



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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**Monday, March 7, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**

**Pre-Council**

**Conference Room**  
**1A/1B**  
**Columbia City Hall**  
**701 E. Broadway**

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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Treece Called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

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

#### **Sanctioned Homeless Encampment on City-owned property**

City Manager, De'Carlton Seewood invited Director Browning to share her presentation of "Sanctioned Homeless Encampment on City-Owned Property". Mr. Seewood also highlighted the report titled "It takes a Village" requested by council member Fowler at the February 21, Council meeting.

Director Browning highlighted the agenda referring to the interdepartmental agreement (Health, Parks and Recreation, Police, Utilities, and Community Development departments) on how to move forward on Sanctioned Homeless Encampment on City-Owned Property and what resources are needed to operate one. Director Browning discussed Identifying Homeless Shelters for people experiencing homelessness, temporary solutions to homelessness, and planning considerations such as reliable transportation, infrastructures needed, sanitation, water, power, etc.

Director Griggs presented a list of potential city-owned properties that could be used for an encampment. Director Griggs showed GIS maps with detailed locations of possible sites that could be used.

Council member Fowler asked what does the City propose for individuals who don't have a place to live when Room at the Inn closes next Saturday.

City Manager Seewood indicated that the City's partnership with those who have already been assisting the homeless population will be key for this to be successful. Mr. Seewood added that right now the city has a planned proposal developed by the housing authority, turning point, and the agencies that provide these critical services. There are concerns and the City has to have the defined goals of what we need in order to be successful. If the plan is to do a certain type of encampment, the city may not be ready to achieve maintenance in the near future.

Council member Fowler asked if the City is willing to offer incremental services while we wait for stable services in the future.

Human Services Manager, Steve Hollis responded that is a complex situation that requires combined efforts to address. Hollis indicated that a major issue is those who are not ready or simply refuse the housing offered. There are about 50 people who are critically homeless and there are approximately over 50 of them who immigrated to

Columbia because of the services they can get compared to other cities.

Council members, Staff and the City Manager discussed briefly ways sanctioned encampments can improve the homeless population issues as well as possible negative outcomes, such as immigration from other locations.

## **II. ANY OTHER ITEM THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS**

None.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:56pm.

Tentative Future Item Topics:

March 21: Police/Fire Pension Update, Annual Sustainability Report, and Closed Meeting

April 4: Labor Group