue serving in that role if there was not any objection. No one objected.

Treece noted Skala had been serving on the Collaborative Adaptive Management (CAM) Stakeholder Committee, which oversaw the Hinkson Creek Total Maximum Daily Load

(TMDL) issues, and asked if he was willing to continue to serve on it. Skala replied yes. Skala explained one of the CAM groups had recently taken a giant step forward in holding virtual meetings on Fridays, which had been incredibly informative, and he assured the Council they were making great progress. Skala reiterated he would be happy to continue to serve in that capacity. Treece asked if there was any objection to Skala continuing to serve on the CAM Stakeholder Committee, and no one objected.

VII. Other Items the Council May Wish to Discuss

None.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.