



Columbia City Council Meeting Recap
Council Chamber, Columbia City Hall
7:00 PM
Monday, March 18, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

(Recited as indicated.)

(Present: Treece, Peters, Ruffin, Thomas, Pitzer, Skala, Trapp)
(Absent: None.)

Approval of Minutes

(Minutes from February 4, February 18 and March 4, 2019 meetings were approved.)

Adjustment of Agenda

(B56-19 was moved from Consent to Old Business. R39-19 was moved from Consent to New Business.)

SPECIAL ITEMS

(None.)

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC3-19 Board and Commission Applicants.

Citizens Police Review Board: Nicole Seamon

Commission on Human Rights: Mindy Wirges

Public Transit Advisory Commission: Amanda Hoffman

Tax Increment Financing Commission: (3 vacancies) David Seamon (Two positions remain unfilled.)

Tobacco Retailer License Review Board: (Readvertise)

SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC18-19 Amy "Flo" Osborn - Public transportation.

(Action: The speaker indicated that she provides social services to people in the community and asked for more routes with longer hours for the city bus system. She gave examples of people who need the service. One situation was a young woman who is living with another family but who now lives across town from her school and work. At night, her connecting bus may not run, but she uses Uber and that takes the money she earned. Another instance was a person who needed substance abuse counseling, but the trip to the counselor took 2 hours by bus. We need to support people who need to get to work. It takes less public support for people who are working and it provides more respect for the individuals. Poverty, crime and health can be minimized by good transportation.)

SPC19-19 Rebecca Shaw - How language/images on social media can impact public opinion re: community-oriented policing.

(Action: The speaker represented several groups and addressed the anticipated report from the city about community policing. In researching this topic, it appeared that constructive engagement with the community was better than unilateral action by the police department. Chief Jones has made strides in this area. Many officers are ready for change. But, they have influences. Social media influences what people and officers think is appropriate. The way that images and language influence officers is important. Recent posts by the Columbia Police Officers Association have been in poor taste. They show toxic masculinity. They show a warrior mentality. A police force that wants to do violence is a force we do not want. We suggest that all officers adhere to a reasonable set of guidelines for social media discussions. We represent many groups. We want to start a conversation. We want officers to know how they are perceived. We want the community to know. Is this helping or harming the image of officers? We are not trying to point fingers.)

SPC20-19 Julie Ryan - COMO Safe Water Coalition - Columbia

(Action: We started with chloramines as our primary concern. We now also look at fluoride. We believe that the samples do not match the reported levels of chemicals in our water. What is the real number? We know that fluoride is dangerous and results in negative health impacts. Fluoride may help one subset of people and negatively affect other people. These types of additives to our water are dangerous, and industrial fluoride is not safe. Pharmacies even check for counter indications. There are other additives that are safer, but we use the industrial version. High rates of fluoridation are not proven, and statistics do not show positive results. System administrators cannot always control the administration of this substance and many Missouri cities do not use fluoridation. We are not against the dental community, but we don't want to damage people unnecessarily.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(The following two items are being considered in tandem.)

PH8-19 Consider the FY 2018 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

[See R40-19/Mayor Memo]

(Action: The City of Columbia is required to submit a Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) in order to remain eligible for federal funds. The CAPER is documentation required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) summarizing CDBG and HOME expenditures, and progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the City's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan during calendar year 2018. The City expended \$712,639.92 in CDBG funds and \$825,194.89 in HOME funds during the reporting period. We are still waiting for our allocations for the current year, but should have more information on March 21. This year, the city spent more in HOME dollars than in CDBG funds which is different than in most previous years.

Areas with significant accomplishments included the following:

- Services for Independent Living with the completion of 43 projects.
- Job Point completion of vocational training for 13 students.
- Completion of six homes at the Lynn Street Cottages.
- 40 new homebuyers through the Homeownership Assistance Program
- 167 first-time homebuyer class attendees.
- Completion and final draw of funds for the Columbia Housing Authority's Oak Tower and Bryant Walkway II developments.
- Significant completion of CMCA's 804 King Avenue home.

The five-year plan shows that the city is doing very well in the areas of first-time homebuyers and sidewalks, but we need more work on micro-lending. Trapp asked if that was the CMCA program? Staff indicated that that was correct, but the city pulled back on that program because funds were not getting out the door. What about owner occupied rehab units? Staff said we have two programs that are \$10,000 and \$35,000. The smaller projects seem to be most useful to the public because everyone incurs debt against their homes and the smaller program seemed more manageable.

Trapp thought the city does a good job at using these funds, particularly in lower income areas. We have added staff and done more in-house over the years. These are good partnerships. We have only hit the tip of the iceberg. If we really want to address the problem, we need to raise wages and increase affordable housing stock.

No further comments were received and no one from the public spoke.
(See next item for final action on this issue.)

R40-19 Approving the FY 2018 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER); authorizing the City Manager to submit the document to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
(Action: The CAPER was approved unanimously.)

OLD BUSINESS

B55-19 Authorizing the issuance of Special Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2019.
(Action: These bonds will refund \$11,850,000 outstanding principal amount of the City's Taxable Special Obligation Improvement Bonds (Build America Bonds/Direct Subsidy – Annual Appropriation Obligation), Series 2009A and pay for cost of issuance. This refinancing is estimated to save the City approximately \$2.0 million over the next 16 years. The Mayor asked how the savings will be used? Staff indicated that any long-term savings will be allocated across projects as savings are realized.

No one from the public spoke to this issue.
The measure was approved unanimously.)

B56-19 Authorizing a development agreement with Fred Overton Development, Inc. to establish public infrastructure obligations relating to the development of Bristol Ridge Subdivision located on the east side of Bearfield Road and north of Gans Road (Case No. 18-30).

(This item was moved from the Consent Agenda to Old Business for the purposes of consideration and amendment.)

(Action: Staff explained that the proposal made an unintended party a part of this discussion. This is not a substantial change, but it needed an amendment. The Mayor moved the amendment to exclude the unintended property.

A public hearing was opened. No one appeared to speak.
The amendment and bill were approved unanimously.)

CONSENT AGENDA

(All items remaining on Consent Agenda approved as submitted.)

B56-19 Authorizing a development agreement with Fred Overton Development, Inc. to establish public infrastructure obligations relating to the development of Bristol Ridge Subdivision located on the east side of Bearfield Road and north of Gans Road (Case No. 18-30).

(Moved to Old Business for consideration and amendment.)

B57-19 Authorizing a contract with Consolidated Public Water Supply District No. 1 of Boone County, Missouri for the relocation of water lines relating to the Nifong Boulevard/Sinclair Road and the Vawter School Road/Old Mill Creek Road intersections improvement projects.

B58-19 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to prohibit parking along the south side of Orange Street, between Mikel Street and Madison Street.

B59-19 Accepting conveyances for sidewalk, drainage, street, utility and temporary construction purposes.

B60-19 Accepting conveyances for utility and electric utility purposes.

B61-19 Appropriating funds for the major maintenance and replacement of existing lighting and underground electrical wiring in the Rainbow Softball Center parking lot at Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area.

B62-19 Appropriating funds for the replacement of the HVAC master controller at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC).

B63-19 Appropriating funds for the purchase of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data to update topographic information for mapping purposes.

B64-19 Authorizing a first amendment to antenna agreement and memorandum of antenna agreement with USCOC of Greater Missouri, LLC relating to the lease of City-owned property located at 1400 Ballenger Place (Fire Station No. 5).

B65-19 Authorizing a letter of agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, on behalf of the Bureau of Reportable Disease Informatics, relating to the enhancement of a statewide bio-surveillance system for opioid deaths.

B66-19 Authorizing a letter of agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, on behalf of the Bureau of Reportable Disease Informatics and the Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis, to organize and engage a stakeholder meeting in support of the development of new vulnerability assessments related to opioid overdoses and bloodborne infections associated with nonsterile drug injection; appropriating funds.

B67-19 Authorizing construction to relocate a portion of Route H to allow for the extension of Runway 2-20 at the Columbia Regional Airport; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division; appropriating funds.

B68-19 Authorizing a contract with Consolidated Public Water Supply District No. 1 of Boone County, Missouri for the relocation and upgrade of a water line along Route H near the Columbia Regional Airport.

R36-19 Setting a public hearing: consider the installation of traffic calming devices on Primrose Drive between Stadium Boulevard and Sunflower Street.

R37-19 Setting a public hearing: proposed installation of twenty-one (21) historical markers along the African-American Heritage Trail in public rights-of-way adjacent to sidewalks in the central portion of Columbia, a portion of the MKT Trail at Flat Branch Park and walkways within Columbia Cemetery.

R38-19 Approving "Woodsong Preliminary Plat" located on the north side of St. Charles Road and west of Elderbrook Drive (Case No. 32-2019).

R39-19 Authorizing an agency receipt/agent authorization contract with GunBusters, LLC for the destruction of firearms seized by or surrendered to the Police Department.

(This item was moved to New Business for consideration and amendment.)

NEW BUSINESS

R39-19 Authorizing an agency receipt/agent authorization contract with GunBusters, LLC for the destruction of firearms seized by or surrendered to the Police Department.

(Moved from the Consent Agenda to New Business for discussion and amendment.)

(Action: This came to the council for an amendment to allow Gunbusters to destroy multiple items and have permission to do this on an ongoing basis rather than be required to receive council approval for the destruction of each weapon. Staff indicated that sometimes destruction can cost \$1,000 per weapon in terms of time and effort. This will be a savings in terms of actual cost. We often confiscate weapons. This change will allow us to approve multiple contracts with a single vote rather than have to authorize individual instances. Thousands of weapons are confiscated each year.

The public hearing was opened and no one appeared.

The amendment and bill were passed unanimously.)

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

(All items introduced as indicated.)

B69-19* Approving the Final Plat of "Barkwell Subdivision, Plat No. 1-A" located on the southwest corner of the Nebraska Avenue and Providence Road intersection; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 18-161).

B70-19* Approving the Final Plat of "Spring Creek Plat 1A" located on the north and west sides of the western terminus of Cross Timber Court; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 25-2019).

B71-19* Authorizing Amendment No. 2 to the agreement for professional architectural services with Architects Design Group/ADG, Inc. for design services relating to the construction of the Molly Bowden Neighborhood Policing Center in the Auburn Hills Subdivision.

B72-19* Authorizing an interim operating agreement with Skinny Labs Inc., d/b/a Spin, for implementation of a shared active transportation operation.

B73-19* Appropriating grant funds received from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Volkswagen Trust Transit and Shuttle Bus Program for the purchase of three (3) electric buses.

B74-19 Approving the route of the African-American Heritage Trail; authorizing the installation of twenty-one (21) historical markers along the African-American Heritage Trail in public rights-of-way adjacent to sidewalks in the central portion of Columbia, a portion of the MKT Trail at Flat Branch Park and walkways within Columbia Cemetery.

B75-19* Repealing Ordinance No. 023778 which authorized an agreement with Boone County, Missouri for public health services; authorizing a revised agreement.

B76-19* Authorizing a memorandum of agreement with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for access to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) OpenELIS Web Portal.

B77-19* Authorizing Amendment No. 2 to the program services contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for public health emergency preparedness services; appropriating funds.

B78-19* Appropriating funds for air service marketing and promotion services.

B79-19* Appropriating funds relating to construction of Fire Station #10 (East).

B80-19* Appropriating funds for the repair of Gas Generator #3 at the Columbia Sanitary Landfill.

B81-19* Appropriating funds for the Columbia Police Department (CPD) facility improvement project.

B82-19* Authorizing an equitable sharing agreement and certification with the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of the Treasury detailing FY 2018 receipts and expenditures of shared funds by the Police Department.

REPORTS

REP26-19 Street trees within the public right of way - UDC text amendment.

(Action: The submitted staff report indicated that the new Unified Development Code added a street tree rule that requires that all new subdivision developments install street trees within either the public right-of-way or a 6-foot private landscape strip. The intent of the provisions was to ensure that new subdivision developments were created with attractive residential street tree characteristics. The provisions apply to all street types. However, the code also indicates that trees should not be placed within 4 feet of any underground utilities, and according to Ameren, gas lines are routinely located in the same space suggested for new trees on some smaller streets.

Other rules would also seem to conflict with the placement of trees where sidewalks are required. The result is that what are defined as street trees would need to be moved out of the public right-of-way and into the private landscaping buffer on individual properties.

Unfortunately, that also presents a problem since that area overlaps with an additional 10' utility easement where the remaining underground utilities are typically placed, which means that the "street" trees could not realistically be placed along the street and would still conflict with underground utilities. These conditions occur frequently for both residential and residential feeder types of streets. Wider collector and arterial streets are not affected in such a dramatic fashion due to the additional street width.

There are also a few other problems that have been noted. If you try to squeeze trees into a space with little root space, the trees are not as viable, and trees planted within the right-of-way as required may become problematic for the city and landowners in terms of maintenance. Young trees may also infringe on recommended lines of sight along roadways until the tree canopies grow to a sufficient height.

Staff suggests a change to the new zoning code that would limit the street tree rule to only collector and arterial streets and allow street trees to be planted after new homes are actually built so they are not damaged during construction (like the sidewalk rule). The change would also allow a determination to be made regarding sight lines from newly planted trees.

Staff recommends referral of this to P&Z before final action is taken.

The consensus was to proceed in this fashion with no formal vote.)

REP27-19 Letter from Public Transit Advisory Commission relating to transportation funding.

(Action: A letter from the Public Transit Advisory Commission was received by the council. Overall, the report was critical of the allocation of funds for public transit in Columbia and suggested that more funds could be diverted to the bus system based on equity and to meet the stated policy goals of the city. The Commission suggested diverting some Transportation Sales Tax revenues from the airport to the bus system; reinstating some Saturday bus service that was cut during the adoption of the last city budget; reexamining cuts that were based on an overall declining revenue stream from city sales taxes in general; and revisiting the policy of setting aside an automatic 20% of all department budgets for reserve purposes. The report indicated that the average daily ridership of the Go COMO fixed route bus system is 2,063 people.

Pitzer suggested that the ending of Saturday service was a priority for many people. He looked at the tax receipts number and determined that we are currently about \$300,000 ahead of where we thought we might be in terms of sales tax collections. We know that limited Saturday service might cost \$75,000, but we might look at those savings or surpluses to fund the limited Saturday service in May of this year then make amendments during the formal budget hearings in August. We can cover this shortfall. He asked the staff to please bring this back as a report. He then mentioned that there were other comments

about cutting funding for transit. He noted that over the last decade we have actually INCREASED spending, and we have increased public transit funding more than we have for road maintenance, even though streets always rate higher on citizen surveys. He thought there could be a potential solution, but it is a misnomer that we have been cutting funding. Expenses have gone up, but revenue has not. We have paid for transit cost increases with no matching increase in revenues. We need to be careful about what we prioritize when citizens consistently identify street maintenance as a high priority.

The Mayor agreed with this approach. Skala said he was worried about allocating short-term project savings. He said his thinking has evolved on this and was looking for a shorter-term solution first so that no group got an immediate hit. This is temporary. We need additional funding for high priority items, but I think roads, the airport and the bus system all fall in that category and he wants a new report. Why not start to transition to buses that fit the need better? **We have tried for development fee increases for a long time. We are going to have to do this within the next year or so** and would like a new report.

The city manager indicated that with the sales tax numbers as calculated, the city could add \$200,000 to the transit budget as a short-term solution, but we need to know now if we are going to add Saturday service back in, and we would still have 90-minute headway times. The Mayor suggested that we should pull in parking meter fees and other disincentives to ride the bus when we look for solutions. Skala suggested that there should be a fee for paved parking places at the airport to help offset the bus cost. Skala said he has seen some public lots that can be offered at some low level of cost so the people who have the least means have an option.

The mayor suggested restoring Saturday service. Pitzer suggested moving 2019 savings to address this issue and the Mayor asked that the pothole fund also be increased.

Public comment was invited.

One speaker indicated that he was proud that something was happening. He believes it is empathetic. You have to understand that some jobs are dependent on transportation. We need to make this work 24 hours a day. We need to make a pot of money that is transportation only. I would like to see something we can all count on. Please think hard about this and find some solutions. I have had pothole problems. I am glad that is important to you. It messed up my car. Also, we need to look at the end of fluoridation. Can we help the police chief by pulling fluoride from the system?

The next speaker wanted to mention that he is working with United Way on various site visits and trying to respond to grant requests. In the summit we had back in September, we had businesses say they can't find employees. Employees say they can't get to the jobs they need. If you can't keep a job, you can't be financially independent. Everybody does not have a car or they might have a suspended license. I just want to throw these ideas out there. Let's look more at the transportation situation and look at what we are really calling for. Is Uber the answer? Are smaller vehicles the answer? Maybe shift work can't always be served by the bus system. Please look at how to address this intelligently. The bus system may not always be the answer.

The Mayor asked about how many people who need transportation have cell phones? He did not know, but knows that some people who have minute phones can't access all the services online that they need. Skala suggested that there are businesses on Paris Road and places at the University that all have needs. This is an intractable problem and our response is going to have to be incremental in his opinion.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Public (None.)

Council

Peters noted that Taxi Terry has some vehicles that are handicapped accessible. She wants to know how those are utilized in this community. The Mayor suggested that we have issued a grant but that some of the service taxis can offer is limited. He believes that the fare needs to be equal for all taxi riders. Peters wanted to know if this was an alternative to ParaTransit and if people used the taxi? She would also like to look at Uber options or other individual solutions rather than simply supplying empty buses just driving around town.

Thomas suggested that he wants to keep Saturday bus service going into 2020 and that not doing so would keep some people homebound. He appreciated the letter from the Transit commission regarding bus service. Please don't look at this as trying to fix up the current system. We need to think bigger. The most successful systems transport a lot of people, not fewer. We need a broad vision including flex routes, private ride shares and the needs of the disability community, the climate action plan, the Vision Zero goals and other considerations. I support a big conversation in this regard. We need to find a solution we can afford.

Trapp wanted to talk about the Strategic Plan in the 2nd Ward. We are in our 4th year of this plan. We are about to hire a new city manager and I want to make sure hiring a new manager does not interrupt our implementation of the plan. If there are some things to wait on, maybe we can, but I want clear direction to staff and how the timeframe could be affected. Let's bring some new focus to this process. Also, in the 2nd Ward, shots fired have increased and it comes from people outside of our neighborhood. I think we have people who are knowledgeable about this issue and I want to compare notes with people where we can get some resolution. I also think the police have a good record of closing violent crime cases. Chief Jones is doing a good job and we don't always need saturation patrols. There is a triangle of problem areas. What we may need to do is install some portable cameras as part of the solution and I would like to see if there is support for this idea at a potential cost of \$45,000. This could be a stop-gap solution since we are building a new police station in that area. We are having too many shots-fired incidents right now in March. What do you think will happen in the summer when the weather is better? I'm not always a big fan of cameras, but I found a lot of support for this idea. Some of these incidents are idiosyncratic, but cameras might allow us to get the bad actors and the cameras can be moved to other areas eventually if needed and useful.

Skala thought this topic was a larger discussion than just council reserves. He has problems in his ward at Whitegate and other areas. Maybe cameras are a solution, but this needs to be a larger discussion. The other issue he wanted to address was the topic of fluoride. Skala said that the working group examined the issue of fluoride and that other places have changed strategies. Perhaps we need to continue the conversation about this additive, but tonight's presentation was very one-sided.

The Mayor said he was not sure about the mobile camera solution at Bode Drive. He does not want to give the chief a piece of equipment he doesn't need. We have worked this out downtown with private property owners taking care of this. I want to expand the discussion to a larger area. Skala added that years ago the city was willing to help pay the cost of cameras, but there was a larger issue about public

surveillance that emerged. The Mayor suggested pulling some stakeholders in from specific areas to determine specific needs and solutions.

Staff
(None.)

ADJOURNMENT
(Time: 8:21 PM)

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