



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

---

Monday, August 15, 2016  
5:00 PM

Work Session

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

---

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:17 PM. All were present, with Mr. Thomas arriving at 5:22, Ms. Nauser arriving at 5:50 and Ms. Peters arriving at 6:27.

**Present:** 7 - Ruffin, Trapp, Thomas, Nauser, Peters, Treece, and Skala

Discuss the process for hiring new Municipal Judge.

**Attachments:** [Municipal Judge Job Description](#)

Mayor Treece explained that the Judge will be retiring by end of this year. He distributed a draft job description and noted that hiring this position sooner will allow for some job shadowing and orientation for a new judge before Judge Aulger leaves.

Human Resources Director, Margrace Buckler stated that this will be posted on the online job system and they can advertise anywhere. The job must be in the Tribune once. The judge must reside in Columbia for at least 2 years to be eligible. The Boone County Bar newsletter will include the posting for free. Missouri Lawyers Weekly is another option as well as the Jefferson City paper. Postings at this level usually stay open 30 days with a preferred deadline. Council will get a guest user account to go in to review the applications online. She can open the posting as soon as Friday. She noted that the draft job description has been approved by Human Resources, the City Clerk and the Judge. The group opted to leave it open for 3 weeks with an option to extend. The online system includes an application with options to upload CV's, resumes, referral letters, etc. Mayor Treece would like to include experience with Court Operations and prior experience as a Clerk to a Judge as preferred experience. Mayor Treece commented that the Associate Judge positions have been advertised and since they fill in as Judge when needed, he recommended these positions be held open until a new judge is hired so that person can weigh in on the Associate candidates. Council agreed to hold off on those positions until a new Judge is on board. Mayor Treece also suggested that after the new Judge is hired, we consider adopting a resolution that the Municipal Court Judge be independent of the Executive Branch.

Chapter 100 - Project Strong

**Attachments:** [Chapter 100 – Project Strong Presentation](#)

Economic Development Director Stacey Button introduced Bill Watkins, the REDI Incentive Sub-Committee Co-Chair. Mr. Watkins explained that Chapter 100 is a statutory provision that the State has provided. The County is the lead that allows them to abate personal and real taxes for industries coming in as new investments. This was adopted in 2005, since then we've done two projects: ABC Laboratories, Inc. and recently

Kraft-Heintz Co.

Project Strong is now known as Dana Light Axle Products. Mr. Watkins provided a brief history of the company. Dana produces axles and drive train assemblies for GM, Ford and Nissan. They have received new production contracts and are deciding where to make an investment in a product line facility. They are looking for a \$39 Million investment on machinery and would bring in 135 new Full-Time jobs with benefits. They currently pay to the City \$5,248 in real property tax and personal property has gone down each year as there are no new investments and equipment depreciates. In 2015, they paid \$2,382 in personal property. With a tax abatement, the City would still see an increase of \$81,580 per year in personal property and potential to increase other revenue through electric sales and gross receipts. He reviewed the process and timeline for this project noting that the 2nd read at the County level is tentatively scheduled for August 30th.

Mayor Treece stated that he met with the Plant Manager of the Columbia facility and the site selection person. These are career oriented jobs that Dana would be bringing into the Columbia manufacturing industry. Their relationship with the UAW makes these good living wages, all benefited. \$39 Million is a sizable investment which positions them to be competitive with overseas competitors. They are also sustainable, almost reducing do to a zero carbon footprint. He feels that this is only an up-side for the City and the plant. Council agreed and was in support of this project.

#### Citizen Survey: Review of Final Report

**Attachments:** [2015 City of Columbia Citizen Survey Findings Full Report](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Executive Summary](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Charts and Graphs with Trends](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Benchmarking Data](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Importance Satisfaction Analysis](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Tabular Data](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Survey Instrument](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Focus Group Summary Report](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Appendix A](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Appendix B](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Appendix C](#)  
[2015 Columbia Final Report Appendix D](#)  
[Citizen Survey Presentation](#)

Mike Matthes introduced Chris Tatham, our survey consultant and owner of ETC Institute. Mr. Tatham noted the purpose of the survey was to identify and respond to resident concerns; assess satisfaction/dissatisfaction of major city services; determine priorities for the community and measure strategic performance; and track the City's performance over time. He reviewed the methodology which surveyed over 1,000 City residents with a 95% confidence level and 3%+/- margin of error.

He reviewed major conclusions noting that overall, residents have a positive view of the community. Overall satisfaction with City services is generally high, but there are pockets with differences. Columbia is setting the standard for customer service, which ranks 19% above the national average and 18% above the Missouri/Kansas average. Top priorities

for improvement stood out as being police services and condition of streets. He reviewed results for specific questions noting that there are concerns with public safety, high satisfaction with Parks & Recreation and Solid Waste. Streets, storm water and public safety were categories of concern for dissatisfaction. He reviewed our results compared to state and national averages, noting we are higher in satisfaction in overall quality of city services and value received for City tax dollars/fees. Trends from last year show no dramatic changes, but public safety perception has been decreasing. Over the past decade, they have gone from 87% to 67% satisfaction. He stated that the clear top priorities are streets and public safety. He also mentioned that there was a question on the survey relating to where residents find information about City issues and results showed that the City newsletter included in monthly utility bills was a very highly rated source of information.

Mr. Tatham explained that there were two focus groups held in April with 19 people attending. This was done to conduct a follow up on issues related to growth and public safety. There were no concerns about Fire service; and big issues with Police are likely related to response time and crime prevention. Growth issues mostly came from people not being familiar with plans for growth. Other issues are concerns about the infrastructure, public safety and roads, and the impact growth will have on those areas.

Mayor Treece asked if Mr. Tatham had insight on what it takes to retain residents: pay, amenities, jobs, etc. Mr. Tatham suggested adding a question on future survey's relating to whether a respondent still plans to be here 5 years from now, with a follow up question if they say no.

The group thanked Mr. Tatham for his work and presentation.

## **II. OTHER ITEMS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS**

None.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:33 PM.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-7214. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.