

Columbia City Council – Work Session Minutes  
Monday, February 23, 2009, 6:00 p.m.  
Daniel-Boone Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

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

Absent: Paul Sturtz and Jerry Wade

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Mayor Hindman provided an update regarding his trip to Washington, D.C. He described the various sources of funding available through the Mainstreet Economic Recovery and those funds that may be applicable to the city of Columbia. Funding categories include:

- The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
  - In addition to the formula monies, there is \$400 million in competitive money. Specific details are forthcoming.
  - Home Weatherization Program - \$5 billion
- Infrastructure (highway) – funds will be distributed through formula directly to the state.
- Public Transportation (\$8.4 billion)
- Airport improvements (\$1.1 billion)
- COPS Program (\$1 billion) (3-yr program; 4<sup>th</sup> year city assumes cost); funds are distributed competitively.
- Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)
- National Endowment for the Arts (\$50 million)

The U.S. Conference of Mayors will be distributing information packets, including application forms.

Lori Fleming, Finance Director, made a power point presentation for the budget work session. The presentation included a review of the general fund forecast as of February 2009 and the goals/priorities for 2010. She explained the purpose of the exercise. The Council members were asked to complete their homework assignment/exercise and return it to staff by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Toni Messina, Communications Director, reviewed expanded opportunities for public input during the budget process.

The City Manager distributed the following handouts: Urban Forestry Master Plan (Glascok handout), Model Tree Protection Ordinance (key elements), Tree and Natural Area Preservation Ordinance, and Heritage Trees/Ordinance.

Regarding land disturbance, sustainable urban forest is listed as item #5 in the framework presented at an earlier work session. Mr. Glascok's handout provided a brief summary of what an RFP might include. The City Manager requested Council input on the RFP content.

Mayor Hindman stated that he has been given the authority to appoint a tree board and he has discussed with the EEC Chair. Tree Board would not overlap with EEC. Council will need to develop the duties/responsibilities of a Tree Board.

One of the handouts included the Austin regulations for a tree ordinance. Staff would like to use these as a basis to move forward.

Mike Hood has worked on and Council will be receiving a set of procedures for tree removal.

Council member Nauser expressed concern for adding something new costing \$50-100,000 in light of the fact we're talking about budget cuts. She suggested we review what we can do now at relatively low/no cost to the city.

Council member Hoppe pointed out there has been a lot of clearing happening to the south and east of Stephens Lake Park.

There were three handouts pertaining to trees: overview of the Austin ordinance, overview – Scenic America, model tree ordinance, and actual ordinance (Colorado) which provides a good perspective of what a tree ordinance would look like.

The City Manager explained the goal of the next work session – begin to deal with questions as to what we want to preserve in terms of area (preservation of areas).

He indicated a work session is being planned on Monday, March 30 – CH2MHill and Tom Jacobs will make presentations as requested by Council.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.