

Columbia City Council – Work Session Minutes
Wednesday, August 20, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Daniel-Boone Building

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Paul Sturtz, Chris Janku (left at 8:45 p.m.), Karl Skala, Jerry Wade, Laura Nauser (left at 8:30 p.m.) and Barbara Hoppe

Absent: None

The Council met to discuss the following department's budgets: City Council, City Clerk, City Manager, Volunteer Services, Finance, Law, city general, public safety departments (municipal court, police, fire, joint communications, and emergency management); and other departments (Planning and CDBG, Economic Development, Cultural Affairs, CVB, IT and Public Communications).

Prior to discussing individual department budgets, the City Manager made some opening comments, including an overview of the FY09 budget (see handout). He described the format being used tonight which is different than how we've handled in the past. He pointed out that this year's budget required making a few cuts while holding down expenditures. The City Manager also summarized the personnel package being proposed in this year's budget.

Some of the highlights included:

- Need to set Council goals/community priorities (Nauser provided handed)
- Allocation of utility charges to Council's budget
- Council reserve/contingency account – separate into (2) categories; further discuss how funding decisions are made. (budget amendment sheet)
- Increase temporary salary to assist with digital imaging process
- Staff prepare proposal/options to move forward with change in Council meeting minutes (bare bones versus detail minutes)
- Streaming council meetings
- Professional development - review dollars allocated for City Clerk
- Business Ombudsman – consider changing “ombudsman”; need 6 month costs for position
- Explore Community Foundation
- Credit Card Convenience Fee – review policy; Fleming provide report to Council
- Reducing paper billing – Fleming provide report (pros/cons) back to Council
- Red Light Cameras – status report to Council
- Regional Planning Commission – item in Planning Department budget (\$25,000)
- Municipal Judge – salary – budget amendment sheet
- Municipal Court – impact of red light cameras – taking a wait and see approach; may need to request additional funding at a later date
- Add fuel surcharge onto tickets (police) – possible avenue for increasing revenue

- DARE Program – dollar amount invested in program by Police Department
- CDBG – Habitat (restore) CDC proposal to fund \$96,000; CM recommendation to fund zero.
- Columbia's bed tax – comparison of Columbia's tax to other cities

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.