City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, August 15, 2022 5:00 PM	**Pre-Council**	Conference Room 1A/1B Columbia City Hall 701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Present: 6 - Peters, PItzer, Fowler, Buffaloe, Foster, and Lovelady

Absent: 1 - Waner

This item is open to the public: Motion for the City Council to go into closed session in Conference Room 1A/1B to discuss:
- Sealed bids and related documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected pursuant to Section 610.021(12) RSMo.

At approximately 5:02 p.m., Mayor Buffaloe made a motion for the City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri, to immediately go into a closed meeting in Conference Room 1A/1B of City Hall to discuss sealed bids and related documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected pursuant to Section 610.021(12) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. The motion was seconded by Council Member Peters.

Yes: 6 - Peters, PItzer, Fowler, Buffaloe, Foster, and Lovelady

Absent: 1 - Waner

This item is closed to the public: Closed Meeting in Conference Room 1A/1B

At approximately 5:03 p.m., the City Council went into closed session pursuant to RSMo Section 610.021 (12).

The City Council adjourned the closed portion of the meeting and returned to the open portion of the meeting at approximately 5:32 p.m.

This item is open to the public: Broadband Discussion

City Manager De'Carlon Seewood welcomed the Director of Regional Economic Development Inc (REDI), Stacey Button to introduce the team and present the topic on EquipmentShare - Building the Future of Construction. Matt Williams of the REDI Incentives Subcommittee made the introductory presentation and Amy Susan of EquipmentShare made the company presentation.

Mr. Williams said that the proposal to expand the EquipmentShare program in the Columbia area has been going on for over a year. The location of the project is South of Highway70 and is in Ward 3.

Williams covered the financial impact section of the project presentation where he suggested that EquipmentShare covers 75% of payment, which is intended for companies that have an estimated income of above 100 million. An average wage of total new jobs averaged above county wage and will add at least 100 new jobs. A letter from Boone County Commissioner Janet Thompson states the support of the 75% of payment is intended for any company new or existing that meet those levels of investment and job creation.

Estimates of the property tax over the next 10 years were presented by Regional Economic Development Inc. The presented tax estimates are newly generated and do not have any impact on the already existing taxes. The estimated additional new property taxes is estimated to be 2,380,000 in the next 10 years. Of this amount, the City of Columbia will receive $123,328. For now the greater impact for the city is the additional sales tax revenue generated from the substantial increase in employment created by the new investment. Workers will be shopping in local businesses in and around the city, restaurants, and housing.

EquipmentShare is a nationwide technology company that can potentially support the City of Columbia in becoming a place of innovation. It is a construction equipment company dedicated to increasing productivity through smart jobs in technology and equipment rentals, retails and services that integrate the internet for construction.

The current problem the company faces is the limited space. This company is growing and the current space does not accommodate the amount of work it does in Columbia. Columbia, Missouri has been the main location the Board of EquipmentShare has proposed to expand. With Council support, the company's Vision is to build a destination for a successful business in this community. This facility will help in adding over 100 high paying engineering and analytics jobs. More jobs will be created and will employ staff with various backgrounds including human resources, IT, transportation, business developers, accountants, and mechanics, just to name a few.

Mayor Buffaloe asked for clarifications on what the conversation has been about between the company and main beneficiaries such as the school district and how the partnership works.

Williams responded that the conversation has been focused on collaborations.

Mayor Buffaloe asked if Boone County has been involved with designing performance agreements that include partnerships with local job advertisement groups such as jobpoint.

Williams said by adding two components stated in the agreement,the investment level,the commitment to investment and the commitment to job creation, the company will report annually the number of employment opportunities.

Council member Nick Foster asked for clarification about the issues of Diversity and how the company has prepared itself to address diversity for the underrepresented communities and what impact this project will have on these communities.

Ms. Susan responded that in this particular presentation the focus is only given to diversifying the workforce mainly focused on gender representation. This topic will be included in future presentations. The company currently has an employee who can coordinate community outreach programs which focus on outreaching different community organizations representing different communities in the area.

City Manager DeCarlon Seewood welcomed Utilities Director, David Sorrel to lead a discussion on Broadband and Grant Manager, Andy Wyatt to possible grant opportunities.

Sorrel stated in April 2019 City Council created a Broadband Business Planning Taskforce and the resolution governing this Taskforce contained five purposes.

Wyatt indicated that he evaluated potential programs that provide the Broadband services to underserved and unserved populations and found we are eligible.

Wyatt indicated he found two programs that could offer these services; Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure grant and the Missouri Broadband Infrastructure grant.

Council member Foster asked to clarify the difference between underserved and unserved populations.

Wyatt indicated that underserved means not in the same level/quality, while unserved is not provided.

This item is open to the public: Follow-Up to Budget Work Session

Due to timing, this topic was not discussed. This topic will be discussed at a regular council meeting.

II. ANY OTHER ITEM COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Buffaloe adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:49pm.