



Columbia City Council Meeting Recap
Council Chamber, Columbia City Hall
7:00 PM
May 18, 2020

(SPECIAL NOTICE ATTACHED TO THE MAY 4, 2020 AGENDA AS PRINTED)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, there are special rules in effect for receipt of public comment on city council agenda items. The receipt of verbal public comments has been temporarily suspended for any agenda item which is not a public hearing required by state or federal law. In lieu of verbal public comments, written public comments are being accepted. Written comments should be submitted to cityclerk@como.gov by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18.

Every written comment should contain the following information from the individual submitting the public comment: the agenda item to which the public comment applies together with the name and address of the person submitting the public comment. Items that cannot be submitted electronically may be mailed or submitted as otherwise designated by the City Clerk, who may be contacted at 573-874-CITY (2489).

Any citizen who is unable to communicate utilizing written communication may contact the City Clerk at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting to request a reasonable accommodation. The City Clerk shall provide each council member with a copy of such written public comments and shall file a copy of such comments with the agenda items for the council meeting for which the comments were submitted.

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Pledge of Allegiance	(Recited as indicated.)
Roll Call	(Present: Treece, Trapp, Ruffin, Pitzer, Skala, Thomas, Peters) (Thomas, Skala joined via conference call.) (Absent: None.)
Approval of Minutes	(Minutes from May 4, 2020 were approved.)
Adjustment of Agenda	(No adjustments.)

SPECIAL ITEMS

S18-20 COVID-19 Update.

(Action: Director Browning announced that there had been 9 new cases since the last meeting, with five coming recently. There are currently 7 COVID people hospitalized in Boone County. One is a Boone County resident. We have had more resident testing than our relative population size. The hospitals in this area are not currently overburdened and no one in this county is on a ventilator. We do have a gap in testing in asymptomatic people. However, we have tested some and results are starting to come in. In terms of contact tracing we have identified new people to help in that regard. That may include the

Redcap Consortium. It provides a secure data collection tool that is HIPAA compliant. There is not cost to join the organization.

Reopening is a question. We are looking for ways to move this forward. There are some thoughtful businesses doing it correctly. We are now at a place where we can start to loosen restrictions. But one thing is for sure: we have to maintain social distancing regulations and we have to protect our hospital capacity. On May 26, I think we could move on. The Governor's order goes until May 30 and it restricts meetings to 25 people. We think we could open it up to 50, so for one week, we may be out of step with the state. So, we may need to work with the few businesses that would be caught in this web, but open it up sooner than later.

Here are some potential guidelines for some different kinds of businesses:

Most Types of Businesses where people meet: New plan could go from May 26 to June 22. It would have 50% Occupancy or 50 people, plus social distancing for Restaurants, Churches Gyms, retail, Bars (but no counter service) Movie theaters, entertainments venues, conferences/meetings/training
Then, from June 23 until August 24, the limit could jump to 100 people

Day Camp - May 26 to June 22 – Day camp stable groups of 25 kids, then see how it goes into August. Probably won't open up much more than that for now.

Personal care services could change where we go to 25 people in a facility until July 23, and then social distancing and masks until August 24 open to all people on your staff.

Pools will always be a problem. From May 26 to August 24, attended can open then unattended could go to 25 people using the pool during that same time period.

For public gatherings public or private, go to 50 people until June 24, then go to 100 people until July 24th, then July 24 to August 24 – 250 people

Sports – Non-contact sports allowed for 50% or 50 people, whichever is less until June 22. Then, until July 23, you could go to 100 people involved, with social distancing measures required. Then you could go up to 250.

If you have a pretty good plan that doesn't quite fit these regulations, turn it in and we will try to help you make it work on a case-by-case basis.

Earlier today Commissioner Parry asked people to email officials about the Stay At Home Order. We are not under that now, right? Were Wal Marts allowed to be open while parks were closed? No. (These were questions from the Mayor. Were big box stores allowed to stay open while small retailers were closed. Will everyone have 50% capacity, or will bigger stores be held to 10%? The Mayor asked what are the factors that will be considered to keep moving to the next step?

We want to protect the hospital capacity and they are doing well. They self-selected the suspension of non-essential procedures. We did not mandate that. Pitzer asked about enforcement. How will the limits work? Is it all complaint driven? Staff said yes, that is correct. The Office of Neighborhood Services has helped us, but we work directly with restaurants. The call comes in through the contact center then it is

tracked through the system. We don't have numbers on complaints, but sometimes it is one person calling about another person who is not following rules.

If we go into the next phase and can maintain social distancing, why do they have to have the limit rule? Browning said she thought they could work with someone if they had a good plan. That option is available now. The next phase will be in operation for 4 weeks. Other plans go through August 24, which is the day that public schools open. How are we working with CPS? Staff said they are working directly with the schools. Has your new community dashboard been unleashed yet? No. We will have a press conference tomorrow at 9 AM. We don't know when the Governor will move his plan forward or how.

Skala said it is a good sign that some people already asked his questions, except for two. What happens if we have spiking? Will we go backward immediately or what? Browning said if we see a sudden increase, we might have to scale back and ratchet it back, and I would hate that, but we have to be careful and everyone has to have some personal responsibility and so do the businesses. Skala said Wisconsin opened up and the activity in Wisconsin bars was fast and furious. What about enforcement at bars? To be honest, there are a lot of bars open who serve food. This levels the playing field. I have heard from several bars with good plans. But if we get significant complaints we will work with the police if necessary to address those problems.

Thomas said he appreciates the information. When big box stores were allowed to open earlier, did they have to close off sections of the stores? No. Thomas asked if any modeling had been done when a Summerfest occurs and how that could impact the overall profile of a community. Browning said that the problem with modeling is that circumstances are different in each community. We are trying to find someone to look at our community specifically. Can we open playgrounds? Are we going to disinfect equipment? Well, it is hard with children. Heat on metal is our friend in the summer, but if I had a kid and took them out, I would take handwashing equipment and disinfectant and keep an eye on the kids. Thomas thought mask wearing was good for all people in public and would welcome more education about mask wearing.

They believe that now they have increased capacity for contact tracing from 40 active cases per day to 75 or 80. None of the Redcap program data goes to the CDC.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC4-20 Board and Commission Applicants.

Board of Adjustment: (No appointment.)

Columbia Housing Authority Board: CHA Resident Susan Glasgow-Franklin, Max Lewis; General Stephen Calloway, Susan Glasgow-Franklin, Max Lewis (No appointment)

Community Land Trust: Christopher Ross

Downtown Columbia Leadership Council: Scott Wilson

Parks And Recreation Commission: (Ward 4) Brendon Steenbergen; (At Large) Sue Davis

Planning & Zoning: (No appointment.)

(Delayed appointments to P&Z and BOA until new council member is seated. Those two boards will be readvertised. Skala also mentioned that in the past, there had been interviews for some of the higher profile boards and commissions. He would suggest considering that again.

Youth Advisory Council: (14 vacancies) – (Let's readvertise and see if we can get a balanced group.)

SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

(None.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(None.)

OLD BUSINESS

B74-20 Approving a major amendment to the Preliminary Plat and PD Plan for "On the Ninth" located on the east side of Old Hawthorne Drive West and approximately 1,300 feet north of Route WW (Case No. 61-2020).

(Tabled at the April 20, 2020 Council Meeting.)

(Action: At the April 20, 2020 Council meeting, Council denied the applicant's request for waiver of sidewalk construction along the west side of Bunker Loop. In addition to the denial of the design adjustment, Council tabled final action on the proposed PD Plan amendment to May 18, 2020 to allow the applicant the opportunity to revise the PD plan such that it was compliant with the UDC regulations.

Pursuant to the Council action, the applicant has resubmitted the PD plan with the addition of sidewalk on the west side of Bunker Loop, thereby eliminating the request for a design adjustment. The revised PD plan, dated May 7, 2020, has been reviewed and approved by staff. The revision brings the PD plan into compliance with the requirements of the UDC. Approval of the revised PD plan would permit the replatting of Lot D2 into 5 single family lots.

Peters limited the report and asked to move to consideration. She supports the change. Thomas supports building the sidewalks.

A motion was made to approve the amendment sheet. The amendment sheet was approved. The motion passed unanimously.)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

B103-20 Vacating street right-of-way along a portion of the east side of Old Route K and north of Green Meadows Road (Case No. 72-2020).

B104-20 Vacating portions of utility, access and drainage easements and street rights-of-way within Boone Prairie, Plats 1 and 2 located on the east side of Brown Station Road and south of U.S. Highway 63 (Case No. 238-2019).

B105-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating designated loan funds for Phase I construction of the terminal building project at the Columbia Regional Airport.

R64-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of improvements at the Worley Street Park to include replacement of an existing playground structure, landscape block retaining wall and drinking fountain, removal of existing playground equipment and construction of a new playground structure, restriping the basketball court and renovations to existing fencing and park benches.

R65-20 Setting a public hearing: voluntary annexation of property located on the southeast corner of Highway WW and Elk Park Drive (Case No. 117-2020).

R66-20 Authorizing various Adopt a Spot agreements.

R67-20 Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to execute copier lease and maintenance agreements with GFI Digital, Inc.

R68-20 Authorizing an agreement with Stephens College to provide temporary housing for first responders in the Columbia Police Department and Columbia Fire Department during the COVID-19 pandemic.

R69-20 Authorizing the temporary closure of a portion of sidewalk and parking lane on the south side of Walnut Street between Orr Street and College Avenue, and a portion of sidewalk on Short Street south of Walnut Street, to facilitate the construction of a The Broadway Tower Two located at 1104 E. Walnut Street.

NEW BUSINESS

B106-20 Repealing Section 4. of Ordinance No. 024212 to lift the administrative delay in processing of development applications required to go before any City board or commission; declaring an emergency for enactment.

(Action: The City Manager has begun the process of reopening City Hall and the processing of development-related applications which must be reviewed by certain City boards and commissions prior to final action on such applications. Ordinance 024212 imposed an administrative delay on the processing of such actions until the emergency declaration for COVID-19 has ended. Because the City remains under a state of emergency related to the existence of the pandemic, it is necessary to repeal Section 4 of Ordinance 024212 in order for the necessary boards and commissions to meet in order to act on such applications.

Any City board or commission which meets will be required to follow the guidance of the Director of Public Health and Human Services as to Social Distancing Requirements. The remaining sections of Ordinance 024212 relating to issuance of building permits and maintenance of construction sites in accordance with the guidance issued by the Director and the extension of the rental inspection renewal dates will continue to remain in full force and effect.

A motion to approve the ordinance passed unanimously.)

B107-20 Repealing Ordinance No. 024208 which enacted temporary rules for the submission of public comments on Council agenda items; declaring an emergency for enactment.

(Action: At the City Council's May 4, 2020 meeting, staff was directed to prepare legislation to repeal the ordinance that enacted temporary rules for the submission of public comments on agenda items due to COVID-19 pandemic social distancing requirements. This only affects the practice of requiring the public to submit testimony in writing and in advance. The Mayor and Peters indicated support.

The Mayor made a motion to waive the rule requiring two readings to pass a rule. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The motion to rescind the rule passed unanimously.)

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

(All items introduced as indicated.)

B108-20* Authorizing an annexation agreement with Steven P. Bell for property located on the north side of Mexico Gravel Road and west of Highway PP (Case No. 105-2020).

B109-20* Vacating portions of street rights-of-way and utility easements located on the west side of Arbor Pointe Parkway between Atwood Court and Meandering Court (Case No. 103-2020).

B110-20* Authorizing a federal aid program agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the construction of Discovery Parkway from Discovery Drive to south of the intersection of New Haven Road and Rolling Hills Road; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

B111-20* Authorizing a Governor's Transportation Cost Share Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the construction of Discovery Parkway from Discovery Drive to south of the intersection of New Haven Road and Rolling Hills Road; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

B112-20* Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to finalize and close out completed capital improvement projects and to reallocate funds received from the Missouri

Department of Transportation - Governor's Transportation Cost Share Program to provide funding for current and future capital improvement projects.

B113-20* Authorizing construction of a storm drain replacement project on a portion of South Greenwood Avenue; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division or authorizing a contract for the work using a term and supply contractor.

B114-20* Authorizing the replacement and improvement of the storm drainage infrastructure on a portion of Ross Street west of William Street; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division or authorizing a contract for the work using a term and supply contract; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

B115-20* Authorizing the acquisition of easements for the replacement and improvement of the storm drainage infrastructure on a portion of Ross Street west of William Street.

B116-20* Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the Stanford Drive PCCE #21 Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project.

B117-20 Authorizing construction of improvements at the Worley Street Park to include replacement of an existing playground structure, landscape block retaining wall and drinking fountain, removal of existing playground equipment and construction of a new playground structure, restriping the basketball court and renovations to existing fencing and park benches; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division for a portion of the project.

B118-20* Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds received for bid alternatives relating to the construction of Hangar 730 at the Columbia Regional Airport.

REPORTS

REP26-20 Recommendation of Staff regarding Short-Term Rentals.

(Action: The report suggested waiting 6 months before the short-term rental issue was brought back to the council for consideration. That would make it December 7 before this could be considered again. Such a motion was made. Pitzer asked if short term rentals are allowed or not?

Tim Teddy said that there is not an ordinance that allows such activity in residential areas, however, the city council would need to pass a proposal that would suggest no enforcement action against short-term rentals in Columbia during that time.

The motion to table until December 7 was made and passed unanimously.

The council seemed to indicate general consensus that no action should be taken against existing AirBnB operations.)

REP27-20 Unofficial Correspondence from the Youth Advisory Council.

(Action: This report discussed the areas of study the group pursued this year. Unfortunately, COVID-19 hit before their work had concluded. They also suggested having a greater coordination with Columbia Public Schools. The Mayor said that would be beneficial for everyone. Cover also asked for better representation across wards of the city. Many of the Youth Commission members have now graduated. The Mayor would like to send such a letter on behalf of the council.

REP28-20 Amendment to the FY 2020 Annual Budget - Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds.

(Action: **No action was required or taken.**)

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Public

- The council received correspondence asking for free parking for downtown until August 31 and allow special parking spaces for curbside pickup.
- One person complained about lack of planning and blamed the Mayor's poor leadership. One person said he will move away if the council doesn't do better.
- The Safe Water Coalition said that we should stop financing maintenance projects with capital funds and other complaints. There is no need for a new rate increase.
- Seven people emailed the council in response to Fred Parry's request to send you leaders an email.
- One letter discussed many conspiracy theories about COVID.
- There were 26 emails from individuals asking the city to open up business more broadly.
- There were a few asking about how the city will cut back on staffing and pay and asked for information on a future city budget.

One person did appear to talk to the council. He has some small companies. He appreciates the loosening of the rules. He has read a lot of rules about small businesses recently because he owns a lot of small businesses. Because we don't match the state rules, it creates an unknown. He believes we are in a good position to move ahead. Let's just go ahead and follow the state order and then go from there. Don't make it more onerous. We have lost about \$500,000 locally.

One person asked about whether we have a strategic plan or not and can he have a copy? The Mayor said they do have a plan, but it was a flu plan and it did contemplate a quarantine and things like that. They also have an expiring strategic plan and it does not look like what you are asking for. At the last meeting we decided not to adopt that new replacement plan because they wanted to take the COVID-19 impacts into account.

Council

The Mayor said the council does not have the ability to rescind an order of the Public Health Director. The City Manager, however, can take steps for 21 days, and then have those approved by the council. Looking at the limitations of our charter, why don't we look at some sort of alternative rule making process? The Health Director has state authorization to make independent decisions. The county has a different process and they get to vote up or down on the health director opinions.

The Emergency Management Director does have some special powers according to city legal staff, but it would be better for us to draft something and check this out before we vote on this. **Skala** tried to give a summation of this situation and suggested a task force to examine this process and situation. However, he does not want to interfere right now. It might be useful in the future and include a citizens' group.

Pitzer asked if there was anything in the state's ruling that we overruled with our rules? City legal indicated that powers and duties of the health director are authorized by the state law, the governor's order and the city code. Through that, we could require a report to the city council of any declarations by the Health Director and would prefer that to be a resolution rather than an ordinance. Since this is a joint city/county position, what would happen if there was a divergent vote between the city and county? Staff said the county cannot regulate the city so both positions could prevail but in different ways in different places.

Peters expressed concern about what is best for health rather what is good politics or good for business. I want to be careful about that. The Mayor agreed but was not against looking at a draft resolution. He

thinks this will be here for a while. Skala thinks the health vs. the economy is important, but he thinks public health should take precedence. He supports looking at the formation of a task force. **Thomas** agreed with the task force as a recommendation type body. He thinks Public Health will have a larger role in the coming years and it is important to build those relationships now.

Peters agrees with that idea – but she thought it started out like that and we may not need to reinvent that wheel. **Trapp** thinks there should be a policy review. He would like to take the political hits on this, not Stephanie Browning. It would be nice to democratize the process. But I don't want to lay on another structure if we don't need to. This may just be a symptom of a divided nation. He does not oppose the idea of a task force. But he does not want to do it without talking to Browning.

Trapp said he would like to continue to prioritize the use of new CDBG funds. The economic impacts of the need for services for homeless and now more people challenged due to this pandemic need to be looked out on a longer term basis. I would like an RFP on how to hire a consultant to study that.

Pitzer said he wants to find economic relief for people in this city right now, but we can control what we charge for utilities. What about the one-time utility rebate to customers? Like a flat rate. Maybe \$50 per customer? Could it be a transfer? Could the utilities handle that? Not everyone would need it, but it could be big to some. The Mayor said he could be for that. But he is sensitive to the financial implications. Water makes the most sense to me. What is a fair amount? The PSC makes the utilities pay into a fund that is used to avoid winter utility shut offs. There is a local program that is something like that, but details were not immediately available. The mayor does not want to needs-test everything, but the city manager said late payments are up 30% Thomas support a cash program and said it could even be administered by CMDC.

Pitzer said speed is important. If we want to do it, do it. If not, Move on and look at something else. The Mayor said he would like to look back to March to see who needs it most. Pitzer said he did not know how quickly that could occur. No final decisions were made.

Staff

The City Manager said he needs to get rid of loading zone parking spots as we open up more brick and mortar stores and reconsider the free parking downtown. We are getting too many long-term parking people. The Mayor suggested doing a hood type of program. Pitzer said maybe there could be one space per block for curbside and knock off all the free parking. The council seemed to support rolling back some of those programs but replacing the curbside pick up with a hood program or possibly dedicated spaces per block.

ADJOURNMENT
(Time: 9:09 PM)

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