City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, May 18, 2020 **7:00 PM**	**Regular**	**Council Chamber** **Columbia City Hall** **701 E. Broadway** **(One or more council members may participate via videoconference.)**

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2020, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri.
Mayor Treece explained a number of chairs had been removed from the Council Chamber to accommodate social distancing for this meeting and other board and commission meetings. He pointed out two council members were participating by videoconference and that public comment would be limited per an emergency ordinance passed at a prior meeting. He pointed out that written public comment that had been received by the City Clerk by 4:00 p.m. had been distributed to the Council and would be referenced at the end of the meeting.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was taken with the following results: Council Members RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA (via videoconference), THOMAS (via videoconference), PITZER, PETERS, and TREECE were present. The City Manager, City Counselor, City Clerk, and various Department Heads and staff members were also present.

The minutes of the regular meeting of May 4, 2020 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Pitzer and a second by Mr. Trapp.

The agenda, including the consent agenda, was approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mayor Treece and a second by Mr. Trapp.

II. SPECIAL ITEMS

SI8-20 COVID-19 Update.

Ms. Browning provided an update.
Mayor Treece understood the Governor's order would prevail if it was more restrictive during the week of May 26. Ms. Browning stated that was correct. Mayor Treece commented that even though Ms. Browning's order might be less restrictive with respect to the very few retail establishments the Governor's order covered, the Governor's order would prevail in those situations. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct. Mayor Treece noted that did not bother him. Ms. Browning explained it might create confusion so they would have to be careful with regard to education.
Ms. Peters asked Ms. Browning if her order could match that of the Governor's for that week and be loosened up the week after. Ms. Browning replied yes. Ms. Peters commented that she was not sure if that would be less confusing or not, but thought she would mention it. Mayor Treece commented that Ms. Browning's stay at home order started two weeks prior to that of the State, and they were seeing the results of it. As a

result, it made sense to him to loosen things up sooner. In addition, very few businesses would be impacted by the differences.

Mr. Skala stated he had great deference for Ms. Browning and thought the City should maintain its independence to the extent it was tied to the data. He noted his inclination would be to follow the lead of Ms. Browning and to ensure the information was available so it was not too confusing.

Ms. Browning continued with her update.

Mr. Ruffin asked for the kinds of events she would classify as public gatherings. Ms. Browning replied it could be events such as street festivals or a spontaneous event where people did not know each other. She explained public gatherings made it difficult in terms of tracing when people suddenly gathered and did not know each other. Mr. Ruffin understood it was primarily an outdoor event. Ms. Browning stated it could also be an indoor event. Mr. Ruffin understood it was a situation where random people were getting together.

Mayor Treece commented that earlier today Boone County Commissioner Fred Parry had asked people to email the Council about the stay at home order, but he understood the stay at home order had been lifted on April 30 by a new order that had taken effect on May 4. They had not been under a stay at home order for the last 14 days. Ms. Browning stated that was correct.

Mayor Treece asked if parks and trails had ever been closed within that stay at home order. Ms. Browning replied no. Mayor Treece understood Walmarts had not been allowed to stay open while parks had been required to be closed. Ms. Browning agreed that had not been the case. Mayor Treece asked Ms. Browning if she had ever imposed restrictions on elective surgeries in the hospitals. Ms. Browning replied no.

Mayor Treece understood the capacity for contact tracing based on discussion at the prior council meeting was about 40 active cases, and asked for the new capacity was based on the contract recently signed. Ms. Browning pointed out they had trained additional staff on top of the contract and thought they could now handle about 55 cases. She explained REDCap would allow them to handle more cases since they would not have to make as many calls.

Mayor Treece asked if REDCap was sharing any data as he had privacy concerns. Ms. Browning replied no. Mayor Treece understood none of the data was going to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or some private database. Ms. Browning stated that was correct. She explained it was one of the reasons the Law Department had allowed them to enter into the contract.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Browning if she had allowed big box stores like Home Depot and Walmart to stay open while forcing small retailers to close. Ms. Browning replied in the beginning non-essential retail was closed. Mayor Treece understood the big box stores were to be at 10 percent capacity and the smaller retail stores were to be at 25 percent of capacity. Ms. Browning stated that was correct. Mayor Treece asked if everyone would be at 50 percent capacity if they were to meet all of the metrics to be less restrictive on Monday. Ms. Browning replied everyone would be at 50 percent except for those that fell under the orders of the Governor. Mayor Treece understood the Governor's order would still have big box stores at 10 percent or less. Ms. Thompson clarified it was the component of the stores that had been important. She explained the pharmacy at a Walmart was allowed to stay open, and there were smaller pharmacies within the City of Columbia that had been allowed to stay open as well because they were performing essential functions. It was not really about a larger store versus a smaller store. It was about the essential activities. She stated a lot of small businesses within Columbia that had performed essential functions had been allowed to remain open.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Browning about the factors she would look at in this next phase in terms of whether they could take the next step involving June 23-July 20. Ms. Browning replied one of the most important factors was the ability of the hospitals to care for patients. It was something they would have to closely monitor. She pointed out they

had not yet been stretched to capacity, which was why they had been able to begin elective procedures. Mayor Treece understood the hospitals had self-selected the Tier 3 incident command structure. Ms. Browning stated that was correct and noted it had been in their plans. Mayor Treece understood it was not Ms. Browning's order that had banned elective surgeries, biopsies, etc. Ms. Browning stated that was correct.

Mr. Pitzer asked if enforcement of the order had been done and if it would continue to be done, and whether it was only complaint driven. Ms. Browning replied it had largely been complaint driven, and explained they had worked with the Office of Neighborhood Services staff in handling many complaints. If it was an industry the Department of Public Health and Human Services regulated like restaurants, her staff handled those situations because they already had a relationship with them. The Office of Neighborhood Services staff had handled all others. She stated the call would generally come in via the Contact Center or it would be pushed to the Contact Center so it could be tracked. The Contact Center would then forward it on to the appropriate department. Mr. Pitzer asked if they had any metrics on the number of complaints and the number verified. Ms. Browning replied it was sometimes people calling on people and at other times it was businesses calling on other businesses. She stated she did not have the numbers, but could provide that information.

Mr. Pitzer asked why there was an occupancy limit if a business as able to maintain the social distancing requirement. Ms. Browning replied they would be willing to look at plan whereby someone felt they could present a good plan with social distancing. Mr. Pitzer understood a church that required families to be separated by six feet could potentially go beyond the 50 percent limitation, and that this could also apply to a restaurant. Ms. Browning stated anyone could submit a plan for review. Mr. Pitzer asked if that option was available currently. Ms. Browning replied yes, they were doing that now.

Mr. Pitzer understood the next phase would be in place for four weeks instead of three and asked for the reason. Ms. Browning replied it would allow extra time to look at infection rates and incubation periods since they were opening things up more.

Mr. Pitzer understood there was a plan to go out through August 24 and thought that was the date set by a new State law for when public schools could open. He also understood some schools were discussing possibly starting earlier and asked if she would be in contact with the Columbia Public School District. Ms. Browning replied she was in contact every week with all school superintendents with Boone County. Mr. Pitzer stated he would not want something Ms. Browning had indicated tonight to restrict schools from starting earlier if they thought it was in the best interest of their students.

Mr. Pitzer asked about the status of the community dashboard that had been presented at the prior council meeting. Ms. Browning replied it would be presented to the public tomorrow.

Mr. Pitzer asked Ms. Browning if she knew what the State orders would be post-May 31 if things remained as they were now. Ms. Browning replied no, but stated she assumed she would hear something this week or next week.

Mr. Skala understood the capacity at hospitals was an important factor and thought the spiking of cases would be important as well. He asked what would happen if there was a spike. He wondered if Ms. Browning would stick with the current plan or revert back to more restrictions. Ms. Browning replied they might have to scale back for a while if they started to see a sudden increase that was threatening the hospitals. She stated she hoped that did not happen because it would be really hard. She reiterated it was important to pay attention to social distancing. She explained there was some personal responsibility involved when going out in public in terms of caring for others along with the responsibility of businesses, organizations, and institutions to plan right so they did not have a situation where they had to revert back to more restrictions.

Mr. Skala commented that he understood some cities, like Wisconsin, had opened things up because their Supreme Court told them to do so, and that had resulted in the activity at bars to be fast and furious without any masks or social distancing. He asked

Ms. Browning if she saw that as a potential problem in terms of how they proceeded in opening up. Ms. Browning replied a number of places people would consider bars were open already because they served food, and the proposed new order would essentially level the playing field for the others. She pointed out she understood some had very good plans to reopen. She explained they would work with the Police Department with regard to those types of complaints.

Mr. Thomas appreciated the clarification with regard to the big box stores versus the small locally-owned businesses. He asked if the orders that specified the essential businesses and nonessential businesses, whereby pharmacies and food purveyors were essential businesses, had required the businesses to close off the aisles that were not food or pharmacy related or if people were allowed to shop throughout the larger stores. Ms. Browning replied that to her knowledge they were just considered to be open. She noted the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance had allowed them to be open.

Mr. Thomas stated he also appreciated knowing there had not been any order from Ms. Browning that hospitals had to stop doing elective procedures, and that it had been their own decision.

Mr. Thomas asked if there was any modeling from the CDC for a Summerfest-type event with 50 people gathering together in terms of testing capacity and contact tracing capacity if someone infected were to spread the virus. Ms. Browning replied one of the problems with the modeling was that it was at a state level versus at a community level. She noted they had a partnership with some people that had expertise in modeling, and this was something they could ask them to review.

Mr. Thomas understood playgrounds would open and that they had previously closed playgrounds while leaving parks open because of the possibility of transmission through contact with the equipment. He asked if there would be any type of disinfection program of the equipment or if people would be educated to wash up after using the equipment. He wondered how that risk would be reduced in the future. Ms. Browning replied they would definitely need to educate the public and that social distancing was always hard with children. In childcare settings with stable groups, some had been able to use their own playground equipment now. She noted the heat on the metal would be their friend in terms of limiting the number of people on the playground equipment. She commented that if she were a parent who took her child to the playground, she would have handwashing disinfectant and would pay attention to where her child was playing.

Mr. Thomas understood there would be a gradual transition from hard regulations and enforcement to education and voluntary compliance, which was what they wanted because they could not do what they wanted with hard regulations and enforcement only. He commented that he liked the fact the press release on Friday had specifically referenced mask-wearing as very beneficial and as a recommendation for anyone two years old or older when out in the community. He stated he would welcome more educational information about mask-wearing as he thought it would have a big impact.

III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC4-20 Board and Commission Applicants.

Mayor Treece understood appointments to a couple of boards and commissions, such as the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and Board of Adjustment (BOA), with statutory obligations were typically done after the April municipal election. Since that election had been postponed, he suggested they delay those appointments until after June 2, 2020, but noted he would defer to the Council in case that was not their desire. Mr. Pitzer asked if the vacancies would be readvertised. Mayor Treece replied he would suggest they be readvertised for a broader pool of applicants, and asked if there was any objection. Mr. Trapp stated he was okay with that. Mr. Ruffin commented that he was agreeable as well. Mr. Skala explained he did not have any objection either, but wondered if they wanted to interview the applicants as they had done in the past for some

of the boards and commissions, such as the PZC and BOA. Mayor Treece commented that he felt there was usually a quorum or timing issue with regard to interviews and suggested they address that issue after they knew of all of the applicants.
Mayor Treece understood they would readvertise the vacancies for BOA and PZC. He noted he was not prepared to make the appointments to the Columbia Housing Authority Board or the Tax Increment Financing Commission, which were appointments of his, and asked that those be readvertised as well.
Upon receiving the majority vote of the Council, the following individuals were appointed to the following Boards and Commissions.

COMMUNITY LAND TRUST ORGANIZATION BOARD
Ross, Christopher, 109 Lynn Street, Ward 1, Term to expire December 1, 2023

DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Wilson, Scott, 501 S. Garth Avenue, Ward 4, Term to expire May 1, 2023

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Davis, Sue, 2209B N. Creasy Springs Road, Ward 2, Term to expire May 31, 2023
Steenbergen, Brendon, 1410 Overhill Road, Ward 4, Term to expire May 31, 2023

Mayor Treece asked what they wanted to do with regard to the Youth Advisory Council. He noted they had fourteen vacancies and asked if there was any objection to readvertising in an effort to try to balance those appointed by the number of schools represented along with the year of school of the applicants. Mr. Ruffin stated he thought that was a good idea.

IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B74-20 Approving a major amendment to the Preliminary Plat and PD Plan for "On the Ninth" located on the east side of Old Hawthorne Drive West and approximately 1,300 feet north of Route WW (Case No. 61-2020).

The bill was given third reading by the Clerk.
Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.
Ms. Peters commented that this was in her ward and she felt the development was fine, especially with the sidewalks included. She noted she had been satisfied with the development initially, even without the sidewalk, but had heard from people in the Old Hawthorne neighborhood that wanted sidewalks in the entire subdivision. She stated she appreciated the adjustment being made to the plan.
Mr. Thomas commented that he appreciated staff for interpreting the ordinance as they had and initially denying the design adjustment.

Ms. Peters made a motion to amend B74-20 per the amendment sheet. The motion was seconded by Mayor Treece and approved by voice vote with the exception of Mr. Trapp who had stepped out during the vote on this motion.

The vote on B74-20, as amended, was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: RUFFIN, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSENT: TRAPP (Mr. Trapp had stepped out during the vote on this item). Bill declared

enacted, reading as follows:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

The following bills were given second reading and the resolutions were read by the Clerk.

B103-20 Vacating street right-of-way along a portion of the east side of Old Route K and north of Green Meadows Road (Case No. 72-2020).

B104-20 Vacating portions of utility, access and drainage easements and street rights-of-way within Boone Prairie, Plats 1 and 2 located on the east side of Brown Station Road and south of U.S. Highway 63 (Case No. 238-2019).

B105-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating designated loan funds for Phase I construction of the terminal building project at the Columbia Regional Airport.

R64-20 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of improvements at the Worley Street Park to include replacement of an existing playground structure, landscape block retaining wall and drinking fountain, removal of existing playground equipment and construction of a new playground structure, restriping the basketball court and renovations to existing fencing and park benches.

R65-20 Setting a public hearing: voluntary annexation of property located on the southeast corner of Highway WW and Elk Park Drive (Case No. 117-2020).

R66-20 Authorizing various Adopt a Spot agreements.

R67-20 Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to execute copier lease and maintenance agreements with GFI Digital, Inc.

R68-20 Authorizing an agreement with Stephens College to provide temporary housing for first responders in the Columbia Police Department and Columbia Fire Department during the COVID-19 pandemic.

R69-20 Authorizing the temporary closure of a portion of sidewalk and parking lane on the south side of Walnut Street between Orr Street and College Avenue, and a portion of sidewalk on Short Street south of Walnut Street, to facilitate the construction of a The Broadway Tower Two located at 1104 E. Walnut Street.

The bills were given third reading and the resolutions were read with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: RUFFIN, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSENT: TRAPP (Mr. Trapp had stepped out during the vote on this item). Bills declared enacted and resolutions declared adopted, reading as follows:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B106-20 Repealing Section 4. of Ordinance No. 024212 to lift the administrative delay in processing of development applications required to go before any City board or commission; declaring an emergency for enactment.

The bill was given first reading by the Clerk.
Ms. Thompson provided a staff report.

Ms. Peters commented that she felt this was a good idea as they continued to open the City.

Mayor Treece made a motion to waive the rule requiring consideration of this ordinance at two separate meetings and to place B106-20 on its second reading. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peters and approved by voice vote with the exception of Mr. Trapp who had stepped out during the vote on this motion.

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.

B106-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: RUFFIN, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE. VOTING NO: NO ONE. ABSENT: TRAPP (Mr. Trapp had stepped out during the vote on this item).Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

B107-20 Repealing Ordinance No. 024208 which enacted temporary rules for the submission of public comments on Council agenda items; declaring an emergency for enactment.

The bill was given first reading by the Clerk.
Ms. Thompson provided a staff report.
Mr. Pitzer asked when this would take effect if it was passed tonight. Ms. Thompson replied immediately. Mayor Treece asked if it would be immediately or when he signed it. Ms. Thompson replied immediately as bills did not have to be approved by the Mayor to be effective. They were approved by the passage of Council.

Mayor Treece made a motion to waive the rule requiring consideration of this ordinance at two separate meetings and to place B107-20 on its second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trapp and approved unanimously by voice vote.

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.
Mr. Trapp stated he believed it was important to pass this. He commented that he felt the public had shown good discretion and believed they would continue to do so.

B107-20 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

IX. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

The following bills were introduced by the Mayor unless otherwise indicated, and all were given first reading.

B108-20 Authorizing an annexation agreement with Steven P. Bell for property located on the north side of Mexico Gravel Road and west of Highway PP (Case No. 105-2020).

B109-20 Vacating portions of street rights-of-way and utility easements located on the west side of Arbor Pointe Parkway between Atwood Court and Meandering Court (Case No. 103-2020).

B110-20 Authorizing a federal aid program agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the construction of Discovery Parkway from Discovery Drive to south of the intersection of New Haven Road and Rolling Hills Road; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

B111-20 Authorizing a Governor's Transportation Cost Share Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the construction of Discovery Parkway from Discovery Drive to south of the intersection of New Haven Road and Rolling Hills Road; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

B112-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds to finalize and close out completed capital improvement projects and to reallocate funds received from the Missouri Department of Transportation - Governor's Transportation Cost Share Program to provide funding for current and future capital improvement projects.

B113-20 Authorizing construction of a storm drain replacement project on a portion of South Greenwood Avenue; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division or authorizing a contract for the work using a term and supply contractor.

B114-20 Authorizing the replacement and improvement of the storm drainage infrastructure on a portion of Ross Street west of William Street; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division or authorizing a contract for the work using a term and supply contract; amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

B115-20 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for the replacement and improvement of the storm drainage infrastructure on a portion of Ross Street west of William Street.

B116-20 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the Stanford Drive PCCE #21 Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project.

B117-20 Authorizing construction of improvements at the Worley Street Park to include replacement of an existing playground structure, landscape block retaining wall and drinking fountain, removal of existing playground equipment and construction of a new playground structure, restriping the basketball court and renovations to existing fencing and park benches; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division for a portion of the project.

B118-20 Amending the FY 2020 Annual Budget by appropriating funds received for bid alternatives relating to the construction of Hangar 730 at the Columbia Regional Airport.

X. REPORTS

REP26-20 Recommendation of Staff regarding Short-Term Rentals.

Mayor Treece explained staff had recommended the items related to short-term rentals be tabled for six months to allow the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) to study the situation and provide additional recommendations.
Mr. Ruffin stated he was agreeable.
Ms. Peters commented that she believed it was a good idea.
Mayor Treece suggested they table the bills associated with short-term rentals to the December 7, 2020 Council Meeting.
Mr. Pitzer asked if short-term rentals would be allowed during this six-month period. Ms. Peters replied she thought they were illegal. Mr. Teddy commented that there was not authorization to do business in residentially zoned areas. Ms. Thompson stated that was

correct. Mayor Treece understood they had a tacit temporary administrative delay on that enforcement that he expected to continue. Ms. Thompson explained Council could instruct staff to not enforce the ordinance pending review and she was sure the City Manager would listen to that direction as had been done in the past. Mr. Pitzer understood an exception would be made for nuisances and complaints. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct. Mayor Treece asked if everyone was comfortable with that and whether anyone had any objection. No one objected.

Mayor Treece made a motion to table B348-19A, B22-20A, B23-20A, and B46-20 to the December 7, 2020 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruffin and approved unanimously by voice vote.

REP27-20 Unofficial Correspondence from the Youth Advisory Council.

Mayor Treece stated Will Cover, the Chair of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), had provided an unofficial report on behalf of YAC. He thought they had done a nice job even though their efforts had been truncated. Ms. Peters agreed.

Mayor Treece understood a youth summit had been planned, but it had been canceled due to COVID-19. He noted the report had suggested coordination with the Columbia Public School District Board, and stated a non-voting liaison from that Board could be added. He asked Ms. Peters if she had an objection to that. Ms. Peters replied she did not have any objection to it and noted she would be happy to reach out to Peter Stiepleman, the Superintendent of the Columbia Public Schools, or the School Board. She commented that the YAC had a lot of passion and interest, but not having access to the School Board made it difficult to get as much done as they would like.

Mayor Treece noted Mr. Cover had also indicated allowing the YAC to be more present and active in school policy input as it could help with the recruitment of members.

Mr. Trapp commented that he felt those were great suggestions, and agreed with the YAC as there were a lot of things the youth were concerned about that were School Board related. In addition, it would be a nice bridge between the two bodies. He also agreed with Mr. Cover that it could help with recruitment.

Mayor Treece stated a lot of the YAC members had graduated and asked if there was any objection to him, on behalf of the Council, sending a letter thanking them for their work and congratulating them on their achievements in light of COVID-19. No one objected.

REP28-20 Amendment to the FY 2020 Annual Budget - Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds.

Mayor Treece understood this report had been provided for informational purposes.

XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF

Mayor Treece listed the comments received by the City Clerk by the 4:00 p.m. deadline.

Nickie Davis, the Executive Director of the Downtown Community Improvement District (CID), had provided written comment asking that the current adjustments for free parking to be extended through July 31 and to pull back on the reserved parking for curbside pick-up. The comments were filed with the items associated with this meeting.

Terry Roberts, 5603 Autumn Ridge Court, had provided written comments indicating the lack of a City strategic plan for 2020 was a root cause of the predicament they were in now as the pandemic was merely a symptom. He also stated he felt leadership was the root cause. The comments were filed with the items associated with this meeting.

Gary Vaught, 102 Thistledown Drive, had provided written comments indicating he would forfeit his earnest money associated with a housing contract if the Council opted to raise taxes to make up revenues. He stated he would also relocate his family and start his business elsewhere. The comments were filed with the items associated with this meeting.

Ellen Crain had provided written comments indicating she approved of the current order and was supportive of the Director of Health in terms of what she thought was best for the community. She also indicated that she preferred something that was stricter than the statewide order. The comments were filed with the items associated with this meeting.

Julie Ryan had provided written comments on behalf of the COMO Safe Water Coalition indicating the budget presentation during the pre-council meeting had broken out the debt increase along with the operations and maintenance increase. She stated it had been how the water bond had been promoted, and that the rate increases had been a part of the convoluted discussion that had not shown accurate transparency to ratepayers in the past two years. She further indicated that the presentation discussed the need to stop financing maintenance projects with bond funding, which she noted the COMO Safe Water Coalition had been saying for years. She noted they were still years behind where they should be in repairing the water treatment plant, and the budget presentation discussed a 5.5 percent increase in operations and maintenance to cover $400,000 of additional funding for lime hauling. She felt if the City had fixed the aerators and basins when they had been told, the increase would not have been necessary. She also asked for a dashboard of water bond projects. The comments were filed with the items associated with this meeting.

Mayor Treece reiterated that Boone County Commissioner Fred Parry had asked people to email the City Clerk regarding the stay at home order that had expired two weeks ago. Emails had been received by seven people asserting their rights and complaining about an industry of contact tracers as a ubiquitous, fascist surveillance network to enforce testing to grant the authority to remove people from their homes. They had also indicated they did not consent to wearing a mask and forced medical experimentation of testing. In addition, they wanted a response in writing with 72 hours as to why 5G was being fast-tracked, etc. Those emails were from William Koehnemann at 3815 Woodland Drive, Pamela Heyen at 501 W. Botner Road, Paula Schuh at 2100 Whitewater Drive, Rachel Wise at 5215 E. Highway 163, Wendy Lane at 5412 Volunteer Drive, Nicci Palmer at 12251 S. Route N, and Moira Shaw at 502 Manor Drive. The written comments were filed with the items associated with this meeting. He noted an additional twenty-six emails had been received regarding opening up the community, and listed those.

Marisa Hagler had provided written comment asking that they allow kids to play by bringing back softball and baseball.

Renee Munns had provided written comment suggesting Boone County follow the Governor's order in relaxing the policies related to COVID-19.

Pat Hays had provided written comment asking that they open up the economy.

Katie Wagner, a realtor with offices at 320 E. Broadway, had provided written comment indicating she had three real estate sales fall through due to clients losing their jobs, and suggested allowing people to get back to work as was their desire.

Debra Johnson had provided written comment indicating her small business, which was a hair salon, was struggling to meet all of the regulations, and suggested the use of the statewide order instead.

Rachel Wise had provided a second written comment asking for the restrictions that were more restrictive than that of the State order to end.

Cynthia Raven had provided written comment indicating she believed the current order was overly cautious without reason and suggested the State order be followed.

Randy Minchew had provided written comment suggesting the rescission of the current order and allowing the City of Columbia and Boone County to operate under the guidelines of the State of Missouri.

Leslie Shollenbarger had provided written comment encouraging people that were fearful or overly concerned to stay home while lightening restrictions for people practicing social distancing, good hand-washing, and other strategies to stay healthy.

Barb Voss had provided written comment stating there was no reason to continue the oppressive stay at home order as big businesses where thriving while the leadership of

Columbia, who she felt were cowards, continued to negatively impact the small, important businesses.

Amy Smith had provided written comment indicating the stay at home order had caused more harm than the virus.

Carla Leible, General Manager of Zimmer, had provided written comment indicating Columbia's long term recovery would be painful if they did not lift the existing health order.

Phil Figueiredo, owner and General Manager of Chapman Heating and Air Conditioning, had provided written comment urging the Director of Health, the City Council, and the Boone County Commission to move forward with lifting restrictions.

Barb Glenn had provided written comment asking what, if any, cuts were projected for the City of Columbia as she had only heard of possible tax increases.

Angela Wallace, 3217 S. Country Woods Road, had provided written comment indicating the community did not need existing or any additional regulations and suggested providing education, advice, and recommendations along with incentivizing good behavior. She noted it was hard to have comprehensive, fair, and enforceable regulations across Columbia especially in a time of little facts as it was diverse. She also suggested focusing efforts on tracking people that might be contagious.

Doreen Trecha had provided written comment encouraging an end to the stay at home order as she felt the continued lockdown would cause more damage than the virus.

Amy Bierk had provided written comment asking that the restrictions be lifted so the community could survive.

Jackie O'Rourke had provided written comment indicating it was time to open up businesses with caution and suggested the short-term rental items be tabled.

Sarah Pellis had provided written comment indicating she believed all businesses in Columbia and Boone County should be allowed to open for everyone to support local businesses.

Paul Brugmann, 3601 S. Nebo Cemetery Road, had provided written comment stating he had lost his music store when the store across the street had stayed open.

Amy Kempf had provided written comments suggesting allowing people to work with safe measures and for businesses to open so people did not lose everything. She felt those that were scared could work from home.

Charles and Jane Mitts, 2108 Nottoway Drive, had provided written comment asking for the stay at home order to be lifted as it was doing more harm than good. They had also indicated that they felt it was an unconstitutional order, and that suggestions were appreciated while orders were not.

Kevin Strawn had provided written comment stating all of Columbia and Boone County should be open for business.

Mark Phillips had provided written comment suggesting all businesses be allowed to open as the economy depended on people being able to spend money.

Marsha Smith had provided written comment asking that Boone County be opened up as there were too many people not working, and noted she did not want government to tell her how to live her life.

Melissa Murphy had provided written comment indicating the health order had hurt small businesses, and to allow those that wished to open. She also suggested carefully choosing the words used so it did not invoke rampant fear and instead provide for confidence in the leaders of the community.

All of the comments were filed with the items associated with this meeting.

Cameron Dunafon, 4906 Fall Brook Drive, stated he was the owner of DVERSE Holdings, which operated commercial property and had quick serve restaurants throughout the community. He appreciated the loosening of restrictions Ms. Browning had described earlier, and noted he had some perspective as he had businesses operating within four states so he had reviewed at least 800 orders within the last eight weeks. He commented that the discussion about moving ahead of the State of Missouri for a week

and allowing the State to catch up created an unknown, which was hard for him as a business owner. He urged the Director of Health and the leaders of Columbia to rescind the City orders and to instead follow the orders of the State since Columbia was in a good place in terms of the virus. He reiterated the unknown as a business owner was the most onerous issue. He pointed out his sales were down 30 percent and they had lost about $500,000 locally. He stated they were recovering, but believed the best way to continue to recover that was to have a known situation. He commented that a trauma surgeon he knew had indicated there had been two traffic fatalities in Boone County due to people wearing masks inappropriately while driving their vehicles. While masks were important in certain places, he believed there was a need for education.

Terry Roberts, 5603 Autumn Ridge County, explained he had been the one that had provided written comment regarding the strategic plan, and asked if the City had a current 2020 strategic plan that had been adopted and published. He commented that although he had included a long rant in the email he had sent, he had also provided a solution by offering his assistance with the strategic plan moving forward. He explained the plans he had seen had not included any emphasis on contingency planning with regard to pandemics when there had been plenty of pandemics in the past.

Mayor Treece stated he believed Mr. Roberts had raised some good points. He noted there was a pandemic plan, which had been done in 2012 for the flu and had contemplated quarantines isolation facilities, etc. He explained the City also had a strategic plan that had been a three-year plan, which had expired last year. They had spent most of the fall going through the components of the new strategic plan that dealt with economic security, public safety, keeping the community strong and vibrant, etc. They had not contemplated they would be in an eight-week global pandemic, and rather than adopting that plan, they had decided to press pause on it at the last council meeting because they felt it would be inappropriate to adopt a strategic plan that did not contemplate the current environment. He thought they would have to take into consideration the depressed economy, the layoffs and furloughs that were likely to happen, etc. when restarting the process.

Mr. Trapp explained he was a contract employee of Welcome Home where Mr. Roberts was the Chairman of the Board, and as a result he had done strategic planning with Mr. Roberts. He suggested sharing what they had with Mr. Roberts as he had singular expertise with regard to strategic planning. He believed if Mr. Roberts had seen the process the City had gone through and understood they had been at the point of setting measurable objectives when COVID-19 had become an issue, he would agree they had wisely decided to go back to the drawing board since they would have a whole new set of operating conditions. He reiterated his suggestion of sharing the presentations of where they were as he believed Mr. Roberts would be pleased with what they had been doing. He pointed out the City of Columbia he had been elected to had not had a strategic plan so they had come a long way and grown in their capacity.

Mr. Roberts reiterated his offer to help in the future.

Mayor Treece commented that Mr. Dunafon had asked for the rescission of the current public health order, and the Council did not currently have the authority to consider, adopt, or rescind an order of the Director of Health. He stated he was not sure he would ever support that as he did not want to politicize actions that were based on public health and associated data, but understood the City Charter had been written at a time that had never contemplated a global pandemic. The emergency powers of the City Manager allowed him to take steps for a period of 21 days and to then bring that item as a proposed ordinance to Council for them to adopt. He wondered if it might be a good idea for a thoughtful review of the Charter and to also apply the 21-day time frame to the powers and duties of the Director of Health during an emergency. In that situation, if the Council disagreed and rejected the orders, the Director of Health could issue another

order the next day that would run for up to an additional 21 days. He commented that he found it ironic that the incubation period for this virus was 14-21 days. He stated it might not be good policymaking, but wondered if that would provide some sort of check and balance if they encountered this situation again.

Ms. Peters asked if there were other directors that had the same power. Mayor Treece replied he did not believe any other department director had that kind of authority. He commented that the emergency declaration had suspended the Council's review and responsibility for ordinances and placed those duties with the City Manager so he could make the decisions necessary to respond to the disaster. He noted the Director of Health had certain powers under State Statute and the City Charter that allowed her to make independent decisions. He understood it was a City/County Health Department so the County did its own order. He also understood the County Commission voted on the County order. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct. She explained the County Commission had a different process and was required to vote on the order. It was essentially a thumbs up or thumbs down. They did not edit the order. They only provided their approval or disapproval.

Mayor Treece asked Ms. Thompson if she recalled the vote of the County Commission on the stay at home order and whether it had been unanimous. Ms. Thompson replied she thought it had been unanimous, but was not certain. Mr. Trapp stated he thought it had been unanimous as well. Mayor Treece understood the County Commission had approved a stay at home order that one County Commissioner was now lobbying the City Council to repeal even though the Council had never approved it in the first place. Ms. Peters pointed out it had already expired as well. Mayor Treece agreed.

Ms. Peters understood there was not any other director that had this kind of power. Ms. Thompson replied there were certain powers granted to the Emergency Management Director, which was a position that was appointed by the City Manager. She noted it was a convoluted position because the City utilized the County Emergency Management Director for those functions as well, but it worked in conjunction with the City Manager. As far as she knew, this was the greatest independent power that would go to a department director without any kind of real check and balance. She stated she could draft something for Council to review if they wanted that would include a check and balance in that system similar to that of the City Manager and his 21 days.

Mr. Skala commented that this was a complicated and multi-layered issue. There were responsibilities of the City Manager once a declaration of emergency was established, which had a time limitation. In addition, the Director of Health had independent authority. He thought it would be worth it to propose a task force to look at the policy determinations and provide for public comment so they had some understanding of the limitations and policy decisions for unprecedented events such as this. He reiterated he thought they should look at it in an ad hoc fashion after some of these exigency decisions were made. He stated he did not want to interfere with what was happening now as he had full faith and confidence in Ms. Browning and her staff. He felt it would be useful to have the discussion via a citizens group for additional input on what the policies should entail.

Mr. Pitzer asked if there was anything in the authority of the State that would overrule anything the City did. He understood the Director of Health had statutory authority from the State. Mayor Treece commented that there was a bifurcation of first class charter cities and fourth classification cities. His recollection was that the Governor had issued a special executive order granting local health directors this authority. Ms. Thompson commented that cities with a population of greater than 75,000 could have a local health department, known as the local health authority, which had independent authority under State laws and regulations. She explained there were specific State regulations along with the executive order. There were various powers from many angles, and at the same time, Columbia had City Charter and City Code requirements on top of those as the local authority. They were all applicable at the same time and read in conjunction with each

authority. Although there was authority under State law, it supplemented what they had locally. Locally, the powers and duties of the Director in the event of an epidemic or pandemic were set forth within the City Code. Mr. Pitzer asked if it was within the City Code or City Charter. Ms. Thompson replied the City Code and noted it was Section 11-98 of the City Code. She explained they could put in a requirement for reporting to the City Council for ratification via a resolution. If the Council did not ratify it, the Director could issue an order if needed for no longer than 21 days and could modify the order in terms of the checks and balances that were put into place.

Mr. Pitzer asked what would happen if one body ratified it and the other body did not since it was a joint City and County agency. He wondered if they would have conflicting orders. Ms. Thompson replied the County could not regulate the health department within the city limits for a city over 75,000 in population. The County only regulated outside of the city limits of the City of Columbia. Although it was called a City/County health department, Ms. Browning was serving in two separate capacities, as the Director of Health for the County for the portions outside the city limits and as the Director of Health for the City within the city limits.

Ms. Peters commented that she did not disagree with the potential change to support the Director of Health or provide feedback, but worried about the conflict between what was best for the health of the public based upon the epidemiology and medicine versus what was politically or economically the best. She reiterated she was concerned one could overwhelm the other, but also felt the Director of Health could use the feedback from citizens and elected representatives.

Mayor Treece stated he was not opposed to reviewing a draft policy, especially if it was similar to the relationship between the Council and City Manager during an emergency declaration. Without a vaccine and widespread testing, he believed this novel coronavirus would be with them for a while. As a result, he felt they might want to spread some of the burden of the Director of Health via a thoughtful pandemic task force as had been suggested by Mr. Skala. He understood Ms. Browning spoke with the school superintendents, heads of the three hospitals, heads of the three higher education institutions, and about 80 other decision makers regularly, if not every day, but thought it might be helpful to have some sort of sounding board via a public meeting in terms of communication.

Mr. Skala commented that the issue between public health and the economy was complicated. He thought the public health aspect had to take preference as it was the way it was now and the way it needed to be. Unless they solved some of the problems associated with this exigency, they would be unable to solve the economic problems. They could issue an order expanding what people were able to do under the circumstances, but there was a psychological aspect to this as well whereby some would still not go to restaurants and other businesses if they were open. He thought the conversation they had with the Director of Health and the public in addressing some of the issues would be important, and did not feel it would overwhelm the necessity of the Director of Health to establish public health policy.

Mr. Thomas stated he supported the idea of some kind of official task force meeting with the Director of Health on a regular basis in public and including representatives of other major institutions outside of the City and County to review and provide recommendations on proposals. He thought there would be a much larger role of public health in everything they did for the next couple of years, and felt they should build those partnerships with all of the other key institutions, such as the business community, school districts, University, etc. for a more coordinated effort going forward.

Ms. Peters commented that she saw that coordination in the beginning and explained the Chamber of Commerce, University, school districts, hospitals, etc. had been involved. It had been an impressive array of stakeholders that had been involved in the decision for the stay at home order and how it would affect different areas of the community. She agreed it would be nice to continue that moving forward, but felt that had already been

displayed.
Mr. Trapp stated he agreed with looking at a policy review. It was unfortunate a department director had to take the heat for these really tough political decisions. He felt it would be better for the Council to have that review and oversight, so they, as the political leadership of the community, could bear that burden. He commented that it would be nice to democratize that process by leaving it up to the Council to be the mature adult leadership the community needed, but noted he would be hesitant to add another structure or obligation because he felt people were already working and the collaboration was already there. He agreed there was a communication piece that could have improved outcomes, but noted they were in a divided nation and felt this was a symptomatic piece of that. As a result, he was not sure that core issue would be resolved. He stated he was not against this, but was hesitant, and suggested the consultation of Ms. Browning with regard to what she thought was best because he would not want to add something else to her already difficult job.

Mr. Trapp commented that they had previously discussed reprioritizing the CDBG funding by looking at a kitchen similar to what Springfield, Missouri had in terms of the homeless, and Mr. Cole had indicated that might be a better use for the $500,000 and potential $250,000 of CARE funding through the CDBG program. He understood $250,000 had already been assigned for a facility for homelessness within the five-year action plan. He pointed out this was not anything the City could manage or do, and felt it needed to be done in conjunction with a nonprofit partner. He wanted to make sure staff could move forward. Even in the best case scenario, this might not come on-line to address the public health issue, but the economic implications, the need for advanced services for newly homeless people along with long term homeless people, etc. would continue. He stated there would be a need for the center and thought it would be good if they could move forward expeditiously to have conversations with potential nonprofit partners to determine a process to move it forward. He asked for a report for potential ways to move forward.

Mr. Glascock stated he needed direction from the Council with regard to the downtown. He explained they had created loading zones for carryout dining when they were under the stay at home order, but now that retail businesses were open they also wanted loading zones. He thought it was likely best to remove them, especially since some restaurants were opening for in-seat dining, and asked Council if it was comfortable with moving in that direction.
Ms. Peters stated she was comfortable with it. She explained she was downtown often and there were not many parking spaces now due to the spaces associated with curbside pick-up. As the City continued to open, she felt it would be better to move vehicles every two hours versus allowing people to park for 24-hours per day. Mr. Glascock agreed people were parking in some downtown spaces for longer than two hours or even a day.
Mayor Treece commented that going through July 31 seemed to be a little long. He suggested they address that issue gradually like they were with opening the City. He thought they could treat it like a bank that hooded some spots if they were to continue allowing spots for curbside pick-up and require payment for the hood. He noted the Downtown CID could potentially pay for part of it. He stated he was inclined to start opening parking back up and pointed out it reinforced things were going back to normal.
Mr. Pitzer stated he liked the idea of reserving one space per block or every other block for pick-ups in the interim period for a couple of months as it would not take up as many spots.
Mr. Glascock commented that staff would talk to the Downtown CID as he liked the idea of them helping to pay for part of it.

Mr. Pitzer explained he had been thinking about what they, as a City could do, to try and

provide some economic relief. He understood their options were limited as they could not print money or push off tax deadlines. They could, however, control what they charged for utilities, and suggested a one-time utility rebate to customers. He stated he would recommend a flat rate that would apply to everyone. He thought it could be set up in a way that would not be too detrimental to the finances of the utilities. If they had 50,000 customers, $50 would result in $2.5 million and $100 would result in $5 million. He suggested it be split across all of the utilities. He understood they would have to work with the Finance Department, but thought it could be handled via a transfer so it did not affect revenue or income. He believed the utilities had the reserves to handle it. He did not feel everyone needed it or would benefit greatly from it, but it would be significant for those that did need it. In addition, it would put a few million back into the economy.

Mayor Treece commented that he had always thought that was something expedient and tangible they could do during this current economic challenge. In addition, it was rather equitable in that they all had to pay utility bills. He stated he was sensitive to the financial implications with respect to the debt coverage and target cash reserves, particularly in terms of water and electric, although water made the most sense since people were likely to have used more water when staying home and because they wanted people to wash their hands. He understood the City Manager had taken the appropriate action to delay cutting off utilities and they were not enforcing late bills. He wondered what the best offset might be in terms of what might be fiscally responsible and fair to all ratepayers.

Mayor Treece commented that a lot of utilities paid into a fund at the Public Service Commission, particularly in winter months, to prevent disconnections, and asked if anything of that nature existed at the local level. Mr. Glascock stated they had the Cash and Help program, which involved certain criteria for utilization of those funds. Mayor Treece asked if money from target cash reserves could be put into it. Mr. Glascock replied yes. Mayor Treece asked how one could access those funds. Mr. Glascock replied he would not want to venture a guess and stated he could bring something back to Council. Mayor Treece commented that he did not want to necessarily do a needs test on everyone, and noted he had read something recently indicating 41 percent of American families could not pay an unexpected $250 bill. He wondered if there was any data that showed how many people were late and to what extent they were late in terms of payment. Mr. Glascock stated notices for late payment were up 30 percent. Mayor Treece suggested they start there. Mr. Pitzer was not sure that was appropriate as a criterion. Mr. Glascock thought the number was around $2.3 million in terms of those that might qualify for the Cash and Help program.

Ms. Peters asked for more information regarding the Cash and Help program. Mr. Pitzer agreed they needed to better understand how it might work.

Mr. Thomas commented that he thought the Cash and Help program would be a great way to do this as it was already set up to do it. By placing cash reserves in there, it would increase the number of people it could help. Another option would be to create a grant program for Central Missouri Community Action, Voluntary Action Center, and/or other organizations that provided some kind of utility assistance.

Mr. Skala stated he would like for them to look into this a bit further and to be provided data to help make decisions.

Mr. Pitzer commented that he thought speed was of the essence if there was any interest in doing what he had mentioned. If not, they could do something with this other program.

Mayor Treece wondered if they could use the Cash and Help program to do this. As things started moving and more money was flowing again, he hoped people would get back on track. He thought they might want to do a look back on March and April billings that were late or met certain criteria to get something to those that needed it the most.

Mayor Treece asked if this was something within the City Manager's current authority under the emergency declaration. Ms. Thompson replied the City Manager would have

the authority to dedicate resources, but they would really have to review the structure. She noted there was a program via the Public Health and Human Services Department for utility assistance that had criteria and might be a better program to attach to as an emergency measure. She could not recall the name of that program, but understood it involved federal funds. Mr. Glascock stated he was thinking of utilizing utility reserves and was not sure those funds could be used by the Public Health and Human Services Department. Ms. Thompson thought they might be able to if the money was put to a utility program. She stated they would need to determine the programs that were available. She felt they should be cautious of using a charitable deduction program, such as the Cash and Help program, since they would be using funds from the utility accounts. She stated they could find a way to do something, but they needed to ensure they had the correct vehicle to do it.
Mr. Pitzer asked if it could be looked into quickly. Mr. Glascock replied they would try and have something for the next meeting.

Ms. Peters asked if they were going to continue providing people the option to provide written comments even though they were allowing verbal comments at the meetings now. She thought it would be appropriate to allow people to come if they wanted, but to also allow them not to come if they did not feel comfortable.

Ms. Peters asked when boards and commissions would start meeting again. Mayor Treece replied she should have received a schedule today that showed what was happening within the months of May, June, etc. Ms. Peters stated she had not seen it, but would look again. Ms. Amin noted it had been sent from her to the board and commission email group in which she was included.

Ms. Peters asked how the homeless were fairing in terms of COVID-19. Mr. Trapp replied there had been some testing and he did not believe any of them had tested positive. They had not seen any disease transmission within the community thus far. He pointed out handwashing was the biggest obstacle and challenge. There was a low level of education about the disease and some did not believe in it. He understood there had been reports regarding Turning Point and Loaves and Fishes, which were both held at Wilkes United Methodist Church, of people not social distancing. They were doing a nice job about limiting the number of people in the building and they had provided a handwashing station. He pointed out his limited liability company and other volunteers had been trying to educate those at car camp, safe camp, and on private property. He noted some in the community had provided material and supplies, and it had been a venue for education and disease management. He explained it continued to be risky as the national statistics showed three times the death rate for those that were unhoused. If it did get into that population, it would likely be terrible. He thought the most helpful thing they could do was to provide handwashing stations. He noted Randy Coil had built them six handwashing stations from plans he had found on YouTube, and suggested placing a station at the Food Bank as there were camps nearby. He pointed out it would require someone to fill it up on a regular basis. He explained people would respond if they were met where they were located and noted those in the homeless community tended to take care of each other.

Mr. Skala commented that he had been on several Zoom meetings with members of the National League of Cities (NLC) and they had been collecting COVID related data from municipalities. He stated he had shared with them the City of Columbia's COVID website, and noted he was happy to hear the dashboard would be available starting tomorrow as it appeared to be a wonderful vehicle for some in-depth information. He explained he planned to pass that dashboard on to those at the NLC as well. He stated he again wanted to express his appreciation for Ms. Browning and her staff on their

leadership as they had been taking a lot of heat on this issue, and looked forward to sharing some of that responsibility as elected officials.

Ms. Amin clarified that the short-term rental ordinances would be on the agenda for the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting. Staff would just include a note stating the intention of Council to table those items to the December 7, 2020 Council Meeting. As a result, the Council would need to officially table those items to that December 7 meeting at the next council meeting.

Ms. Amin stated she did not believe there had been a response to the question of Ms. Peters with regarding to continuing to accept written comments, and asked if something needed to be included on the council meeting agenda that was not as extreme as it had been in the past.

Mayor Treece commented that he would dial it back a little, but noted he wanted to reinforce the fact that anyone was welcome to send written comments prior to any meeting. They received them all of the time. Whether they were read at the meeting or not was the issue. He thought the written comments were more important when there was not an opportunity for someone to attend in person, but when they had the opportunity, either via scheduled public comment at the beginning of the meeting, public comment on agenda items, or public comment at the end of the meeting, it appeared as though written comments were a bit superfluous. He agreed with having something relaxed given there were only 32 chairs in the Council Chamber. He thought they wanted to encourage people to come for their agenda item and step out when they were done to allow other people to enter the room to help balance the social distancing they were trying to achieve. He asked Ms. Amin if she was comfortable dialing it back a bit. Ms. Amin replied yes, and asked if the Council wanted something noted on the agenda. If they did not include language on the agenda, they could explain how to provide written comment when contacted or do a press release.

Mr. Trapp stated he thought they should do a press release and also include something on the council meeting agenda. Even though the meetings were open and people were allowed to speak, some might have fragile health conditions and not feel comfortable attending. In addition, he thought it was more personal to read those comments into the record. He suggested they continue with both. They wanted to have it open for people that were comfortable in bringing their redress to government in person, but also wanted the extra available option of having the written comment read as it did not take that much time and allowed people to feel more included. Mayor Treece stated he was agreeable to that.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:09 p.m.