

Pre-Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 20, 2006, 5:30 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room, Daniel Boone Building

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Almeta Crayton, Chris Janku, Bob Hutton, Jim Loveless, Laura Nauser and Brian Ash

City Manager Bill Watkins and other city staff members were present.

The Mayor and Council interviewed the seven Planning and Zoning Commission candidates during the pre-Council meeting. During the regular Council meeting (appointments to Boards and Commissions), the Council appointed Vicki M. Curby, Ward 6, to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Following the interviews, City Manager Bill Watkins and Dan Dasho, Water and Light Director, provided Council a brief update on the Prairie State project. Mr. Watkins wanted to make certain that the public didn't perceive this process/decision to be rushed. He added that tonight's agenda includes two reports – Black and Veatch Power Supply Options Study and Peabody Energy – Prairie State Project Update. These reports are also available on-line.

Mr. Dasho brought the Council up to date on the process and explained how staff would like to proceed. Mr. Dasho explained that although Prairie State has been proceeding along a very quick time frame and we need to get on board, we have been reviewing the Prairie State issue for the past two years. The Water and Light Advisory Board has been carefully reviewing this issue and, at last Thursday's W/L Advisory Board meeting, passed a motion recommending that we move forward. Mr. Dasho indicated a contract with Municipal Association would be introduced at the first Council meeting in April followed by a public hearing at the second Council meeting in April.

Council expressed strong interest in offering a balanced program to the citizens that shows we're taking steps to reduce emissions, possibly through conservation type programs/efforts, and the public should be made aware of these efforts. Council also felt it critical to sell the community on the environmental issues and be prepared to discuss these issues at the time of the public hearing.

Mr. Dasho indicated that staff will be prepared to address the emission issues associated with a coal fired plant.

Mr. Watkins stated that this proposal includes the purchase of 50MW from Prairie State. He explained that the power supply study shows we need 160MW in the foreseeable future, so this is only a very small piece of the puzzle. We will still need to deal with the other issues.

Mr. Watkins introduced Tony St. Romaine. Mr. St. Romaine has been appointed Assistant City Manager effective March 27, 2006.

Mr. Watkins asked if there were any agenda items the Council needed to discuss. He indicated that we received the development agreement for Howard Orchard Road at 5pm today and the agreement along with an amendment sheet was distributed to Council tonight.

Mr. Watkins indicated Council received a draft RFP for community visioning consultant. Council did not have time to discuss this issue.