



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Thursday, August 19, 2021

9:00 AM

Budget Work Session

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Treece called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Present: 7 - Thomas, Peters, Treece, Skala, Pltzer, Fowler, and Waner

Available Resources

Attachments: [FY22 Budget Presentation 08192021](#)

Matthew Lue, Finance Director, reviewed the operational expenditures and the capital improvement plan expenditures. This review was in follow-up to questions that were raised by Council at the Monday, August 16 Council meeting.

Revenue Sources and Projections

Attachments: [All Rackup Sheets - Final Proposed Budget](#)

Available Resources and Revenue Projections - Matthew Lue reviewed several slides pertaining to the available resources and revenue projections.

Sources and Uses by Fund - show beginning and ending balances. Jim McDonald, Assistant Finance Director, provided further clarification of the items shown on the attached powerpoint slides.

Obligations and Budgeted Expenditures

Matthew Lue reviewed the City Manager Priorities as listed on the slide - investment in employees, public safety, public health and street maintenance. He pointed out that because there is no increase in insurance premiums this year, the increase to the salaries of the employees will actually be an increase.

Police officers will begin working 12-hour shifts in September to create a safer work environment and reduce response time to calls. Council Member Fowler asked how working 12 hour shifts creates a safer work environment. Assistant Chief Hunter explained that the change will create a safer work environment as they quarter the department by splitting it in half with two shifts of 6am to 6pm and 6pm to 6am. This allows them to place a maximum amount of personnel on both shifts. In doing so they will additionally have floaters that can come in and cover that transitional period. Those are also 12 hour shifts. He further explained that staffing levels require a change from 10 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts to continue to provide adequate staffing coverage due to injury, military leave, COVID, etc.

Mayor Treece pointed out that retaining police officers is always a problem and he asked Assistant Chief Hunter if it is worse now. Hunter responded that it's higher with an average around 10 percent rate. Mayor added that one of the allowable uses of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds could be used for hazard pay for first responders - police officers, firefighters and refuse collectors, and he will ask for this on the budget amendment sheet.

There was Council discussion regarding the staffing levels, vacancies, etc in the Police Department and the recruiting efforts that are currently being used by the Police Department.

City Manager Glascock pointed out that it's a theme across all city departments. He added that it's hard to find applicants to apply for the jobs and that's why we are conducting the compensation and classification study to determine if we're paying properly.

Public Health - Glascock stated that we're getting grants for some of the temp staff we have now. There are a total of 17 positions. Glascock explained that to keep them on past the allowable time of 1,500 hours per year, we will be required to pay healthcare and LAGERS, so there will be additional costs for keeping the staff on beyond the time allowed.

There was discussion as to where these positions should be funded - general fund reserves or ARP funds. The ARP funds are a funding source and is the first priority. Glascock pointed out that we are also getting grants, and the County will also fund a portion of the costs. The City will need to determine a funding source for its portion, which is around \$700,000 - \$800,000 for a full year that will take us through next October.

Scott Clardy, Assistant Director of Public Health and Human Services, described the 17 positions totaling \$1.1- \$1.2M (October through September). We have one grant already totalling \$256,000 that's going to come off the top and County funding. County pays $\frac{1}{3}$ of the costs and the city pays $\frac{2}{3}$ of the costs of these additional positions. Staff are looking to Council to make up the difference as the funding source has not been determined for these positions. There was discussion regarding the number of positions needed to continue COVID work and the positions that are included in the FY22 budget.

Street Maintenance - Council Member Fowler inquired as to how many new linear feet of streets can be covered by the extra \$2M. Mr. Richard Stone explained that this year focused exclusively on mill/overlay. One hundred more lane miles - will check on that number for sure and get back to Council.

Council Member Peters asked how many miles of streets do we have. Mr. Stone indicated approximately 1,420 lane miles, which is a 12ft wide strip of pavement one mile long.

Mr. Glascock clarified that when we budget \$4M for streets that includes everything within the street right of way.

There was discussion on what's included in the sidewalk master plan - maintenance and construction and who's responsible for the construction of sidewalk replacement costs.

One Time Purchases - Jim McDonald reviewed the General Fund one-time purchases totaling \$3,475,405 - see slides for a breakdown of projects.

Council Member Fowler pointed out \$40,000 had been designated for the Broadband Business Planning Task Force. She asked what they would spend the money on. Council Member Skala described what the funds would be used for, including consulting dollars.

In regard to the Fire Department Equipment, Council Member Peters asked if we are replacing all of this equipment (radio replacement on vehicles and replacing RMS software), i.e. is this a new system(s). Mr. Lue indicated that the RMS system software is a new system. Chief Woody provided additional clarification regarding this purchase. He indicated that there is direct ability to communicate with both the police and fire departments.

Council Member Pitzer asked how staff differentiates between classifying items as an ongoing maintenance item versus a one time purchase. Mr. Lue and Mr. Sorrell explained the process for identifying/classifying these items.

Council Member Pitzer asked for clarification regarding the \$673,000 equipment replacement for Utilities: Electric. Mr. Sorrell explained that those funds would be used for many different items.

Council Member Fowler brought up the pattern or schedule for replacing trash trucks, and some of them already have hydraulic arms that could be reattached as far as tipping if we had trash carts. She asked what our strategy is when we purchase new vehicles, i.e. what kind of vehicles are we purchasing.

Mr. Sorrell described the standard pieces of equipment on a trash truck along with the city's purchasing practices. The arms that can reach out and pick up a cart are prohibited by ordinance for purchasing.

New Positions - Matthew Lue explained that the new positions are broken out by department. He reviewed the new positions as shown on the slides.

Council Member Fowler inquired as to two positions she thought were particularly interesting - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer and Business Development Specialist. She asked if there was a plan for including stakeholders in those position processes. Mr. Glascock indicated that the new City Manager will hire for those positions. Ms. Fowler stated that she has received inquiries from various stakeholders who have asked whether there will be input into the process prior to filling those positions.

At Mr. Glascock's request, Mr. Lue described how the ARP funds could be used for these positions.

The FY22 Budgeted Expense for New Positions is 33.75 FTE positions totaling \$2,717,756. Council Member Fowler discussed the possibility of using ARP funds for these positions.

Mayor asked for clarification on new firefighters and whether they are to staff the new fire station or fund existing operations. Chief Woody indicated they would supplement the existing pool. There are nine new firefighters for Station 11 in Council Member Pitzer's ward and these positions would be included in the FY23 budget.

Fleet

Fleet Additions - Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Fund (VERF) - Jim McDonald described the purpose of this new fund.

Mr. Lue explained the way it will be funded. He added that this is a normal type of fund for municipalities.

Council Member Fowler has received inquiries from constituents throughout the year regarding the move of parking enforcement personnel to the police department. She understood this move was to expand community policing. She asked for information regarding the relationship between those two areas. Mr. Glascock explained the model and how these interrelate with each other.

Council Member Thomas clarified that these are not certified police officers but they are operating under the direction of the Police Chief. Council Member Thomas asked if data exists relating to the hours of interaction between officers, the general public, business owners and the content of those interactions, i.e. positive interactions with the public.

Capital Projects

Mr. McDonald reviewed the Capital Projects - please see the powerpoint slides for additional information.

Council Member Fowler relayed her curiosity about the potential to move both people and freight along the COLT railroad.

American Rescue Plan Act

The City of Columbia will receive \$25,284,624 under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. Mr. Lue reviewed the proposed spending for these funds which are currently not budgeted items. These are items for Council consideration and are staff priorities. He added that any action to spend ARP funds will need to be an amendment to the FY22 budget.

Mr. Lue reviewed the alternative funding sources to include general obligation bonds, special obligation bonds and revenue bonds, enterprise revenue, utility rate increases or general fund reserves.

Council Member Fowler indicated there wasn't enough specificity for her in terms of alternative funding sources. She asked what staff learned from Senator Blunt's visit yesterday. Mr. Glascock provided an update to the visit and the conversations as they related to broadband.

There was Council discussion regarding the use of ARP funds for the proposed broadband project (\$10,000,000).

Council Member Thomas pointed out that the proposed amounts are very similar to what the Mayor presented on June 7, one public hearing on June 21 on how to use these funds and provided a breakdown of these areas from that meeting. He outlined the public input received thus far. There was previous discussion surrounding the possibility of hiring a consultant to handle the input for funding. He would like to follow-up on Stephanie Browning's suggestion that we do an RFP for a consultant since her department doesn't have the capacity to do it. He thinks there are urgent needs that need to be addressed.

The Council discussed the ARP funds and the process for allocating these funds, including the possibility of utilizing a consultant to obtain public input. Additional discussion included the possibility of developing a resolution for Council consideration.

Several representatives from various local non-profit organizations also addressed the Council with regard to funding and needs in the community - behavioral crisis center,

homeless shelter, Columbia Housing Authority/Land Trust, etc.

Council discussed the process associated with the creation of a Resolution expressing the intent of City Council members.

Proposed Budget Amendments

The Council requested the following items be included on the Proposed Budget Amendment sheet -

Move broadband to City Reserves (later to infrastructure dollars should they become available)

Keep mental health treatment center under funding from ARP and be willing to scale up to meet the community needs

Shelter for homeless - leave this under the ARP funding in an amount sufficient to get that up and running with the right amount of resources

Stormwater projects - move to city reserves and later to infrastructure dollars as they become available

Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence - ARP funds in an amount sufficient to provide services to meet the trauma needs on several levels within our community

Workforce Development - move off ARP funding until we see whether there are other federal funds to assist manufacturing specific revitalization with Swift Foods USA. MAC is a worthy recipient of any and all funds to help the abilities and aptitude of our unemployed residents/neighbors.

Field House - great project; move to reserve funds or other sources to advance that at Council Member Pitzer's pace that he has articulated.

Columbia Community Land Trust - provide a funding source over the next 5 years to arrive with resources and staff. Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) may not have the funding to continue operations.

Hazard Pay - \$1,000/mo for 12 months for unclassified for police fire and refuse

Additional position in DEI area - any funds available here

Green Space under Parks Sales Taxes

Health Department position that are related to COVID relief - not permanent to be funded from ARP

Remove 00771 ID 1335 - first phase Chapel Hill to Woodrail widening - \$1.9M and cancel widening project altogether

Vidwest/public access media - \$35,000 - city staff to work more collaboratively with Vidwest - two major challenges they're facing - pandemic and poor customer service response from Mediacom. Provide \$35,000 for FY21. Fiscal 20 closed out - how much in \$\$\$.

Proposed Parks Sales Tax Project List

Attachments: [Park Sales Tax Presentation 08192021](#)

[2021 Park Sales Tax Proposed List of Projects - Memo](#)

[2021 PST Projects - Priority 1 DRAFT 081921](#)

[2021 PST Projects - Priority 2 DRAFT 081921](#)

[COLT Trail options Revised 8-19-21](#)

Parks Sales Tax - Mike Griggs reviewed the projects associated with the Parks sales tax - R141-21. Mr. Griggs stated that the City Clerk provided to Council an abbreviated Council memo as well as the new priority 1 and priority 2 projects as well as a new map. Mr. Griggs described the changes staff made to the recommended project categories and the new amounts for each of those projects. Staff is requesting to return to Council with a final parks sales tax priority 1 and priority 2 funding projects at the September 7 Council meeting. Mayor asked that over the next two meetings we figure out a way to augment Field House dollars funding through other funding sources - \$1,500,000 currently. Council Member Pitzer agreed with the Mayor and expressed an interest in wanting to commit to securing the funding. Council Member Pitzer requested staff look at Priority 2 number 20 - Magnolia Falls which allows ADA access to the neighborhood.

Airport Terminal Discussion

Attachments: [Airport Presentation 08192021](#)

Stacey Button provided an overview of the terminal project. In addition, she reviewed three aspects: contributions - Stephens College Beam and historic memorabilia, art - national and regional artists, mural, and regional/event specific monitors; and sponsorship packages and opportunities. Ms. Button also reviewed a sponsorship proposal from the University of MO - coined as MIZZOU land which includes both internal and external features.

Council discussed the magnitude of the request and how much of the airport's identity should be dedicated to the University of Missouri while recognizing the other local colleges - Stephens College, Columbia College and Moberly Area Community College.

Mayor Treece left the meeting at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Council Member Peters asked about the status of the Runway extension project. Mike Parks, Airport Manager, provided an update.

Council Member Peters asked about the completion date for the airport. Ms. Button indicated the project would be completed next year at this time.

Council Member Peters asked about the secured/unsecured section of the concessions and the restroom area. Ms. Button described the layout of both areas.

Council Member Fowler asked where we are with encouraging or providing shuttle service to/from the airport. Ms. Button indicated that MoEX currently provides shuttle service. She added that LIFT and UBER have services and there is also a dedicated cell phone lot.

Any Other Items the Council May Wish to Discuss

Attachments: [Burrell](#)

At the request of Council Member Thomas, Steve Hollis spoke about the process for ARP funds and the partnerships that currently exist throughout the community. Mr. Hollis also discussed the challenges that we face in the community.

Council Member Pitzer brought up the Council bill related to water rate increase and whether or not this can be put off until January ---- staff to withdraw the Council bill.

Council Member Thomas asked that staff prepare a report relating to various transit items at the September 7 Council meeting to include the following: ridership data since FY18, update on the MU shuttle contract, and staff's long-range vision for transit service.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:12 p.m.