



Columbia City Council Meeting Recap

Council Chamber, Columbia City Hall

7:00 PM

Monday, June 17, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Adjustment of Agenda

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

(Recited as indicated.)

(Present: Treece, Ruffin, Trapp, Skala, Pitzer, Peters, Thomas)

(Absent: None.)

(Minutes from June 3, 2019 were approved.)

(No changes to the agenda were made.)

SPECIAL ITEMS

(None.)

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC7-19 Board and Commission Applicants.

Broadband Planning Task Force – (7 vacancies)

Alspaugh, Bruce 2815 Skyview Rd - Ward 3

Angell, Natasha 1916 Thoreau Ct - Ward 2

Aumiller, Christopher 2206 Oak Harbor Ct - Ward 5

Knoth, Nick 2811 Lynnwood Dr - Ward 5

Kohly, Matt 2703 Clark Ln (Business) - Boone County

Paul, Danny 6475 Russian Setter Cir - Boone County

Schaefer, Sue 4616 NE Kingston Dr - Jackson County

(Skala asked to serve as a liaison to this board. That was agreed to. The Mayor also indicated that he would like to attend the first board meeting as well. Skala then suggested that this might be a voting member position. The Mayor thought it would be difficult without amending the original ordinance. The Mayor suggested taking this up at the end of the meeting and legal staff agreed to conduct some quick research.)

Columbia and Boone County Library District Board - (Mayor's Appointment) (2 vacancies)

Phillip Harrison, Andrea Kimura

Commission On Cultural Affairs Standing Committee On Public Art – (1 vacancy)

Tootie Burns

Community Land Trust Organization Board – (3 vacancies)

(No appointment made due to quorum issues)

Downtown Columbia Leadership Council – (1 vacancy)

(No appointment made due to residency issues)

Environment and Energy Commission – (1 vacancy)

Lincoln Brown

Water and Light Advisory Board – (2 vacancies)

Scott Fines, Thomas Jensen

SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

SPC36-19 Susan Franck - Necessary rebellion.

(Action: The first speaker indicated that she lived in the 6th Ward. She is also a member of Race Matters, Friends and It's Our Wild Nature. She believes in adherence to higher preferences. She read an essay about rebellion and discussed the risk of taking a contrary position, but that it is necessary and may result in betterment. Sometimes there are doubts, rejection or resentment. Sometimes individual pain becomes communal. Real solidarity can be born when individuals speak up and actually create a village. Rebellion wants to find what lies beneath the surface. The black sheep are heroes who stir up the good kind of trouble. We bring people to consciousness. The world needs your rebellion. Give things that have been muted a voice.)

SPC37-19 Sandra Warren - Trail being constructed at the end of Bluff Dale Drive.

(Action: This speaker is a single mother of six. She moved from McBaine to here so her kids would feel safe. With the new bike trail being built she does not believe it will be safe for her kids. There was a rapist who was going around campus. I don't think it's fair to put this trail in. Nobody asked the Bluffdale citizens how they feel. Right now, my kids can walk around safe. With this trail, I will worry about their safety. I don't want to have to explain to my kids that it's not safe. I can't put my kids at risk. At McBaine, you see everything. Now, I won't feel safe again. People are going to come into this area from everywhere. I don't want to have to worry about my kids and stuff like that. So, I am speaking up. At least I tried. I want the best for my kids. Thank you for your time. I also have signatures from Bluffdale residents.)

SPC38-19 Christopher Foss, Lisa Gilmore - Proposed bike trail connecting East Campus to Stephens Lake Park through Bluff Dale Drive.

(Action: These speakers are a family who just moved to this neighborhood. He agrees with the safety issues raised by the previous speakers. It also brings other hazards. We had a very small concrete project on Bluffdale. Six guys were working there for weeks with only one really working. This blocked the street. It affected our schedule and we had to take our kids out to Old 63. We just had a bug housefire in that area. We have no sidewalks. When you have a major hazard occur when the area is blocked off makes it more unsafe, and that is even before the trail is installed. This connects crime to our neighborhood and brings in unknown people. Other traffic hazards will occur, too. Let's reroute it somewhere else without blocking this up. This is a quiet neighborhood. Please consider that.)

SPC39-19 Carol Brown - Race Matters, Friends (RMF) community bail fund.

(Action: This speaker indicated that the bail fund had started in March. They have spent \$16,000. The people we bailed out don't have \$16,000. Because they are bailed out, they don't have to show up in shackles. We even had one guy who lost his car so now he was without transportation and a place to live because he was living in his car. Most things people get pulled over for are traffic offenses. But, because they can't afford it, and we don't have a good transportation system that runs 7 days a week, it makes the problem worse. We need to have integrated housing, true inclusionary zoning. It messes up our school patterns, and all these things create a web that is hard to escape. We need more affordable

housing. People are living on the trails and in parks. We are trying to do something, but we feel like we only have our finger in the dike. Please consider that.)

SPC40-19 Chad McLaurin - Challenging working relationship between Columbia Police Department and Columbia Public Schools System.

(Action: We started looking at a problem with the public school system brought up at the last meeting. We have a policy where schools can suggest that the school can contact the police and tell them they have a kid who needs to go to the juvenile facility. This should require an ongoing process. We have focused on outreach in the community. We need that in the schools. It is currently too heavy-handed and has no checks and balances. I would like to see the council open a dialogue and insure that our kids are safe and not being exploited. I am still educating myself on this problem. If we do a performances audit, this should be included. The cost would be less than 1% of the total city budget. Our resources should be spent wisely, and we should not harm anyone with our spending. Take a leadership role on this and make the system accountable. Do it during the lull in school this summer.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH27-19 Consider the FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Annual Action Plan. [See R99-19/Mayor Memo]

(Action: City Council approved a resolution setting a public hearing for June 17, 2019 to consider the FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Annual Action Plan. The FY 2019 Annual Action Plan must be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by June 21, 2019.

The FY 2019 Annual Action Plan identifies activities to be funded with the City's FY 2019 CDBG and HOME funding allocations. FY 2019 funding allocations include \$923,114 for CDBG and \$580,720 for HOME programs.

FY 2019 CDBG Funding Allocations are follows:

City of Columbia NRT Code Enforcement \$30,000
City of Columbia Demolition & Acquisition Program \$50,000
City of Columbia Rehab and Repair \$224,114
Services for Independent Living Minor Home Repair and Accessibility \$115,000
City of Columbia McKee Street Sidewalks \$150,000
Job Point Vocational Training \$98,000
Columbia Housing Authority Blind Boone Playground \$27,000
Food Bank Central Pantry \$19,000
King's Kids Facility Purchase and Renovations \$30,000
City of Columbia Fair Housing \$14,000
City of Columbia Administration \$100,000
City of Columbia Planning \$66,000
Total FY 2019 \$923,114

FY 2019 Home Funding Allocations

City of Columbia Homeownership Assistance \$300,000
CHDO set-aside Community Housing Dev. Org \$222,448
City of Columbia Administration \$58,272
Total \$580,720

FY 2019 HOME Funding Reallocations are follows:

Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity Boone Prairie (\$50,000)

Job Point-COMO CHDO 7 and 9 Third Ave. \$30,000

City of Columbia Homeownership Assistance \$20,000

This is year 5 of a five-year plan. They are accepting comments through today. Staff explained the funding process and public input. Goals and strategies are outlined and a public survey is conducted. RFPs are accepted and the programs are evaluated. The Community Development Commission reviews all of this and made one change which removed funds from a walkway project.

The public hearing was opened.

The first speaker appeared on behalf of Job Point. He noted that costs have increased significantly during the past year. He also noted that they are involved in some of the home projects. They are absorbing some of the costs and maintaining cost to buyers, but they are asking for additional funding. They are eliminating garages on the homes and using car ports instead and reducing labor costs by \$5,000.

The public hearing was closed and no further questions were forthcoming.

(See item R99-19 for final action by council.)

R99-19 Approving the FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Annual Action Plan.

(Action: In light of the previous presentation and testimony, the plan was approved unanimously.)

PH28-19 Proposed construction of the Hinkson Creek Trail improvement project, from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane. [See B155-19/Mayor Memo]

(Action: This project was identified in the 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot and includes a budget of \$950,000 with \$700,000 FY2019 and \$250,000 in FY2020. With a minor exception along East Walnut Street, the route of the trail and corresponding easements were included in the Conley Road development agreement.

The 1.1-mile concrete trail will exit Stephens Lake Park on East Walnut and then gradually follow the existing trail easement behind Lowes and WalMart and then connect to the existing Conley Road pedway. This project will then cross under I-70 and connect to the sidewalks on Clark Lane, providing a valuable trail connection to residents living north of Interstate 70. All city commissions that reviewed this approved the project and route. Three routes were considered. One required street placement and that was opposed by the Disabilities Commission. The third option presented future development problems and significant tree removal on land owned by the scouts. No trees will be removed in the preferred option. Some residents asked to use the creek all the way through, but it would result in a trail too steep for ADA requirements and require construction of a boardwalk. It would exceed budget parameters.

As part of the project, staff is requesting Council permission for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Crockett Engineering Consultants for engineering services for the design of the trail. Park staff will return to Council at a later date to accept the existing easement agreements for the trail

project. The design and construction of the trail is scheduled to begin summer 2019, with an anticipated completion date of winter 2020.

The public hearing was opened.

The first speaker indicated that where the little footbridge is might be where people throw away yard waste. Check this out. We look forward to riding along the trail.

The next speaker spoke in favor of this trail on behalf of the PedNet Coalition. It is a critical component of the city's comprehensive trail plan. I-70 is a major barrier to bike travel and this helps overcome that problem. It also connects the business district. This was already on the ballot and it passed with large margins.

The next speaker said that one trail ends near her house. She has never feared for her safety with all these new people. She likes the connectivity. Don't worry if someone new comes into your neighborhood. Too bad we do a better job on parks than we do on public transportation.

The public hearing was closed.

The Mayor asked when work would begin. Staff indicated that they would get final bids and start immediately. Skala noted that we have the only trail that goes under a federal highway. This is a great extension. Skala noted that parks might do better because the parks have a dedicated sales tax and public transportation does not.

(See item B155-19 for final council action on this item.)

B155-19 Authorizing construction of the Hinkson Creek Trail improvement project, from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane; authorizing the Purchasing Division to issue a contract for a portion of the work utilizing a duly authorized term and supply contractor; authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with Crockett Engineering Consultants, L.L.C. for structural and civil engineering services.

(Action: Based on the previous presentation and discussion, the council approved this item unanimously.)

OLD BUSINESS

PR88-19 Establishing a policy to guide the internal audit function; adopting an internal audit charter.

(Action: The Internal Audit Policy establishes and outlines the duties of the Internal Audit function, while the Internal Audit Charter supports the Policy by providing for a contract for Internal Audit responsibilities and independence, agreed to by the City Manager. This contract allows the Internal Auditor to have full access to City records and personnel as needed to perform the duties of the function, explains lines of reporting, and requires the Internal Auditor to adhere to Standards as to independence, planning, responsibilities, and reporting. It also establishes the Internal Audit quality assurance program, which allows the Internal Audit function to fully adhere to the Standards for each audit report to which the Standards apply.

The auditor will still report to the City Manager, but, if the auditor is auditing the city manager, the auditor can go straight to the city council with guidance from the law department. The auditor cannot oversee any departments that she will be auditing, but will have unrestricted access to financial records and documents from any department and unrestricted access to the legal department.

Pitzer asked about the auditor charter. Is it standard? Yes. This charter says that the city council will approve the charter. Is that once or is it updated? The auditor indicated that as conditions change it should be reviewed as needed. The city manager has reviewed this and approved it. Pitzer then asked if the public will have access to the process and if they can provide input. The auditor indicated that that was possible, but it will go through the posted cycle.

The Mayor asked if the auditor had any problems with the city manager being able to redirect funds from the auditor? What about a bad city manager? How to you preserve your independence? The auditor indicated that a safeguard that includes the city counselor provides a protection and that she believes that there are overlapping elements in the plan that help protect the integrity of the process. The Mayor asked if the council reviewed some audit findings and the city manager disagreed, then what would happen? The auditor indicated that there can always be follow up and the city still has the ability to send direction to the city manager.

Skala said he was a little uncomfortable with the lack of independence from the city manager, but that is required by the charter. You believe this role preserves our own ability to conduct a comprehensive audit. Is it sufficient for our needs? The auditor replied to Skala's questions regarding the robust nature of the audit charge planned. She indicated that she believed that there should be a larger staff to be able to handle the scope of work and not just junior staffers. Maybe a manager and two senior people. Skala thought the provisions about legal access were good and that there could be a more robust response. He is wary of inviting the state to get into auditing our operations.

The public hearing was opened.

One person suggested that she believed the auditor needed more staff and that we should not be afraid of state involvement in the process. Skala asked if the speaker had heard any political influence by the state auditor due to her political involvement. The speaker said we live in a time of fear mongering and she does not fear the integrity of the state auditor.

The hearing was closed.

Pitzer offered an amendment changing words from "if the auditor leaves the position", rather than "leaves employment with the city".

The amendment was accepted and passed unanimously.

The resolution, as amended was approved unanimously.)

PR89-19 Adopting the "Climate Action and Adaptation Plan" for the City of Columbia.

(Due to the complex nature of this report, specific discussion of all elements of this plan did not occur during regular public testimony or staff report. To obtain a copy of the entire report, follow this link:

[CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN DOWNLOAD](#)

(This plan is 107 pages long. If you want a summary of the plan in chart form, go to page 95 of the report.)

(Action: The Mayor indicated that there is an amendment sheet and that after the staff report there will be a presentation by the chair of the Climate Change Task Force and then comment from the public.

Staff presented a report and indicated that this plan is advisory only and is NOT a set of policies set in stone. She noted that the projections used in this report are based on solid data from NOAA and other government sources.

These policies will form an internal climate action committee and will assist in gathering information as we go forward. It will all be done by public process and currently is designed to be revenue neutral.

The first recommendation is to form a Climate Change Commission of some sort, but they need direction. Secondly, we need to recodify our code to recognize the elements of this plan. While there are some conflicts with other aspects of city policy, we recognize those differences, such as conflicts between higher density and preservation of green space. Staff also said they could use more staff as well.

The chair of the Climate Task Force was asked to provide a presentation. He introduced members of the task force in the crowd. More than 1,000 hours of public meeting time has been spent collectively by the board members, and even more evaluating elements of the plan. We believe this is our best effort. Please accept the report and discharge us from our current task. Climate change is upon us and we need to act immediately. We are already experiencing floods and climate fluctuations. Do not follow a path of denial and doubt. This will help us protect our citizens.

This is a climate preparedness plan. It can help protect us from climate change and address the economic realities attached to such a plan. Our goal is to reduce carbon emissions.

Calling for city operations to lead the way is critical to our success. We hope our new city manager will understand and support this plan. There are several sections to this plan that contain action items. We believe they are all achievable and affordable. However, none of this mandates any specific action or levy any costs on anyone. Any such action will have to be implemented by a future council. Much of this is done through awareness, leadership by example and incentives, not by imposing penalties.

Finally, the task force asks that a standing commission on climate change be established as its first official action. Peters noted that we already have an Energy and Environment Commission. Would that be a good commission to handle this or do you need a separate one? The speaker said he did not know and that had not been discussed. Be careful that whatever commission is chosen it should be made up entirely of city residents.

The public hearing was opened.

The first speaker asked that the council hit pause. He thought that the United Nations report was not appropriate because it lets foreign leaders tell us how to do our business. This represents more government control. This could increase our energy costs up to 17%. Some people hope we never have to build another gas station, but our energy economy is a major part of what powers this nation.

The next speaker said he believed that the purpose of local government is to be limited in nature and should focus on infrastructure and public safety. It is not designed to engage in flights of utopian fantasy. The predictions used in this study focus on higher range data and is not reflective of the overall empirical data. Perception of a lack of efficiency should not be used to invade the rights of personal property owners. He disagreed with the concept of listing energy usage since the tenant mix over time can change and building design is not a good measure for rating. Using electricity is not necessarily a

good choice because only a tiny fraction of electricity is generated from renewable sources. He also believed that it is not demonstrated that not building in the 500-year plan would be beneficial.

The next speaker represented several groups including the League of Women Voters, Renew Missouri and the Sierra Club. Members in attendance stood. The groups collected 488 petition signatures or personal pledges to abide by this new plan. We will increase conservations, purchase local foods and reduce waste. We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. At the current rate of change, we will raise our temperature by 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030 to 2050. Studies show that the cost of renewable energy is falling, making this an economically smart plan. We strongly support the formation of a new commission. This is our roadmap. Most of the actions here can result in lower cost through lower utility bills and by purchasing locally grown foods.

Another speaker appeared in opposition to this plan. Why is this an emergent issue when it does not appear in the citizen survey. Streets, Public safety and public water, sewer and other public utilities. There is no data showing that this fits with citizen needs. There is no certain cost data or financial impact in this plan. It would appear that more city funds will be required to implement this plan. Where will that leave services that compete for the same dollars. In our city charter we say that we must be economical. This does not meet that test since the plan cost are all unknown. No one wants dirty air and water, including me. I oppose this plan.

The next speaker spoke as a member of the climate task force. She said that transportation is a large contributor to the carbon footprint. We need to shift to alternative forms of transportation. Convenience is a big problem in making that shift. The new plan adopts a complete streets attitude, asks for more construction of trails and more convenience. Transition to walking and biking is one way. Changing to public transit must be prioritized to achieve the new goals. As we adjust our land use plans, we make adoption of alternative forms of transit more realistic. That will require changes in land use, zoning and the encouragement of more density in our building scheme. We will need additional help to achieve these goals. Please increase the Office of Sustainability funding and staffing. The city manager said he thought this was one of the most important plans ever to come forward. I couldn't believe that that statement came from John Glascock. My head almost exploded. Our plans are firmly anchored in reality. Please adopt this plan.

The next speaker thinks this proposal is disappointing. She has her own reasons for opposing this. She loves the environment. She hates litter. The amount of litter is a disgrace. Nothing in here addresses that problem. Safety is the most important thing to our citizens. Our streets are number two. Let's keep this all litter free. Riding bikes late at night does not feel safe at night. We don't have that kind of infrastructure and this plan does not address that.

The next speaker was a task force member. He wanted to address the cost complaints. Our commission did not undertake a full cost analysis, but all ideas were adopted in a cost-conscious manner. We believe that reliance on renewables will be cheaper in the long run than fossil fuels. And, our ability to generate energy from renewables is growing while coal is diminishing. What is driving this? Cost. We believe that renewable energy sources can be achieved without subsidies. We can create incentives for rate payers by passing on savings to rate payers. Climate bonds are a huge new sector of our economy. We can get in on this form of future funding. Rates will decrease as we turn to new sources of energy and forms of bond funding. At some point, we can also retire old debt with new forms of financing. The Mayor asked that we look at new financing options in the future.

Skala said he hoped that changing the mindset of the Water and Light department from asset based to a distributed utility generation model. The speaker said they worked hard on the task force to create a change in focus to achieve a sea change in how people approach their jobs every day. As we change, we reduce our regulatory compliance costs. Staff seems open to those possibilities.

The next speaker represented nurses and the Board of Health. They sent a letter of support and participated in these discussions. There has been an appreciation of equity in the crafting of this plan. Thank you for embracing a long-term goal. This is not for me. This is for my children. Finally, I want to recognize that this started with a vulnerability plan. Number one on the list was a=safety. As we move forward, please include Public Health folks at the table.

The next speaker thanked the city council for looking at this issue. In the last couple of years, Columbia has lost its leadership position in some areas. However, we are leaders in adopting Energy Star compliance. Please continue that program and that work. Bring us up to the front of the region of cities.

The next speaker is a pastor of a church in Columbia. The environment presents us with strong social challenges and existential questions, including what is moral. We are individuals with dominion over creation. Sometimes, we interpret this as a cost-benefit analysis. However, there are other considerations and we need to adjust our moral framework. We are not just consumers who are here to make a profit. We are all connected to life and the earth and some of us would say to God. We are human. This plan is one small part of this way of being. During our worship sessions, we noted that our lives are deeply intertwined with all of creation.

Next a speaker admitted that he was a tree hugging environmentalist. He supports this. He told some short stories. If you take a pot of water and put a frog in it, the frog will like it. If you heat the water, pretty soon that frog is dead. If you put a frog in pond of lily pads, and if the lily pads double every day, what happens on day 29? The pond is now half full of lily pads, not water. Things are changing quickly. Arctic sea ice and coral reefs are dying. What does that have to do with us? Well, we think globally, but we act locally. We need to address this locally. The state is not doing it. It's up to us. We have a great trail system and good energy conservation programs. Its up to us to take the lead. It is a moral imperative. Pay me now or pay me later. Invest now and it will save us in the long-term.

Another speaker said he was a retired physician. He has seen the harmful effects of climate change. It is a public health emergency, facilitating the spread of infectious disease, threatening food production, leading to wildfires and flooding. In the last few years we have experienced 2 - 500-year floods in this area and 1 - 100-year flood. We have children displaced by flooding. We think of older people as being most susceptible. But in many ways, climate change negatively affects fetuses, infants and young children. This requires action by all levels of government, including local.

Another speaker said he grew up when many of our cities were engulfed in smog and our bald eagle population was in serious decline. During the Nixon Administration, we passed the Clean Air and Water Acts. That worked pretty well. Now we are faced with new challenges and we need to respond to insure our quality of life in the future. Please support this plan.

The next speaker indicated that her daughter is 24 years old. When she was 12 she learned the term greenhouse gas. She learned more about this topic and studied at Stanford University and attended international global conferences on the topics. She believes that global warming can have enormous impacts. We need to limit global warming. To prevent 1.5 degree warming we must take action by the

year 2030. We do not have time to wait. It's too easy to ignore this. We can just turn up the air-conditioning or turn up the radio. The luxury of ignorance is no longer satisfactory. As youth, we cannot watch quietly. There is no time for apathy.

The final speaker read from the report. The paragraph noted that "one way to improve the situation is to improve communication among city employees." We cannot have silos. Set the groundwork for breaking down silos. This will help us achieve goals dealing with a large number of priorities. I think we need to become different kinds of humans. We have adopted crazy ideas about property ownership this is a=base on marginalizing people and old notions of slavery. Wouldn't it be amazing if we produced meeting minutes that were longer than one sentence long. We have to get our proverbial act tougher as a community.

The public hearing was closed.

The Mayor thought the task force was disparate in its makeup and that the plan reflects that. This report is a series of recommendations, not regulations. How we move forward will depend on how we can balance all of our competing needs. This is a tangible roadmap for both the short and long term.

Skala said he supports this action. He is a believer in this type of approach. We started on this when we created a renewable portfolio. Our goals then were aggressive, and we are starting to achieve those goals. Most of the scientific community appreciates that climate change is actually real. We do have a balancing act to do as a city council. We have to figure out how to balance our budgets. It is disingenuous to say it won't cost anything. It already has and it will in the future. There are a lot of positive things said tonight along with some criticism. Our small step can be seen as a guideline for other communities. It's not just about temperatures increasing. It has to do with migration. There is a new coal mine opening up in Australia. It is next to the Great Barrier Reef. That might be gone someday. We owe it to the people who worked on this proposal to figure out how to implement it.

Trapp agreed that there will be tough choices going forward. We should look at this in the long term, not through a short-term political lens. There has been criticism that this is a long-term plan and we don't know the costs. That's like our CATSO plan. It's a forty-year plan and we don't know costs on that, but it helps guide our decision making as we go forward. If we want to establish a commission, I would like to retool the EEC.

Thomas thanked the staff and task force. He believes this will help mitigate the impacts of climate change. He was particularly happy to see the move toward getting out of long-term coal contracts. We have a clear indication that we must embrace smart growth policies. We need to reduce our travel distances. The CATSO Plan was mentioned. We must not relook at that too, because it is in direct contrast to this plan if we are really looking for transportation mode shift. I want to thank the late Mayor Hindman for his work on transportation issues and trails. We can achieve these goals.

The Mayor asked for the adoption of a simple amendment. It passed unanimously.

The Mayor thinks that retooling the Energy and Environment Commission might be a good approach. We need to figure out how to do that. Skala said the staff should come back with some options, including the creation of some sort of permanent commission.

The bill, with technical amendments, passed unanimously.

With that, the Climate Action Task Force was disbanded.)

B149-19 Authorizing an annexation agreement with Fred Overton Development, Inc. for property located on the north side of Gillespie Bridge Road (Case No. 18-80).

(Action: The applicant and owner, Fred Overton Development, LLC, is seeking approval of an annexation agreement to permit connection of a proposed 34-lot single-family subdivision to be known as Perche Ridge to the City's sanitary sewer system. Pursuant to Policy Resolution 115-97A, a non-contiguous parcel of land seeking connection to the City's public sewer is required to enter into an annexation agreement prior to receiving service.

The subject parcel contains approximately 17 acres and is west of the Perche Creek on Gillespie Bridge Road north of Coats Lane. The site is currently undeveloped and is noncontiguous to the City's corporate limits on all four sides. It should be noted that this parcel of property and an adjoining tract of land to the east, abutting the City's corporate boundary, was previously considered for annexation and permanent zoning in December 2017 and was denied by Council.

The acreage is proposed to be developed with 34 single-family residential lots and will be accessible from Gillespie Bridge Road via two points of ingress/egress. Gillespie Bridge Road is an unimproved County-maintained minor arterial and will require additional right of way dedication to bring the roadway into compliance with the CATSO standards. Such right of way dedication will be part of the County subdivision approval process. It should also be noted that this property is located west of the "Perche Flats" and the Gillespie Road Bridge. Access to the site can be compromised at particular times of the year due to flooding of the Perche Creek.

The proposed layout of the subdivision has been reviewed by Boone County Resource Management and determined to be in general compliance with County subdivision standards. If annexed, it will seek city R-1 zoning.

The subject acreage is not shown as lying within the Urban Services Area as depicted in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Such designation is not the sole determinant to the appropriateness of considering extension of public sewer to the parcel. The boundary was envisioned as establishing a marker beyond which consideration of developer contributions, not public investments, should be applied to make such acreages developable. In this specific instance, the City's sanitary sewer system is capable of supporting the proposed 34- lots of new development. Furthermore, the City is not being asked to invest public dollars in the extension or future maintenance of the sanitary sewer system with the development. Pursuant to the terms of the Annexation Agreement, there is a corresponding Sanitary Sewer Connection Agreement between the City of Columbia and Boone County Regional Sewer District.

At this time the City is being asked to approve a pre-annexation agreement solely for the ability of the owner to obtain connection to the public sewer system. Aside from limited development plan review responsibilities, no other City services would be extended to the subject parcel at this time. While an on-site package sewer system may be possible to address the sewerage needs of the 34-lots and eliminate the need for this request, the authorization to allow the extension of City public sewer to the property is believed to be in the best interest of the public and the environment.

Pitzer asked about details regarding the agreement with the Boone County Regional Sewer District.

The public hearing was opened.

An engineer appeared and offered to answer questions. He addressed the first question about the agreement with the sewer district and explained the nature of the relationship. He added that they meet or exceed stormwater conditions; meet and exceed all land use plans of the county and meet or exceed city expectations. There are no city utilities serving this development. Annexation will not obligate the city to spend any money on this project. The extension of sewer will be handled by the applicant. The city report even says that sewer extension will be in the best interest of the area. It is more environmentally friendly than a point discharge system due to the existence of Perche Creek. The end users will pay more in user and connection fees than any city users.

The proposal is for a pre-annexation agreement right now. We will cover the costs. Pitzer asked about the user charges of 80%. Staff explained that the users will pay 150% for connection charges; 100% of the base charge and 80% of the volume charge. This is based on past policy. Pitzer asked if they would pursue a different sewer system if they don't get annexation. The engineer indicated that they would, but they will not go there until a decision is rendered here. This is based on past policy and it is nothing new.

Skala asked about flooding issues. We understand that this area is susceptible to flooding and we do know where we can place our buildings. We have worked with the county engineer to determine safe locations. Earlier, there were some concerns about emergency services. Fire protection will come from the other direction. Public safety will most likely come from the other direction. The county is not as worried about this as the city is. Skala noted that this is outside the Urban Service Area and that most previous agreements were inside that zone. The engineer indicated that the urban service territory was designed to make a determination of how the city would expend funds. The city will not have to expend money on this project. Thomas indicated that if this property is annexed in the future, then police and fire will have to come from this side of the creek. The engineer agreed but noted that there is no obligation to annex if this becomes contiguous. He also noted that if we have to go another route for sewer, it will be based on a county point system and we should be able to meet those criteria.

Thomas asked if this met with approval from surrounding neighbors. He said it is impossible to know how all commissioners weigh all factors. Peters asked who does the work on this project? The engineer said they build it then the BCRSD maintains it. What about in 20 years? The sewer district will take responsibility forever. Pitzer asked why that is? The staff said it's the way it has always been done and the way state law reads, this is the way we have to write the agreements. Ruffin asked why it is more environmentally sound to discharge into the city system than to build onsite? Staff said it is more difficult to meet environmental standards with point discharges. Thomas asked if the large system suffered from leakage. Staff said that small and large systems have leakage and that just being bigger doesn't make them worse.

The public hearing was continued.

The next speaker indicated that she is opposed to the annexation of this parcel because nothing has changed and this area still floods. If you are going to build up the land, where will the water go? It seems like it will go to Gillespie Bridge Road more often. Also, it seems like the route for emergency services will be too circuitous. This area flooded 23 times in the past several years. It turns a 12-minute drive from here to Wal Mart into a half hour drive. I can see these new residents asking for Gillespie Bridge Road to be raised and I don't know where the money will come from. I also don't think this road can handle the traffic. One man was killed while walking along this road.

The next speaker showed a plat map of the new subdivision. He showed how the flood plain encroached on this land. He then showed a photo of the access road. He then showed a picture of it being flooded in May of this year. He noted the inconvenience of such flooding and the danger it could pose. He asked for denial of the request.

The next speaker indicated that he lives across the street from this area. Nothing has changed, except that with global warming flooding happens more often. Most of the eastern end of this land is underwater right now. It is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from other city areas and will never become contiguous because connecting lands will never be allowed to be zoned for development. It makes no sense to keep expanding the city limits just to suit one landowner. By annexing one side of the road, it will create confusion for public safety response. By increasing traffic on this road, it will make this area less safe and will put these residents at risk. Also, there is no provision for public space or parks on this parcel. It makes no sense for the city to bear any cost on this request. This does not seem fair. It could lead to more sporadic future development and pockets of development in farm areas.

The next speaker lives in this area. Emergency vehicle dispatch in this area is 14 minutes at a minimum during flood events. This is a concern for people in our area. In an emergency situation, we are in trouble. We don't want any more flooding or anything making the situation worse. There will be more traffic and more traffic meeting at the bridge going both ways.

One additional speaker is on the homeowners' association board of Westcliffe. Our concern is that these are the wrong sized lots since most on the county side are on 2.5 acre lots. This is not a great way to go about this.

An attorney appeared on behalf of the applicant and noted that this is really a question about how this property will be served by sewer service. It is clear that tapping into the system is the best way. The other arguments have to do with actual annexation if it were to occur in the future. That is not under review right now. Skala agreed that this is not about land use as the attorney noted, but he can see some sort of future obligation if it IS annexed. He thinks there might be some environmental impacts, but he does not want to dictate to the county how they decide land use. He is uncomfortable with that responsibility.

Trapp said he was mixed on this request. He thinks it is better to tap into the city sewer. On the other hand, the council memo says that this might be the subject of future land use planning. He does not think that we have that figured out yet and that we would benefit from a west area planning study first. We have never reached a consensus about what this will look like in the future. We could be plopping an inappropriate subdivision down in one area. I don't want to see this tying up our resources. I think rural clustering is a good idea. How we get from here to there, I don't know.

Thomas said he agreed with Trapp, but he is opposed to this development. He will vote no. He believes that a West Area Plan should be developed and we should do that in conjunction with the county. I think it is called for here before we consider any development west of the Perche Creek. Pitzer said he may agree with some things that were said, but our responsibility is not to dictate land use or the type of the development or any of that. That should be directed to the county commission. That is not our decision to make and it should not form the basis of our decision. If you disagree with pre-annexation agreements, that's one thing, but this is outside our purview.

Peters said she would rather have this development connected to a regional sewer line. Regarding the half acre lots on one side of the creek and 2acre lots on another side, they can coexist – and they have in the past. And when it floods, it floods now.

The Mayor said if this was not appropriate for annexation 2 years ago, it is certainly not appropriate for pre-annexation. This will obligate us in ways that we do not need or want. Peters disagreed and indicated that this would not obligate us to provide services. The Mayor countered that someday we may become contiguous and then we will have already taken this step. Skala agreed and noted that this could be a capacity issue.

The motion passed 4 to 3 with Treece, Skala and Thomas voting NO.)

B150-19 Authorizing a connection agreement with the Boone County Regional Sewer District for sewer connection of the proposed Perche Ridge Subdivision located on Gillespie Bridge Road to the City's wastewater collection and treatment system.

(Action: The Boone County Regional Sewer District is the sewer service provider for areas in unincorporated Boone County. This connection agreement allows the District to connect the collection system for this subdivision to the City's wastewater collection and treatment system. This agreement is similar to other agreements currently in place between the District and the City. The District will be responsible for maintenance of the collection system up to the point of connection with the City's system and the City will provide wastewater treatment.

The sewer district will pay the City 100% of the monthly base charge for each property connected to the City's system and 80% of the monthly volume charge for each property.

Short-Term Impact: As homes are constructed, each lot would pay a connection fee of \$3600 until the property is annexed at which time the connection fee would be \$2400. This would be between \$81,000.00 and \$122,400.00. The average monthly sewer revenue would be \$20.31 per lot, based on an average water use of 4 ccf per month. The average monthly sewer bill would be \$20.31 per lot, based on an average water use of 4 ccf per month. At full development, 34 lots, the annual sewer revenue would be \$8,286.48.

In light of the previous action and testimony, the question was called.

The motion to approve passed 4 to 3 with Treece, Thomas and Skala voting NO.)

B159-19 Authorizing a first amendment to development agreement for Somerset Village with St. Charles Road Development, LLC; authorizing an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with St. Charles Road Transportation Development District.

(Action: Staff presented a brief report and indicated that this was the extension of a plan adopted back in 2015. The residential is underway and the University of Missouri would like to acquire a parcel that will trigger an amendment to the original agreement; that financial obligations of the current owner do not extend to the University of Missouri; that there is an acknowledgement that the developer and city understand that the University will not be paying property taxes or be subject to some land use regulations. There will also be a credit tracking spreadsheet to keep track of how the credits are quantified. The TDD in this area only applies to the commercially zoned areas but the building assessments will remain in place.

This is somewhat complicated but appropriate.

Thomas asked if the TDD improvements have been designed and approved. Staff said that they had been identified; that a roundabout will be installed, that Battle will be improved and that some improvements are underway. Thomas indicated that he thinks expanding the road network flies in the face of the Climate Change Plan they just adopted and that widening and expanding these roads are NOT improvements. Skala asked if the changes being sought are revenue neutral. Staff said that was true.

Staff further noted that there was a 1,700-acre transportation plan that was conducted years ago and that that determines the building fees that are assessed. We now have two schools in the area and other improvements that will now be served. The developer will be paying these fees in addition to normal taxes and fees. Peters noted that St. Charles looks long and straight. Will we need traffic calming in the future? Staff said that these concerns were raised in the past but there has been no actual call for traffic calming at this point. We do have processes for intervening when speeds become excessive.

Pitzer asked if a medical office is allowed in this zoning? Staff indicated that such a use would be allowed. Pitzer asked if the University was exempt from all land use rules? Staff said that they must follow building codes and stormwater rules, but generally they are exempt from zoning and taxation. The Mayor asked if Mr. Wolverton would like to add testimony. He did not.

There was no further public comment.

Trapp thought this was a good use for the area and that he thought this was reasonable. The Mayor said he talked to legal and believed this comports with regulations. He noted that if this generated funds, those funds will flow through the city, therefore he thinks there should be some citizen representation. He wants to add a full-voting member to this board. There was discussion of this with the legal staff, and the Mayor believes that in the new agreement being entered into tonight, that would be allowed. The Mayor noted that the owner agreed to such a change and made an amendment to that effect.

**The amendment to add a voting taxpayer member to the board passed unanimously.
The proposal, as amended, passed unanimously.)**

B160-19 Approving the Final Plat of “The Shoppes at Somerset Village Plat 1” located on the northwest corner of the intersection of St. Charles Road and Battle Avenue; authorizing a performance contract.

(Action: **By virtue of the previous action and discussion a vote was held on this item.**

The bill was approved unanimously.)

CONSENT AGENDA

(All items on the Consent Agenda were approved unanimously and without abstention.)

B146-19 Approving the Final Plat of “Westbury Village” located on the northwest corner of Scott Boulevard and the southwest corner of Smith Drive; authorizing a developer agreement guaranteeing installation of public improvements and irrevocable letter of credit (Case No. 118-2019).

B147-19 Approving the Final Plat of “Wellington Villas Plat 4” located on the east side of Canyon Ridge Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 98-2019).

B148-19 Vacating a sewer easement on Lot 5 and Lot 6 within Academy Village Plat 1 located southeast of the Green Meadows Road and Carter Lane roundabout (Case No. 121-2019).

- B151-19** Amending Chapter 14 and Chapter 24 of the City Code to expand the designated metered mobile food vending zones within the Downtown Community Improvement District (CID).
- B152-19** Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating transportation sales tax funds to the Public Works Department street maintenance account.
- B153-19** Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to pay costs of a condemnation settlement related to the Burnam Rollins Providence Intersection project.
- B154-19** Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds for construction of the Forum Boulevard and Green Meadows Road intersection improvement project.
- B156-19** Accepting a donation from Petco Foundation for equipment and supplies for the arson dog in the Fire Department - Fire Marshal's Division; amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
- B157-19** Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds for the Flat Branch expansion project.
- B158-19** Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to finalize and close out the Short Street parking garage capital improvement project.
- R90-19** Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of a storm drain replacement project on a portion of South Greenwood Avenue.
- R91-19** Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of the FY 2019 storm water rehabilitation improvement project along portions of Ann Street, Bluff Dale Drive, McKee Street, Ridgemont, Rollins Road at Brewer Drive and Sinclair Road.
- R92-19** Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of the FY 2019 sanitary sewer rehabilitation project.
- R93-19** Setting a public hearing: consider the FY 2020 Capital Improvement Project Plan for the City of Columbia, Missouri.
- R94-19** Granting a temporary waiver from the requirements of Section 16-185 of the City Code to allow possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages for the annual Global First Responder/Rally in the Alley fundraising event.
- R95-19** Authorizing a contract with North East Community Action Corporation for the provision of Title X family planning services.
- R96-19** Authorizing a software license agreement with Remix Software, Inc. for strategic planning and support for the Go COMO fixed route transit operations.
- R97-19** Approving the by-laws of the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association.
- R98-19** Approving the Preliminary Plat for "Boone Prairie" located on the east side of Brown Station Road and south of US Highway 63 (Case No. 117-2019).

NEW BUSINESS

(None.)

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

(All items introduced and read as indicated.)

- B161-19*** Approving the Final Plat of "Academy Village Plat 3" located southeast of the Green Meadows Road and Carter Lane roundabout; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 120-2019).
- B162-19** Amending Chapter 2 of the City Code to change the name of the "Columbia Community Development Commission" to the "Housing and Community Development Commission" and updating requirements relating to membership, meetings, duties and responsibilities, and conflicts of interest.
- B163-19*** Authorizing assignment of interests in grants of easements from Conley Road Transportation Development District relating to the recently completed Conley Road to East Business Loop 70 extension project.

B164-19* Authorizing a lease agreement and temporary construction easement with Wendling Development, LLC for construction, operation and maintenance of a public transit shelter and pad on the east side of Carter Lane, approximately 200 feet from the intersection of Carter Lane and Green Meadows Road.

B165-19* Authorizing the acquisition of additional easements for the Nifong Boulevard corridor improvement project between Providence Road and Forum Boulevard/Willowcreek Lane.

B166-19* Authorizing the replacement of storm drainage and sanitary sewer infrastructure along a portion of Garth Avenue north of Lynn Street; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.

B167-19* Authorizing the extension of two 13.8 kilovolt electrical feeder circuits from the Rebel Hill Substation to the proposed ten (10) megawatt Truman Solar Facility located east of Burnside Drive; authorizing the Purchasing Division to issue a contract for a portion of the work utilizing a duly authorized term and supply contractor.

B168-19* Authorizing a master power purchase and sale agreement confirmation letter with NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC for a capacity exchange as it relates to Midcontinent Independent System Operator's (MISO's) resource adequacy requirements.

B169-19* Authorizing the acquisition of easements for replacement of the water distribution infrastructure along Country Club Drive South and Elliott Drive.

B170-19* Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code relating to the private source inflow and infiltration reduction program.

B171-19* Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds from the Sanitary Sewer Utility Fund retained earnings account to various FY 2019 sanitary sewer capital improvement projects.

B172-19* Amending the FY 2019 Annual Budget by appropriating funds from the sale of Water and Electric System Revenue Bonds to various FY 2019 water capital improvement projects.

B173-19* Accepting conveyances for sewer purposes; accepting Stormwater Management/BMP Facilities Covenants.

B174-19* Accepting conveyances for utility purposes.

REPORTS

(The following three items relate to the same subject.)

REP51-19 North 763 Community Improvement District - Board Membership.

(Continued from the June 3, 2019 Council Meeting.)

(See REP53-19 for a report on action.)

REP52-19 North 763 Community Improvement District - FY 2019 Annual Budget.

(Continued from the June 3, 2019 Council Meeting.)

(See REP53-19 for a report on action.)

REP53-19 North 763 Community Improvement District - Reports on Services, Revenues, Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017) and Fiscal Year 2018 (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018).

(Continued from the June 3, 2019 Council Meeting.)

(Action: The Mayor noted that in a previous meeting it was discovered that the North 763 CID had not been in full compliance with all of the reporting and accounting requirements of a CID, including the fact that a majority of the current board members' terms of office had expired without application for reappointment or replacement. After discussions with a majority of the board members of the current board, he felt confident that they are addressing those requirements and will take some steps, including separating the accounting function from the legal representation element going forward.

That said, the Mayor appointed Matt Gass, Kim Barnes and Ryan Vossen to new terms of service on the board without dissent from any council members. The reports on activity were accepted without comment.)

REP56-19 Proposed amendments to Chapter 2 of the City Code as it relates to accounts receivable administration.

(Action: Chapter 2-208(13) provides that the finance director is required to, “establish a policy and procedure for determining and handling uncollectible accounts owed the city for utility services. This section covers only accounts owed for utility services. There are other types of city accounts receivable for which the same procedure should be followed to provide consistency. Examples of accounts receivable other than for utilities include billings for landfill services, retiree health insurance premiums and parking permits. In the case of utility delinquencies, the city can turn the case over to a collection service after 60 days. Outside of that, the policy is not clear. Staff is looking for direction from the council.

The Mayor said he believed he had only seen a report such as this once. Staff said there is an ordinance on the books and that if we simply followed that ordinance and applied it to various collection accounts other than utilities, where appropriate, we could do that. On development fees, you have to pay each time you draw a permit and you have to be current.

No official action was taken, but council concurred that this should be cleaned up before budget hearings began.)

REP57-19 Correspondence from the Tree Board.

(Action: The Tree Board met for the first time on April 8, 2019 with several members of It’s Our Wild Nature in attendance. Following that meeting It’s Our Wild Nature sent a letter to the Tree Board via the City Arborist, the staff liaison. In that letter, It’s Our Wild Nature requested that the Tree Board visit the site of the City’s Shepard to Rollins Trail project. The Tree Board responded with the following recommendations:

Knowing that the City is seeking to promote both the benefits of development and trees, the Tree Board has developed two recommendations to aid in this endeavor, moving forward.

- 1. The Board recommends that the City pursue development of an internal tree canopy policy that better considers tree-related decisions in the capital improvement project design process.*
- 2. In the interim, while the internal policy is being developed, the Board recommends that the City seek the input of certified arborists (staff or contractual) during the design process of capital improvements projects.*

The letter suggests that the City should lead by example since they have included similar kinds of requirements for private developers in the new UDC.

Staff indicated that they have made field visits with arborists to a site in question and that they believe they can implement this in general at all city development sites. Skala noted that he supports such a concept and so did Peters. Staff said that sometimes they rely on foresters instead of arborists and that it is impossible to determine what level of involvement will be accorded to the added arborists.

Parks staff stated that they have many certified arborists on their internal staff, many of whom are former foresters who have received certification to be arborists. They have been very active in evaluating the trees in the area in question. Skala added that sometimes we need to look at tree canopy protection, particularly as a home for bats or other wildlife. The Mayor asked if the city is required to follow its own rules for development? Staff said that they are and that they do, but construction of infrastructure is not considered development. It is called linear construction, and in those circumstances that are not bound by such rules.

Skala said that the flaw in this is that the 25% tree set aside it can be violated because some of it is linear development.

No formal action was taken.)

REP58-19 Administrative Public Improvement Project: Installation of Bus Shelters on West Broadway and Clark Lane.

(Action: Staff proposes to install two bus shelters, one along West Broadway at the Broadway Shopping Center and the other along Clark Lane at the Lakeview Mall. The project includes construction of an 8'x5' concrete boarding pad, an 8'x12' concrete shelter pad, and installation of the shelter structure. The shelters will be constructed in existing street right-of-way and it's anticipated that temporary construction easements will not be needed. The total estimated project cost is \$20,000 (includes pads and shelters) and will be funded by the ¼ cent Capital Improvement sales tax.

With no objection, staff will proceed.)

REP59-19 Update of Chapter 24 New Article X pertaining to Public Utility Rights-of-Way Management.

(Action: The total number of right of way permits issued between 5/1/2018 and 5/2/2019 was 627. Permits are \$50 each; therefore, the program has generated \$31,350 in the first year, which is less than the additional revenue originally anticipated of \$84,000. Staff is of the opinion that its due in part to some of the issues identified below, less development overall during this time frame, and the possibility that the City missed a significant portion of the boom in fiber optic installation. However, staff does anticipate some of this to be balanced by small cell wireless installations.

Pitzer said that some companies originally feared that this would be an unwieldy process, but it sounds like it is going OK. He noted that there were some areas for improvement noted. Those follow.

What needs improvement:

- 1) City staff has concerns that some of the utility companies may not be applying for permits at all and have not been as responsive as City staff would have originally hoped. To correct this, City staff may need to begin checking Missouri one-call tickets in an effort to identify contractors performing work without a permit.
- 2) Some utilities do not provide citizens good notification prior to a project starting (i.e. door hangers). Note: several utility companies ARE doing a really good job of this notification, and it greatly helps reduce the number of concerns/complaints.
- 3) Possibly create an account billing or escrow system in the future. Some of the larger utility companies have some trouble paying for each permit as they go, due to their corporate procedures to have checks cut, or their credit card type is not accepted by the City currently.
- 4) Staff believes that many companies are not applying for permits properly while performing service connections. Many of these are within the utility easement only, and do not require a permit, but not all. Services are typically hand dug or done using

low impact equipment. However, these are much more difficult to catch because the contractor may only be on the site for thirty minutes to an hour.

5) There was one location that was excavated three times in the past year by different utilities. It would be nice to have a way to encourage them all to work together.

6) Still working with the Law Department to establish the franchise documents as called out in the ordinance. To date Ameren, Mediacom, and Socket have inquired about this process with a main goal of pursuing an annual maintenance permit.

7) The City of Columbia anticipates receiving permits for small cell wireless facilities in the near future. Many of these will be located in the City right of way. Based upon information from other municipalities, they will likely be a challenge. Community Development and the Utility Department are currently working on a workflow/online permitting process based on the small cell wireless ordinance (023793) City Council passed on 2/16/2019.

Thomas asked about any reduction in complaints from neighbors after this process was implemented. Staff said that the companies were doing a better job at informing residents about upcoming work.

No further action was taken.)

REP60-19 Amendment to the FY 2019 Annual Budget - Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds.

[Memo] Recommended Action:

(Action: No further action required. A justification for this was provided in writing by the City Manager.)

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Public

A speaker thanked the City Manager for engaging in a conversation with him a few weeks ago. Please consider this. If I am in a mobile home or you are in a new piece of property, you need to separate the idea of what kind of meter you are going to install and the confusion that might result. I had a three-foot cross line depth. That should be required across the board. We need an electrician on site when installations occur to replace heat tape or other stuff that gets torn up. We need trained people to do installations. Furthermore, I feel sorry for people who ride the buses. If you don't get on the bus at the right time, you can't get back home. This system needs to get tweaked. Thanks for bringing it back to Wabash, but let's improve this system with limited resources. Finally, at the front city counter, you should have someone who can give help after hours.

Another speaker had some quick thoughts. She thought there were a lot of terms that were used that need explanations and people need more education and repetition about these terms. He also noted that Skala had said that the parks do well because they had a dedicated sales tax. She took that wrong. She thinks that public transportation doesn't have a dedicated sales tax like the parks, but it should be a priority and is more important. We need to break out of our box of only thinking about things one way. That is important. I also noted that Skala is going to a national conference. How do you implement those ideas here? It's not enough to learn stuff. You need to implement it.

Council

Thomas asked for a report about the Ridgefield Park potential request to "downzone" some property used as a park from R-2 to M-OF (Office) and their desire to be able to qualify the homeowners association to receive the discount in fees that would be allowed if they downzoned. The Mayor said he was not sure that was the best thing to do. They will talk about it later.

Trapp asked for a report on what it would take to initiate a West Columbia Area Plan. Peters asked for a Southeast Columbia Plan study as well. The Mayor jokingly asked if they wanted an annexation plan, too? NO. Peters then asked that in the past few weeks we have heard about how school resource officers interact with the city. I want a report on how all of this fits together. The Mayor noted that the city will send a letter asking for increase contributions from the schools for resource officers. Peters thought we should continue the practice. The Mayor said he does not mind pulling them if they won't work with us and if they are undercompensated.

Skala did note that we have a dedicated parks sales tax. He defended that remark saying he was not trying to compare the parks with transportation, but wished that we had a viable source of funding for public transportation. He added that he is attending a national meeting on Racial Equity and that he wants the continued discussion. In fact, they were having those conversations via Facebook until he was unfriended by the previous speaker. He next brought up the discussion about broadband. He thought that the way it worked with the water quality task force, he was a voting member but he avoided becoming any kind of officer in the group and he thinks that it would be a more fertile discussion if a council member and citizens could all be members of that board. Staff said that it would require a change to the ordinance. The Mayor said he didn't mind if a council member was a liaison or non-voting member, but he thinks it crosses the line sometimes when council members are voting members. He would like to go to the first meeting and figure out what their scope of work would be.

Skala also expressed his condolences upon the passing of former Mayor Hindman. Treece indicated that all members of the council echoed those thoughts.

Staff
(None.)

ADJOURNMENT
(Time: 11:07 PM)

©2019 CityWatch-Columbia

(This document may not be reproduced, redistributed or significantly cited in other works without the written permission of the author.)