



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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**Monday, April 17, 2017**

**5:30 PM**

**Special Meeting**

**Council Chamber**

**Columbia City Hall**

**701 E. Broadway**

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#### **I. Roll Call**

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a special meeting at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2017, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The roll was taken with the following results: Council Members THOMAS, NAUSER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, and TRAPP were present. Council Member SKALA was absent. The City Manager, City Counselor, City Clerk and various Department Heads were also present.

#### **II. Comments of Outgoing Fifth Ward Council Member**

Ms. Nauser stated it had been an honor and privilege to serve as the Fifth Ward Council Member. As a city, they had a tremendous group of talented individuals, which included her fellow council members and staff from all of the departments. While they tended to hear negative comments about government workers, she could attest to the fact this organization was filled with knowledgeable, accountable, and compassionate individuals who cared about the community. She thanked them all for making her job as a council member easier. She stated she never would have guessed twelve years ago when she was first elected that she would know so much about budgets, streets, sidewalks, sewers, stormwater, and electric transmission lines. One of the most common questions she had been asked these past several weeks had to do with the accomplishments she was the most proud of, and while there had been many accomplishments during the times she had served, she did not feel they were her accomplishments as they were the accomplishments of the community. In 2008, after a surge in some high profile crimes involving guns and youth, she had presented a research and policy paper entitled *A Change in Direction on Family and Youth Issues for the City of Columbia, Missouri*, a copy of which she had provided to her fellow council members tonight. In the report, she had outlined 28 policy recommendations for the community to address, and over the past several years, she had updated the document with community accomplishments. She highlighted some of the accomplishments, to include the adoption and implementation of the City's strategic plan as they were actually making a measurable difference. In 2010, the Council had adopted a resolution naming Columbia a youth and family friendly community, and in 2013, the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence had been established and most of the recommendations of that Task Force were either completed or in varying stages of implementation. She commented that the City had maintained a consistent level of funding for the C.A.R.E. program, which was dear to her heart as it helped disadvantaged youth gain valuable work experience. She hoped future budgets would make certain to focus on this highly successful program because intervention and community support were the best solutions to productive citizens and less crime. She noted the City, through the great people at REDI, had successfully recruited and retained businesses in the community that provided jobs for people with all levels of education and work experience, and listed IBM, Linen King, Landmark Hospital, Aurora Organic Dairy, Kraft Foods, and ABC Labs as examples. In 2007, through the leadership of REDI, Boone County had become an ATC certified work-ready community, which helped

employers connect with potential workers with basic work force skills. She noted the Columbia Public Schools had been working very hard to reduce dropout rates and decrease mobility issues by ensuring schools were teaching subjects at the same time. The community had passed the mental health tax and the 911 tax, and the Family Access Center had been created so children in Boone County could be referred for mental health and discipline issues without getting caught up in the juvenile justice system. In 2015, the Council established the Youth Advisory Council, and in 2009, the Columbia Police Department began a geographic based community policing philosophy, and the successful Douglass unit was expanded in 2015 to the community outreach unit they had today. She believed those officers had been making a positive impact on the lives of the citizens they patrolled. She commended them for their great work as they were the shining example of the difference police officers could make in the community. In 2017, the Council had appropriated \$500,000 to the Boys and Girls Club to address the community need for positive programs and opportunities for disadvantaged youth. She noted a memorandum of understanding had been adopted in 2016 between the Columbia Public School District, the Columbia Police Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Office, and the 13th Circuit Court Juvenile Office to create an understanding and consistent framework for addressing juveniles that committed offenses on school grounds. In addition, in 2017, the Council adopted a resolution supporting a community dialogue on community policing that would take place in the upcoming year. She commented that as could be seen by this partial list of accomplishments, they had been very busy since 2005. She thanked her wonderful husband for his support over these past years as there had been countless meetings, late nights, and vacations filled with reading council agendas. She also thanked her employer for allowing her to adjust her work schedule so she could attend council functions and participate in the rotation of the infamous KFRU radio show. Without their support, she could not have served the community at the level the citizens deserved. She also thanked everyone for their support and well wishes throughout the last twelve months as it had been quite the wild ride with cancer and the failed recall effort against her. She had learned a lot, and was happy to say she had survived it all. She welcomed Mr. Pitzer to the City Council and wished him the best on his journey as the Fifth Ward Council Member. She stated her door was always open should he need any advice. She also pointed out that voting "no" was an acceptable position, and a position that she had been known to take at times. She again thanked everyone and noted her fellow council members were a great group of people with which to work.

Mr. Thomas commented that he thought Ms. Nauser was a model elected official as she had always brought forward firm and well thought out positions to all of the issues addressed, and had always listened carefully to other opinions and changed a position when convinced by new information or being provided a different way of looking at an issue. He stated in his view she had been entirely and conspicuously honest and transparent in presenting her position. There had been no hidden agendas. He appreciated this, and believed they would do a lot better in local, state, and national politics if everyone followed her example.

Mr. Trapp stated he had been elected during Ms. Nauser's interregnum and since he had not been involved prior to being elected to the City Council, he had never met her. In addition, he had knocked on doors for Tootie Burns as he had known her and had not known Ms. Nauser, but Ms. Nauser was still gracious when she was re-elected. He commented that when they were appointed to co-chair the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence, it was amazingly powerful as Ms. Nauser had been a consistent conservative who understood the community's responsibility when it came to families and taking care of others. He noted Ms. Nauser was a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteer and did her good work quietly. Not only did she have a role as a watchdog, but she was also essentially an amateur social worker and really helped people. If every conservative took on these roles, he felt they could have a smaller

government and could focus on just the essentials. He stated Ms. Nauser was a brilliant tactician and fun politician. She always stayed positive, even when she was in the minority. He explained he not expected Ms. Nauser to be one of her best friends and closest political allies, and commented that local politics was great in that manner as it was not neatly divided. He wished Ms. Nauser the best and was glad they would continue to work together on the convening of the symposium on policing.

Mr. Ruffin explained he had first become acquainted with Ms. Nauser when he was on the other side of the dais asking the Council to support the restoration of the Blind Boone Home. It was his first exposure to her thoughtfulness, consistency, and ability to address important issues in a clear and concise way. Since he had been elected, he had been pleasantly surprised and encouraged to hear her historic and consistent support of the youth in the community, particularly with those that were disadvantaged and might not look like her or come from her neighborhood. He noted she had a heart of compassion for everyone, which touched, empowered, and encouraged him to continue the work she had begun.

Ms. Nauser joined Mayor Treece and Mr. Matthes at the podium.

Mayor Treece commented that he had the unique perspective of being a constituent of the Fifth Ward, and a needy constituent at times, in addition to serving with her as mayor. As a council member, Ms. Nauser had always returned his calls promptly, been thoughtful in her analysis, and been forthright and candid in her response. As mayor, Ms. Nauser was his go to person for her institutional memory, perspective and history. He commented that in his 12 months and 35 meetings of the Council, he estimated he had probably sat next to her for 200 hours, and when multiplying that to her 11 years of service, it really provided the sense of the dedication she had given to the Fifth Ward and community. Throughout that time, she had work with three city managers, maintained a successful family business, and maintained a full time career helping at-risk youth. He noted Ms. Nauser was a tenacious advocate for her ward, and had a long list of accomplishments, projects, and policies that bore her fingerprints. He stated the City of Columbia was better off due to her service.

Mayor Treece recognized Senator Caleb Rowden of the 19th Missouri District for a special presentation. Senator Rowden explained he wanted to express his sincere gratitude to Ms. Nauser as a colleague and friend for her service on the City Council. He thought Mr. Thomas was correct in that if everyone in elective office was more like Ms. Nauser, things would be better. There was something to be said for people that did the hard work. It was easy to stay at the surface and only say things to get one's name in the paper. It was harder to dig in and do the hard work, which was something Ms. Nauser had done. As a senator for this area, a friend, and someone that appreciated the work of Ms. Nauser, he presented her with a Senate Resolution for her great work.

Mayor Treece presented Ms. Nauser with a Resolution of Appreciation, a plaque recognizing her years of service on the Council, a silver tray recognizing her years of service as Mayor Pro-tem, and a certificate for a heritage tree to be planted in her honor in the park of her choice.

Mr. Matthes presented Ms. Nauser with a glass tile with the City logo and a gift from City staff.

### **III. Oath of Office of Newly Elected First Ward Council Member and Fifth Ward Council Member**

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Clyde Ruffin, and Mayor Treece presented him with a framed Commission of Office.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Matt Pitzer, and Mayor Treece presented her with a framed Commission of Office.

Everyone then took their places at the dais.

#### **IV. Comments of Newly Elected First Ward Council Member and Fifth Ward Council Member**

Mr. Ruffin introduced his wife, Sheila, who was sitting on the front row, along with his eldest daughter, Mikisha, two of his six grandchildren, Micha and Michael, and his son-in-law, Mike. He noted another daughter, Candice, and her four children were on their way. He recognized Brent and Kelley Gardner as they had endorsed his campaign in 2015 and his re-election campaign in 2017 by hosting his first kick-off fundraiser. He also expressed gratitude to Natalie Hampton, who had served as his volunteer coordinator and coach and had challenged him even in difficult times to continue working toward re-election. He stated his daughter, Candice, had been the first to encourage him to run for re-election and had stood by him through the entire process by organizing all of the special events, etc. He pointed out she had helped him realize the work continued when running for re-election even if one was already on the Council and that no one would give him a break. She had also monitored all of his e-mails and voice mails to help him stay focused and get through the process. He stated he was committed to serving the unique challenges that impacted the First Ward consistently and faithfully. The First Ward was diverse, complex, and historic, and he vowed to continue to address all of the issues impacting the residents. He recognized that many of the people that had walked with him through neighborhoods to knock on doors, pass out pamphlets, hang door knockers, etc. had not been from the First Ward. They had come from throughout the community, and that allowed him to realize the opportunity to serve on the Columbia City Council was an opportunity to engage in a decision making process that impacted all of the citizens of Columbia, and not just those of the First Ward or for today as future generations would be impacted. He stated he was grateful for the opportunity to continue this journey for at least three more years.

Mr. Pitzer stated he was honored to take his seat on the dais and eager to begin the hard work at hand to ensure Columbia remained the crown jewel of the Midwest. He thanked Ms. Nauser for her tremendous years of service and dedication to the Council, the Fifth Ward, and the entire City of Columbia. He noted she had set a standard of responsible and responsive governance and insightful and principled leadership for which they were all indebted. Tonight, he might sit in her seat, but he did not believe he would ever be able to replace her. He thanked his parents for traveling to Columbia to share in this honor with him and his father-in-law, Michael Daly, for moving to Columbia, which in turn caused his move to Columbia. He thanked his friends, Liz and Frank Aten and Dan and Amy Burks, and treasurer, Marie Hunter, as they had all contributed to his successful campaign. He recognized his children in the front row, Evan and Jimmy, and offered an apology as he would likely miss a few Monday night football games this fall. He recognized and thanked his wife, Kate, and noted the citizens might have elected him, but they got her for free, and that was a heck of a deal. He thanked Mayor Treece and his fellow council members for all of their collective years of service, and noted he was excited to work with them. He stated he would do his best to live up to the standards of governance they had instilled in their years of service in this Chamber. He also thanked his fellow citizens of Columbia and the Fifth Ward for the tremendous honor they had bestowed upon him and the trust they had placed in him to carry forth the responsibility placed upon this group. He knew it would not be easy work, and that he would make good decisions and decisions some might feel were less good, and that the citizens would let him know the difference. He also knew, in working with the citizens and all of the active and passionate voices that had come together to create this wonderful community, the Council would do them proud. They would work every day to ensure the citizens and their children were proud to say they were from Columbia. He, again, thanked everyone for their support.

**V. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Treece made a motion for Mr. Ruffin to be appointed Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trapp and approved unanimously by voice vote.

**VI. Appointment to New Century Fund Inc. Board**

Mayor Treece explained he had been serving on the New Century Fund Inc. Board for the last twelve months and was happy to continue in that role unless someone else wanted that responsibility.

Mayor Treece made a motion that he continue to serve on the New Century Fund, Inc. Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas and approved without objection.

Mayor Treece invited everyone to the reception being held in Conference Room 1A/1B immediately following this special meeting.

**VII. Other items the Council May Wish to Discuss****VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.