



Columbia City Council Meeting Recap
Council Chamber, Columbia City Hall
7:00 PM
Monday, December 17, 2018

	INTRODUCTORY ITEMS
Pledge of Allegiance	(Recited as indicated.)
Roll Call	(Present: Treece, Peters, Ruffin, Thomas, Pitzer, Skala, Trapp) (Absent: None.)
Approval of Minutes	(Minutes from November 19 and November 26, 2018 Special Meeting were approved. A minor amendment to spelling was noted in the approval.)
Adjustment of Agenda	(B312-18 moved from Consent Agenda to Old Business by Peters. R199-18 moved from Consent Agenda to New Business by Pitzer.)

SPECIAL ITEMS

SI16-18 Recognition of City of Columbia Officer awarded the Public Safety Medal of Merit.
(Action: Officer Christopher Pompano was cited for Exemplary service by Missouri governor Mike Parson. His brave actions resolved a critical situation that affected public safety. His actions were related to reports of a man firing a rifle in Columbia. After the suspect began firing at officers and citizens, the officer intervened and saved lives. The Mayor conferred the award.)

SI17-18 Recognition of city employee recipients of the Missourian Progress Awards.
(Action: Rose Wibbenmeyer was recognized for her work in the category of Civil Engagement in relation to her work for school outreach efforts. The mayor also noted her work on the Fair Housing board and other commissions. Patricia Weisenfelder was the recipient of the award in the field of sustainability. Her work is her passion and works on the Climate Action Plan.

SI18-18 Columbia Rotary Club check presentation to the City of Columbia for the Clary Shy Agricultural Park project.
(Action: Jan Grossman represented the Rotary Clubs of Columbia and presented a check to the city to help fund the new agricultural park in Columbia. This is the first time that all six Columbia clubs have joined together on a single project. The donation is in the amount of \$51,500.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC12-18 Board and Commission Applicants.
Citizens Police Review Board – Catherine Grover

City of Columbia New Century Fund, Inc. Board – (No appointment. Readvertise.)

Columbia Community Development Commission – Hannah Fisher

Columbia Vision Commission – Ashley Craft, Nicholas Knoth appointed. (Readvertisement for remaining vacancies.)

Firefighters’ Retirement Board – Michael Yoakum

Human Services Commission – Joy Cook, Stacy Ford, Sharon Schattgen

Police Retirement Board – Benjamin Frede

Tax Increment Financing Commission – Justin Arnold, Paul Prevo, Andy Waters applied. (No appointment made. Readvertise to get a better pool of candidates.)

SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC72-18 Trevor Harris - Concerns about Columbia Transit (value of the service and restoration of funding and reduced routes).

(Action: The speaker asked for restoration of full funding for Columbia Transit services. He noted the various critical services they provide. He also indicated that public transit provides more choices. We need to make it easier to ride the bus, but we need to reduce wait times. Finally, the bus remains a key part of our green infrastructure. We do so many things right, but we need buses to achieve carbon emission reductions and long-term sustainability. We need to enhance this system, not cut it. Please look to other cities for best practices and work out something with the University of Missouri.)

SPC73-18 Demetria Stephens and Shauntel Franklin - Community violence.

(Action: The speaker expressed her concerns about violence in this community. She referenced the recent killing of a young man locally. Here daughter did not appear because of the trauma. She was raised in a different community, but she believes in community policing and noted some officers who were good at it. Violence in this community has reached an all-time high. Do we have any plans to combat this? I have watched Mayor Treece closely and your discussions with Chief Burton. I think you want immediate action to take place, so let’s do that. We have raised our kids as single parents. I know other families who have lost kids. It’s tough. It is really important to have community policing and get to know the people who have information. This can bring the city together or tear it apart, so we have to do it collectively and you need to do your part of the equation. We moved here from Cape Girardeau. At first it was great, now it’s tougher. Our families are hurting and it’s not just black families. Think about how to collectively come together.)

SPC74-18 Jim Windsor - Retired Employees Assessment Service report to electric ratepayers.

(Action: Six months ago, the speaker warned about non-competitive pay for line workers because people were retiring. In the past six months, nothing has been done, but two additional people have retired. We do not understand this lack of action. We have unique information in this regard and we hope you will take our concerns seriously. We have benefitted from owning our own electric utility, but you need to take action now to prevent further demise. You are letting highly trained people be hired away because of inadequate pay. Our report outlines why this has happened and how we can solve the problem. Don’t wait until it gets worse. Luck is not an effective plan.)

SPC75-18 Traci Wilson-Kleekamp - Challenging the unspeakable and unspoken: race and community violence.

(Action: Did not appear as scheduled.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(The following two items were considered in tandem. One item was tabled. One was approved.)

PH49-18 Proposed extension of two 13.8 kilovolt electrical feeder circuits from the Rebel Hill Substation to the proposed ten (10) mega-watt Truman Solar Facility located east of Burnside Drive.

(Action: The Truman Solar Electric Feeder Extension Project will extend two existing 3-phase 13.8 kV Rebel Hill Substation circuits from their current termini to the proposed Truman Solar site as shown on Exhibit A. The two circuits will be extended to the solar interconnection point from an existing underground switchgear on Copse Court (RH224) and a riser constructed on an existing pole near the intersection of St. Charles Road and Elderbrook Drive (RH211), respectively.

The proposed 3-phase line extensions will be constructed underground with an overall circuit length of approximately 11,800 feet. This work will include interconnection work consisting of two switchgear and metering lineups on the solar site. Some additional easement acquisitions will be required to complete the line extension as planned. The total estimated cost for this project is \$1,300,000, with approximately \$96,000 in work and materials required for the interconnection facilities on the solar site. Payment for this project is planned to be made from funds appropriated under Capital Improvement Project No. E0205 for Truman Solar Feeder Extension Project.

Earlier in the day, the Mayor had indicated that there might have been a problem with public notification regarding this project. Staff indicated that six additional property owners would need to be included in this process before final action is taken. Skala asked how this oversight occurred and when new meetings would occur. Staff indicated that they will have another interested party meeting in January and will provide additional information. We will wait until February to bring this back to the council. We are getting some additional detail from these additional affected parties. The City Manager asked about what kind of details would be new. Staff indicated that easement descriptions could be forthcoming.

The Mayor said he takes the interested parties' meetings seriously. Here we are trying to push something forward without adequate notice. The Mayor called for public input.

The first speaker indicated that this development is next to his property. He thinks we are using too many fossil fuels. This project can help mediate part of that problem. We should do everything we can to turn away from fossil fuels and turn toward renewables. I think we should move this forward quickly. The next speaker is a Realtor who represents some of the local property owners and wants to know how this would affect the Stadium extension. Staff said there would be no significant impact.

The next speaker said he was happy to know that there would be an additional interested parties meeting and that there are a lot of details. It's a great project, but we need to talk. The Mayor asked if he was willing to table this and come back or go forward?

The next speaker is an attorney on behalf of one of the missed property owners. They are asking for tabling to figure out how this will affect real estate values. Do you need the tabling motion? Yes. We would.

The public hearing was closed.

Trapp asked if this was tabled would it put us off schedule? Staff said no, but we could do this without tabling and have the next public information meeting before we came back to council. Thomas asked if something has gone awry with the typical process? Staff said we work with GIS and for some reason we missed six parties. We discovered the mistake ourselves after one complaint. Skala asked if at the first meeting were people most interested in details or about easement acquisition? Staff said that mostly the first meeting was a description of what was going on and there was not a high level of detail about easements. That information typically comes later.

The Mayor offered a motion to table action on this item for 30 days. Skala seconded the motion.

Thomas said he supported moving ahead quickly, but he agreed with the robust process. He does not think that tabling will upset the process.

The motion to table this item passed unanimously.)

B314-18 Authorizing a first amendment to the solar power purchase agreement with Truman Solar, LLC. (Action: In February of 2018, the City and Truman Solar, LLC entered into an agreement for the construction a solar generating facility and connecting it to the City's electric distribution system. The City would purchase all of the output from the facility to be utilized in compliance with its renewable energy ordinance.

The original agreement had a fixed scheduled commercial operation date of 4/1/2019 where Truman Solar, LLC's and the City's facilities would interconnect and commence the transfer of energy into the City's electric distribution system. The permitting process for the construction of the Truman Solar, LLC generation facility took significantly longer than originally anticipated. Because of this both the City and Truman Solar, LLC have not started the construction process. Staff has worked with Truman Solar, LLC and recommends that the commercial operation date be changed to 12/31/2019 to support the construction of facilities required to complete the project by both parties. A change to the definition of condition deadline to November 1st, 2019 is also needed to coincide with the change in commercial operation date.

Public input was opened.

The first speaker rose to underline the importance of this project. He is in support of this and wants to use more renewables. He is also in support of small wind generators downtown.

This item was approved unanimously without delay.)

OLD BUSINESS

B240-18 Approving the "Discovery Park - Landmark Hospital" PD Plan located on the east side of Nocona Parkway and the west side of Ponderosa Street (Case No. 18-165).

(Tabled at the November 5, 2018 Council Meeting.)

(Applicant Request to Withdraw.)

(Action: Request to withdraw granted unanimously.)

B241-18 Approving the Final Plat of "Discovery Park Subdivision Plat 5" located on the east side of Nocona Parkway and the west side of Ponderosa Street; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 18-164).

(Tabled at the November 5, 2018 Council Meeting.)

(Applicant Request to Withdraw.)

(Action: Request to withdraw granted unanimously.)

B312-18 Accepting certain streets that were constructed in FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016 for public use and maintenance.

(Moved to Old Business from Consent.)

(Action: Peters asked how we make the determination that streets are not up to standard. Staff indicated that sometimes in the old days we didn't have enough inspectors and that sometimes wet loads may have been poured. Staff indicated that the process has been improved since then and that she is satisfied with that answer.

The item was approved unanimously.)

CONSENT AGENDA

(All items remaining on Consent Agenda approved unanimously.)

B311-18 Vacating a portion of a sewer easement on Lot 53 within Westmount Addition located south of Westmount Avenue (Case No. 18-188).

B312-18 Accepting certain streets that were constructed in FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016 for public use and maintenance.

(Moved to Old Business from Consent.)

B313-18 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the Bingham Road and Ridgeley Road PCCE #16, Phase 2 sanitary sewer improvement project.

B315-18 Authorizing an agreement with the United States of America Transportation Security Administration to lease 896 square feet of office and related space in the North Terminal Building at the Columbia Regional Airport.

R199-18 Setting a public hearing: proposed amendments to Chapter 27 of the City Code as it relates to water rates.

(Moved to New Business from Consent.)

R200-18 Authorizing an agreement with EnGraph Software, LLC for the design, production and installation of the ParaPlan scheduling software for the City's Go COMO paratransit services.

R201-18 Authorizing FY 2019 agreements with various social service agencies.

R202-18 Authorizing an agreement with Columbia Swim Club for sports development funding under the Tourism Development Program for the Tiger Invite competitive swim meet.

R203-18 Authorizing a tourism development sponsorship agreement with The State Historical Society of Missouri for construction of a welcome and information center within The State Historical Society of Missouri's Center for Missouri Studies facility.

R204-18 Authorizing various Adopt a Spot agreements.

NEW BUSINESS

(These items were considered in tandem and have a deadline of today for response to the bid.)

R205-18 Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with Walker Consultants for the development, evaluation and implementation of a Residential Parking by Permit Only (RPPO) program in defined areas for on-street parking management.

(Action: Staff is requesting that Council authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Walker Consultants to develop a formal plan to evaluate and implement an RPPO program in defined areas where residents have expressed a need for improved on-street parking management.

The purpose of the RPPO agreement is to develop a comprehensive analysis that provides both a quantitative and qualitative policy assessment and defines a process by which an RPPO program is established within a neighborhood and regulated by the City. The RPPO evaluation will provide the City with a policy guideline to assist City-recognized neighborhood associations with a format for requesting an RPPO review and the implementation of an RPPO program.

Staff and Walker Consultants will work to form a Neighborhood Parking Advisory Group to include representatives from all Columbia neighborhoods with a need for improved on-street parking management, and in turn will collaborate with this group during the RPPO plan process. Walker is prepared to begin work on the defined scope immediately upon receiving authorization to proceed by the City. The proposed project schedule is six (6) months.

Walker will perform the services outlined on a time and materials basis, at the rates listed within their Standard Billing Rates attached to the agreement, for a not to exceed amount of \$125,000. The proposed fee limit reflects an estimated budget of \$40,000.00 for stakeholder engagement, \$32,000.00 for field data collection, and \$53,000.00 for RPPO program development, report and presentation preparation, and project team meetings.

The long-term cost of managing multiple neighborhood RPPO programs is currently unknown. We need data from both studies to do this planning correctly.

Skala thought this has been a long process and we need to do something in this regard. We have had pilot projects. I am having a problem with the idea that each different area was actually different, but that we are having a consultant now to make a one-size-fits-all project. How is that reconciled? Staff said the new project will study the placement of meters, fees on garages, and maybe some other tag systems or something else, but we need to figure out how to address this. But, Skala wanted to know if we are going to take input from the neighborhoods who have already done work? Staff said they will form a council of neighborhood associations and they will all have say. Benton Stephens is a big player in this as is Benton School. We need someone to manage all the data.

Thomas said he supports the Parking permit motion, but wants to know how the second item will work. Staff said this will be a study of where our meters, garages, rates and utilization work and it will include data from gate arms once we get them installed. Thomas wants to consider getting rid of the permit system in the downtown garages. He wants them to be monthly passes. The Mayor asked what pays for the debt service on the garages. Staff said that garage revenues pay the debt service and that we do have an oversell rate. Are we missing out on some revenues? We will study that. Pitzer stated that he thought we were already doing this. Why are we paying for this new study? Staff indicated that there are some places where we could have better utilization at different places and can evaluate our whole operation.

Pitzer further indicated that the Parking Commission is already looking at this and staff said that they still need more data. Whose idea was this? Staff said the Parking Commission is asking for this data. Did this go through an RFP process. Staff said that this is a specialized contract, so we give a five-year consultant agreement and the selected company gets first crack at this.

The public hearing was opened on both items.

Trapp said when he worked with the parking task force, he really believed we needed more data. This makes sense. I think this will be invaluable. This appropriate, even if it is expensive. We have had so much discussion and maybe this can help it go forward. Thomas stated that the parking task force was an extension of some earlier Smart Growth initiatives and wants that data to be considered.

The motion to approve passed unanimously.)

R206-18 Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with Walker Consultants for a baseline review of the Parking Utility as it relates to identifying and organizing improvements to the City's parking infrastructure.

(Action: As the City continues to experience population and economic growth, there is an increased need for the Parking Utility to proactively identify and implement system enhancements that maximize use of the parking infrastructure by residents, visitors, and employees. In response, the City and the Parking Advisory Commission (PAC) have requested that Walker Consultants perform a baseline review of the current Parking Utility to identify and organize opportunities for improvement that address stakeholder concerns.

Staff also requested a separate RPPO Plan proposal from Walker. On November 12, 2018, the PAC reviewed both the Baseline and the RPPO proposal and requested that both proposals be completed concurrently, as they are related, most specifically through funding streams. (See previous item).

Walker is prepared to begin work on the baseline review immediately upon receiving authorization to proceed by the City, and the project timeline will mirror the six (6) month timeline of the RPPO plan proposal. Walker will perform the services outlined on a time and materials basis, at the rates listed within the Standard Billing Rates attached to the agreement, for a not to exceed amount of \$50,000. The proposed fee limit reflects a budget of \$8,000 for stakeholder engagement and \$42,000 for the Parking Utility operating and market review.

After the previous discussion, this item also passed unanimously.)

R199-18 Setting a public hearing: proposed amendments to Chapter 27 of the City Code as it relates to water rates.

(Moved to New Business from Consent.)

(Action: Pitzer has specific questions on this item. He wanted to know if the staff report presented earlier this year was still valid. Staff said those numbers were not audited and won't be until January, but that what was presented was the most current data.

Skala said he thought this was designed to phase this in over a few years. The rates have not changed and the phase in has not changed, is that correct?

No public comment was received.

Pitzer stated that he pulled this off for more discussions since these rates are going to be substantial. He has process and content concerns. In terms of process, he thinks the process has been poor. The whole cost of service study that was commissioned was done late, it was supposed to be done before the earlier bond election – and it wasn't. Then we were supposed to pass this during the regular budget

hearings – and we didn't. No, we are still late. Unless you were a really astute follower of water rates, you could not follow this – and this is a big change. Our voters voted yes, and now we have a plan that is different than what we voted for. I know you had a public meeting, but this is not right. The staff proposal coming forward from this was still not available at the new public meeting. So, this has taken a really long time and it has been jumbled up with the bond election we had. We were fortunate because this year was a hot and dry year and the utility performed better than expected. But we cannot depend on that. We will hit our cash reserves as a result of that. Bonds will be sold this spring. We will only have half a year of interest expense as a result of that. So, I want to know if we really need to alter the income stream and I am inclined NOT to increase rates right now until we have this figured out.

The Mayor stated that he would add to that and that this staff was instructed to award a cost of services contract at that time, and we still don't have all of that data and all we got was a draft report – and we asked for this again and again. And we won't hit the end of the year again.

Skala added his voice of frustration. Skala was prepared to support this going forward early on, and he is still supportive, but he does not like how the process has unfolded. This is not how we should conduct business, and we have actually confused the situation. We need to raise rates, but we need assurances that the basic data we have seen is still accurate.

Thomas will recommend that when we do a rate impact study, the water utility should be included because he does not think we capture the true cost of service. I think that new data should be included in our rate consideration. The Mayor noted that there had been an extension of the date for submissions relating to rate studies. Staff said that the bidders had asked for additional time.

Pitzer said he would likely vote against this item and would like to make this whole thing come back through a normalized process. If staff wants to continue to refine their proposals, fine. But, let's do this. The Mayor said he thinks we have a problem with our timeframe. He liked the town hall meeting where people could look at their bills, and suggests that we cannot push this to the budget cycle because it might undermine looking at this in detail. Maybe we could do this as an extraordinary process, but I don't want this to go beyond reasonable deadlines.

The City Manager said it was his fault and he thought this process was moving forward pretty well. We can always take this back to the way it was exactly on the ballot. But, I think this gave us more flexibility to make the right people pay for the right levels of service. That's why we did this. The Mayor said he wants to have people who use the less, pay the less. Pitzer said now we are bleeding over into substantive areas of this idea. I think people do not trust this right now. Peters agreed that she did not want to push this off until the summer. There's no way to focus on everything at that point, at least I can't.

The Mayor suggested having a public hearing in January, have another interested party meeting, find out what seems fair, and then make a decision. Skala stated that the bottom line numbers are generally the same as before. Trapp thought this is only setting a public hearing and we should move forward. **The motion to approve the hearing passed 6 to 1 with Pitzer voting NO.)**

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING
(All items introduced as indicated.)

B316-18* Approving the Final Major Replat of “Renaissance Meadows - Plat 3,” located on the west side of McKee Street and north of Ria Street; approving a performance contract (Case No. 18-144).

B317-18* Authorizing an aviation project consultant agreement with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. for design services relating to the extension of Runway 2-20 at the Columbia Regional Airport; appropriating funds.

B318-18* Authorizing a collaboration agreement with the National Wildlife Federation for the installation and maintenance of prairie vegetation to support the monarch butterfly population; appropriating funds.

B319-18* Authorizing a facility usage agreement with The Curators of the University of Missouri for the development and construction of a cross country course and associated amenities at the Gans Creek Recreation Area and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute Naming Rights/Sponsorship Agreements related thereto.

B320-18* Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code to establish fees for the use of the cross-country course and associated amenities at the Gans Creek Recreation Area.

B321-18* Appropriating funds for engineering services relating to the Flat Branch Park expansion project.

B322-18* Authorizing an intergovernmental cooperative agreement with the County of Boone and The Curators of the University of Missouri for an aquatic macroinvertebrate data mining project as it relates to the Hinkson Creek collaborative adaptive management (CAM) implementation process; appropriating funds.

B323-18* Accepting grant funds from the United States Food and Drug Administration/Association of Food and Drug Officials for the Boone County voluntary national retail food regulatory program standards project; appropriating funds.

B324-18* Accepting grant funds from the United States Food and Drug Administration/Association of Food and Drug Officials for employee training for conformance with the FDA Retail Food Program Standards; appropriating funds.

B325-18* Appropriating funds for the purchase of a hot box asphalt trailer and street maintenance construction materials for the Public Works Department.

B326-18* Authorizing an agreement with Boone County, Missouri for Live Well Boone County program services in 2019; appropriating funds.

B327-18* Authorizing an agreement renewal with Boone County for the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) in 2019.

B328-18* Calling a municipal election for Council Member-at-large (Mayor) and Council Members for Wards 3 and 4.

REPORTS

REP111-18 Downtown Community Improvement District (CID) Board of Directors - Annual Membership.

(Action: The Downtown CID has proposed the following individuals for appointment to the Downtown CID. Actual appointment of the following individuals would be considered at the next regular meeting of the city council.

Adam M. Dushoff

Kalle Hatcher LeMone

Thomas C. Mendenhall

Munir Mowaffak Mohammad

Ben R. Wade

The Mayor indicated that he has until January 7 to review this and will take that extra time to talk with some of the nominees.)

REP112-18 Update from the Mayor's Task Force on Bicentennial Celebration Planning.

(Action: The task force began meeting monthly in February 2018, formed working groups and developed a theme and logo for the celebration - CoMo200. The main focus of CoMo200 is to plan a park located at Flat Branch, plan a city-wide celebration and to create awareness and fundraising opportunities.

At this time, a conceptual design for the park has been completed, the task force is gathering ideas for the grand celebration as well as the scope of work for the park. (see attached) Next steps include identifying funding opportunities, sponsorships and stakeholders. Because the timing of the event is less than three years out and capital campaigns require resources at the onset, the task force voted at their October 25, 2018 meeting to recommend a request be made to the Council for \$50,000 in city funds to assist with the bicentennial planning efforts. It should be noted that other independent fundraising will also be going on. Peters asked if there was another group raising money for the bicentennial. The speakers acknowledged that the county has its own program, but that the two planning committees share members. The speaker did not know where those efforts would specifically overlap. The Mayor noted that there are two groups.

\$25,000 would be used to contract a professional consultant whose services would include community outreach & awareness; developing a case statement of support from the community, writing a feasibility study and then collecting responses to develop sponsorship & fundraising packets (proposal attached); the additional \$25,000 would be used by the task force for public relations & marketing, event planning & coordination and commemorative memorabilia for fundraising.

A speaker stated that this process has been divided into different interest groups and that events have already begun. They have some volunteer T shirts. Another speaker indicated that the group is working with parks and Rec. She described the new park that will include light and water and art. There will be a new pedestrian bridge at Flat Branch. There will be new Gateways artwork. We will be liberating more of Flat Branch from its concrete coffin. There will also be an overlook and a speakers' stage in this park. We will have a master plan available in January and February.

The Mayor asked staff to look at potential sources of funding. The New Century Fund is a possibility. The Community Trust is a possibility and both can accept contributions on our behalf. We still need to identify specific initiatives. Ruffin asked if the consultant would just do up front consulting and then leave? The speaker indicated that he will do the up-front work and then he can be hired for \$2,500 per month after that. Pitzer asked if there will be anymore city contributions. Staff said there has been some contribution on a technical level like demolitions, structural evaluations etc., and what can structurally sit on top of the culverts. Then, who pays for capital improvements? The speakers indicated that they hoped it would mostly be private contribution. Staff suggested that some CVB contribution could be made and that council reserve funds could be used. The City Manager indicated they will try to split it up. Trapp said he thought council reserves would be appropriate for the bulk of it. The New Century Fund is a medium that can be used to accept contributions. Skala said he was not sure we should take most of this out of council reserves. He wants some of this to be from CVB.

No formal action was taken but general agreement to move forward with plans as presented and the promise of some form of financial help was indicated.)

REP113-18 Correspondence from the Public Transit Advisory Commission related to citizen transportation to and from city meetings.

(Action: The Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC), would like to request funds from the \$20,000 that has been allotted to provide citizen transportation to and from City Council meetings, for the provision of citizen and commission member transportation to and from PTAC meetings.

PTAC meetings are held eleven times a year, on the third Thursday of the month, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. With the recent cut in transit service hours, both commissioners and members of the public who attend the commission meetings, and who rely on public transportation, can no longer depend on the transit system to get home from PTAC meetings. Thomas thought this was a logical request.

The Mayor asked if this would be through the Paratransit service or through private providers with vouchers?

No further action was taken but the concept was generally agreed to.)

REP114-18 Correspondence from the Downtown Columbia Leadership Council regarding the Ameren property in the North Village Arts District.

(Action: The DLC has recently reviewed the status of the Ameren Missouri property at 210 Orr Street in the North Village Arts District, the former Columbia Manufactured Gas Plant, for which the City has first right of refusal. It is the recommendation of the DLC that the City acquire the site to maintain it as a park and public space.

The Department of Natural Resources has recently signed an agreement letter with Ameren Missouri following the cleanup of the site allowing the property to be sold, but with a restrictive covenant that prohibits certain uses and soil disturbance, given the continued contamination of the soil below. Though it is disappointing the site could not be cleaned entirely, the DLC believes this is an opportunity for the City to acquire this unique piece of land in order to create a park and public space, as recommended by the H3 Charrette Plan approved by the Council in 2010.

Ideally, the City could acquire the property from Ameren at a great discount, contingent on the City receiving a Brownfield environmental cleanup grant from the EPA to help clean up the property. The current city manager indicated that they will meet with Ameren this coming month. We will bring DNR in to explain the restrictions. The Mayor thinks the restrictions are fairly onerous. The Mayor thinks this is not a desirable place for a park under the current conditions. He does think it is a desirable property, but he wants more information before we open the city up to liability – and what runs off it. The Mayor points out that a lot of Brownfield grants are based on tax credit offsets, and we don't have local taxes to offset for the most part. He also noted that we need to determine true value before we get into this. Pitzer agreed but identified to pursue the concept. Thomas asked how we paid for Flat Branch? The Mayor said we got a \$2 million federal grant to clean that up.

No further action was taken.)

REP115-18 Intra-departmental transfer of funds request.

(Action: Report presented. No further action required.)

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Public

One speaker was interested in the Bicentennial Task Force. She thinks there will be a tendency to celebrate at these events, but there will be some people who were not so happy back then, and Race

Matters, Friends will be staging some alternative events. She recently found a stone tool in here yard, and it came from people who were run out or enslaved in our early history. The Rollins family has records of slave ownership. There have been voices of black women in the past there have been overlooked. A lot of property that is owned today was gained by the enslavement of other people. The Mayor encouraged the group not to stage alternatives to the Bicentennial, and join with us.

The next speaker indicated that he has been in touch with Ameren and that ground water dos run off that site. We believe that there is water infiltration into the concrete cap and if you can't drill you can't remediate. The speaker said you would be buying a Superfund site if you purchase the Ameren site for a park.

The final speaker said that Mr. Ruffin probably missed some of his earlier comments, but he has been here for ten years asking for new shelters for homeless people. He wants men and women shelters. He thinks the city still has money. We discovered that tonight. Did we give any money to the homeless shelters? The speaker heard that \$300,000 was not used by the downtown. Is that money available? Why not start our first housing unit on north Rangeline right across from the new police station? Merry Christmas.

Council

Peters asked where we are with the electric utility issue, particularly about the lineman issue that was identified earlier. The City Manager indicated that he will respond.

Skala wanted to revisit the idea about broadband. Could we get an update on that issue? The City Manager indicated they are forming a group on that. Skala's wife suggested that he pay attention to snow in this city. Can we deal with secondary snow routes that have hills on them and give them a little more priority due to steepness? The City Manager indicated if you have some in mind send them his way.

Trapp responded to transit budget cuts. He stated that they made necessary cuts to service areas, but tried to save the system overall. Can the parks department do a better job at clearing snow off sidewalks for better pedestrian circulation? He wants to add promotion of tech training programs in Columbia as part of our legislative agenda. He thanked one of the Fellows for his service.

Thomas disagreed with Trapp about cuts to the transit budget and wants more funding for that department.

Staff
(None.)

ADJOURNMENT
(Time: 9:27 PM.)

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