

Columbia City Council
Pre-Council Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2008, 5:45 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room, Daniel Boone Building

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Paul Sturtz, Chris Janku, Karl Skala, Jerry Wade, Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe

Absent: None

Snow Policy Update

John Glascock introduced the following Public Works employees: Mary Ellen Lea, Dave Daly, and Sam Thomas. Ms. Lea distributed a handout titled, Columbia snow policy – frequently asked questions. She indicated the information is also available on the city’s web site and is being distributed to the public, whenever and wherever possible.

She reviewed the equipment inventory, including 18 large trucks with plows and spreaders and 6 pick-up trucks. She stated that from staff’s perspective, the new policy is working much better than the old policy. Fewer calls and complaints are being received.

She described one change that is working much better and that is the hospitals have dedicated people to transport their doctors and nurses to the hospital.

She reported there has been an increase in the miles being covered – 450 – 500 miles. She pointed out two changes that have been made to the snow removal priority map – Roosevelt Avenue and Thompson Road. The map, identifying the snow routes, is also included on the city’s web site. She indicated additional GPS units are coming in.

Council comments included:

- Republish/reiterate to the general public in the newspaper the snow policy
- State and County policy on snow removal – asked John to summarize. State policy is a problem. Add state routes to list of FAQ’s
- Use weather or not, out of Kansas City (two hour notice) to decide when to get started on road clearing activity. Suggested this information also be added to the FAQ sheet.
- Need more publicity of homeowners/businesses responsibility to clear sidewalks, problem along Old 63 and Broadway. Staff to send notices to apartment/rental property owners
- Provide instruction for the “clicks” needed to access the FAQ page.

Building Code Update

The City Manager explained that next year we are scheduled to review the next edition of the building codes, and we’re currently on the same code system as the County and the University. He stated that new codes come out in March and the goal is to adopt the new codes by the end of the year. He asked Council what type of process should be followed in updating the codes.

The Council discussed different processes that could be considered, including a “working group” that would bring together representatives from the BCCC, EEC, and other interested Commissions.

The City Manager suggested Council may want to meet with the interested Commissions in January.

See Council comments for formal Council action on this item.

Calendar Agenda Items

Shotgun House – staff recommends removing from the consent agenda. Fred described the amendment/changes being requested.

December 8 – Work Session – P/R fees (consultant presentation), DOC lease, and Vision interviews.

B350-08 – replacement of COLT highway rail crossing – very high on MoDOT’s list – fiscal stimulus dollars may be available.

Council comment – WiFi at the ARC – needs to be advertised more.