



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

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Monday, August 21, 2017  
7:00 PM

Regular

Council Chamber  
Columbia City Hall  
701 E. Broadway

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#### I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 21, 2017, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the roll was taken with the following results: Council Members THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, and SKALA 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 August 7, 2017 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Skala and a second by Mr. Ruffin.

Upon his request, Mr. Trapp made a motion to allow Mr. Ruffin to abstain from voting on B198-17 and R122-17. Mr. Ruffin noted on the Disclosure of Interest forms that he was currently on the United Way Board of Directors, and he had been the Co-Chair of the Boys and Girls Club Capital Campaign Committee and had recently been appointed to the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mayor Treece and approved unanimously by voice vote.

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

#### II. SPECIAL ITEMS

None.

#### III. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BC8-17 Board and Commission Applicants.

Upon receiving the majority vote of the Council, the following individuals were appointed to the following Boards and Commissions.

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION

Sommer, Andrew, 408 S. Garth Avenue, Ward 4, Term to expire July 31, 2020

BOARD OF HEALTH

Bass, Angie, 6904 Montauk Court, Ward 5, Term to expire August 31, 2020

Boley, Cynthia, 307 Alexander Avenue, Ward 1, Term to expire August 31, 2020

Gadbois, Mary, 3600 Vawter School Road, Ward 5, Term to expire August 31, 2020

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CODES COMMISSION

Howe, Christopher, 1710 Cliff Drive, Ward 6, Term to expire August 1, 2020

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

Balthazor, Troy, 3615 Chatham Drive, Ward 5, Term to expire July 15, 2020

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Fowler, Patricia, 606 N. Sixth Street, Ward 1, Term to expire September 1, 2020

Walkenbach, DeAnna, 407 Pyrenees Drive, Ward 4, Term to expire September 1, 2020

Mayor Treece understood they needed to appoint a City Council liaison to the Youth Advisory Council, and asked Mr. Thomas if he wanted to continue in that role. Mr. Thomas replied he would be happy to hand it off to someone else if there was interest. Ms. Peters stated she would be interested. Mayor Treece asked if there was any objection to Ms. Peters being appointed the City Council liaison to the Youth Advisory Council. No one objected.

**IV. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT**

SPC52-17 Martha Brownlee, Race Matters Friends - The Potential Impact of the Missouri NAACP Travel Advisory and Domestic Terrorism on Columbia.

Martha Brownlee, 701 S. Greenwood Avenue, commented that she had been in Washington D.C. for a conference with 30,000 other social scientists on August 6 when the Missouri NAACP travel advisory had been issued, and had been stopped countless times by colleagues across the United States asking what was going on in Missouri as they had seemed to take the travel advisory very seriously. She noted she had explained the efforts in Columbia for community policing as a way to reduce racial disparities in vehicle stop data and the community outreach unit, but stated she had been embarrassed when asked about specific policy changes as she had mentioned the signed consent to search form, which caused them to wonder how something that occurred after the stop was made would impact the stops being made. She understood St. Louis had already reported a decrease in convention business following the travel advisory, and Columbia had experienced a financial impact from lower University of Missouri enrollment. She referred to a New York Times article that had quotes from student that had decided against attending the University of Missouri after the student protests due to the unrest, and felt that had negatively impacted the community. She commented that the financial health of their flagship institution was inextricably linked to the financial health of Columbia, and felt it was incumbent upon them to use this opportunity to become a shining example of how cities could use negative events to make themselves better. She noted she believed Columbia was at risk for similar acts of domestic terrorism as had occurred in Charlottesville whereby white supremacists and fascist organizations marched through the campus in their community. Although she was sure everyone had been horrified by the events in Charlottesville, it had affected her personally as her family had been involved in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, which had resulted in her brother being beaten up and a cross being burned in their yard. She explained she had been frightened as a child when that was happening and had never expected to experience that terror again. She was afraid Columbia was at risk to the behavior experienced in Charlottesville due to their location in Little Dixie. She pointed out there were a number of documented white supremacist groups in the State of Missouri, and Columbia was perceived as a liberal town. In addition, the student protests had ignited the ire of the state legislators, who had taken it out on the University of Missouri. She hoped policies were in place with regard to how Columbia would deal with these types of events, and felt there needed to be a clear message from the Council that this type of behavior would not be acceptable and would be rejected for the safety of the

citizens.

## V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- PH28-17 Proposed construction of the El Chaparral riparian restoration project on a City-owned tract located along the south fork of the Grindstone Creek.

PH28-17 was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Johnsen provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

Mr. Skala made a motion directing staff proceed with final plans, specifications and construction of the El Chaparral Riparian Restoration project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trapp.

Mr. Skala commented that this was an important initiative that had come from the collaborative adaptive management (CAM) process, which was the result of the total maximum daily load (TMDL). He noted it was high on the agenda of the CAM Stakeholder Committee, and was something he endorsed and supported.

**The motion made by Mr. Skala and seconded by Mr. Trapp directing staff proceed with final plans, specifications and construction of the El Chaparral Riparian Restoration project was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

- PH29-17 Setting property tax rates for 2017 for the City of Columbia.

Discussion shown with B219-17.

- B219-17 Setting property tax rates for 2017.

PH29-17 was read by the Clerk, and B219-17 was given second reading by the Clerk.

Ms. Nix provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece asked for the maximum tax rate approved by the voters. Mr. Skala replied he thought it was likely at least 71 cents as there had been a proposal to increase the rate for public safety by 30 cents. Mayor Treece asked if the voters had approved a rate of higher than 41 cents, which was the current rate, or if they were at the ceiling of the voter approved property tax rate. Mr. Skala replied the rate had historically been higher and had been reduced at some point. Ms. Nix stated it had been at 48 cents prior to 1998. Mayor Treece asked what had happened in 1998 for the property tax rollback. Mr. Matthes thought they might have finished paying off a general obligation bond that required property taxes to pay it back. He thought they could provide a history of the tax rate over time.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, Mayor Treece closed the public hearing.

Mayor Treece stated he would like to have the history of where they were with respect to the property tax rate.

Mr. Trapp commented that the rate for the Library was 55 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The City had a very small portion of the overall property tax rate people paid.

Mr. Skala agreed with Mr. Trapp. He understood the property tax rate had been higher in the past, and had been reduced significantly. He noted they tended to defer to the Columbia Public Schools in terms of property taxes.

**B219-17 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

- PH30-17 FY 2018 Annual Budget for the City of Columbia.

- PH31-17 Consider changes to the sanitary sewer utility rate, sanitary sewer utility connection fee and waste hauler disposal service fees.
- B220-17 Adopting the FY 2018 Annual Budget for the City of Columbia.
- B221-17 Amending Chapter 11 of the City Code as it relates to Public Health and Human Services Department fees.
- B222-17 Amending Chapter 12A of the City Code as it relates to stormwater utility charges.
- B223-17 Amending Chapter 13 of the City Code as it relates to hauled liquid waste rates.
- B224-17 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code as it relates to parking fees.
- B225-17 Amending Chapter 17 of the City Code as it relates to Parks and Recreation fees.
- B226-17 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to transportation fares.
- B227-17 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to solid waste rates and services.
- B228-17 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to sanitary sewer utility rates and sanitary sewer utility connection fees.
- B229-17 Amending Chapter 27 of the City Code as it relates to accounts and billing and water rates.
- B230-17 Amending Chapter 27 of the City Code as it relates to electric rates.

PH30-17 and PH31-17 were read by the Clerk, and B220-17, B221-17, B222-17, B223-17, B224-17, B225-17, B226-17, B227-17, B228-17, B229-17, and B230-17 were given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Matthes provided a staff report.

Mr. Skala understood there had been a proposal for a \$1,000 one-time payment, which had been criticized by the State Auditor, and that this would change to 25 payments of

\$40. He asked if this had been cleared by the State Auditor. Mr. Matthes replied he had not communicated with the State Auditor, but noted he had checked with the legal experts, and they were more comfortable with this proposal.

Mr. Skala understood funds for transit came from the transportation sales tax, which also funded the airport and some other infrastructure. The \$600,000 deficit meant they either had to find money from another source, cut services, or alter the formula by which they devoted the transportation sales tax to each of those entities. Mr. Matthes stated Mr. Skala was correct in that there was a dedicated funding source, which funded the three fundamental services of transit, airport, and streets. If he recalled correctly, it was most significantly focused on streets, then transit, and then the airport. Transit had other funding available to it in that the federal government provided some funding and the University of Missouri made a payment for its routes. The airport received some revenue from the federal government as well.

Mr. Skala asked if they would receive information on savings accrued from the electric and natural gas buses on Wednesday. Mr. Matthes replied they would have more detail on what Mr. Thomas had asked staff to explore, but it was too early to determine the savings from the electric buses. Staff had high hopes for it, but they only had one year with one bus. In addition, the newer buses were smaller 30-passenger buses instead of the 40-passenger buses. They thought this would save even more, but did not have any evidence at this time.

Mr. Trapp asked if they would still be allocating enough to transit to obtain the full federal match. Mr. Matthes replied yes.

Mr. Thomas understood the \$100,000 for Vision Zero, along with the funds other departments, like the Public Health and Human Services Department, were providing, would fully fund the three-year strategic action plan. Mr. Matthes stated that was correct. It was intended to fund the first strategy, which involved three years.

Mr. Pitzer asked for the sales tax growth projection a year ago for the current year. Mr. Matthes replied, historically, Columbia had never seen lower than a three percent growth rate except during the recent recession. In 2016, it was lower than three percent so since then, they had been predicting a reduced growth. They had projected one percent, and it was turning out to be one percent. Mr. Pitzer stated he thought it had been 1.75 percent.

Mr. Pitzer asked how staff had come up with the one percent projection for the upcoming year given the smaller student population and other things that were happening in Columbia. He wondered why they were comfortable projecting the same amount of growth as a year ago given the changes. Mr. Matthes replied there was growth in some parts of retail even though there were fewer students. He explained he had recently conversed with Rusty Strodman, who ran the Columbia Mall, and since the Jefferson City Barnes and Noble store had closed, the Columbia Barnes and Noble store had experienced an increase in sales volume. He was not sure this would carry throughout the entire economy, but those little things added up. Ms. Nix commented that retail was flat with the exception of one category, which had carried them through, and noted she did not expect that to change this year. She explained they monitored it month to month and believed one percent was a good estimate for the year.

Mr. Pitzer asked how they looked in terms of expenditures for the current year. Mr. Matthes replied they had established controls by not allowing the purchase of new fleet and with the 45-day delay in filling positions. He thought they looked good in terms of controlling expenditures when he last reviewed the numbers. He believed they were on target. Mr. Pitzer asked if they were on target or if there would be savings. Mr. Matthes replied he was fascinated by the fact incentive based budgeting appeared to work every other year. Ms. Nix pointed out they were 1-2 months behind so she did not believe they had an updated projection. Mr. Matthes stated reports were provided three months after the fact, and some revenue came in afterwards.

Mayor Treece asked how staff reconciled the incentive based budgeting occurring every

other year. Mr. Matthes replied he thought it had something to do with the mindset of doing everything they could to save, and then programming the savings to be spent once received. He believed it was a combination of having the thought to save money and then spend the savings. Ms. Nix pointed out that eventually they had to replace fleet and other items so they might hold off one year, but needed to replace it the following year.

Mayor Treece commented that he was concerned about the percentage of the surplus that was attributable to personnel savings that departments were then converting to capital. His thought was that if a capital asset was needed, it should be presented as part of the budget process. He stated he did not like the process of converting personnel funds that were a result of holding open a position to capital improvement projects. Mr. Matthes provided the City Manager's Office budget as an example as they had held the vacant Deputy City Manager position open for 45 days. He noted they could not reproduce that in the future. It was essentially a one-time savings, which once spent was gone. It was not a permanent way to fund something. He noted the Parks and Recreation Department had spent one-time savings for a one-time capital improvement at the ARC for long-term savings in energy costs.

Mr. Pitzer asked if the savings, when returned to the department, were required to be spent within a certain period of time. Mr. Matthes replied no, and explained unspent funds were rolled over so they could be accessed into the future.

Mayor Treece asked if departments had the discretion to spend it on something that was not appropriated. Mr. Matthes replied the account numbers were identified as part of the budget process, and when the time came to spend the money, they might see the contract or a request for proposals. He provided the body cameras purchased by the Police Department as an example. The money had been placed in an account, and when the cameras were purchased, the purchase had come back through the Council.

Mayor Treece opened the public hearing.

Aaron Krawitz, 901 Edgewood Avenue, stated he was the Chair of the Commission on Cultural Affairs and described the annual arts and cultural funding process for FY 2018. The basic guidelines of the funding program were that applicants had to be an arts or cultural organization with 501(c)(3) status, the maximum request was \$10,000, and funds had to be used to assist with local exhibitions, performances, workshops, classes, and special events. He pointed out the awards were actually contracts for services from the City of Columbia. Applications were submitted online, and applicants were able to take advantage of an optional early review of their application by staff. Staff was also available for one-on-one consultations through the May 1 deadline. He explained the Commission had held a public work session in June to review the 29 applications received, and in advance of the work session, each commission member had read and scored all of the applications. Staff had compiled all comments and scores for their June meeting whereby they finalized scores for the establishment of rankings. He noted applications had been rated by set criteria, which included artistic quality, educational value, community outreach, and administrative ability. Points were also given to applicants with revenue sources other than City of Columbia dollars. A public hearing was held in July to obtain feedback from applicants and individuals. The 29 applications involved requests for funds of over \$241,000, and they planned to distribute \$100,000 along with an additional \$3,000 for small requests in FY 2018 pending the approval of the Council. He pointed out they had augmented City of Columbia funds with \$8,500 from the Columbia Arts Fund this year. He commented that the requested funds were crucial to the operations of these organizations. He explained they had participated in the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study conducted by Americans for the Arts last year, and it was determined the Columbia non-profit arts and cultural industry had generated \$14.7 million in economic activity during 2015, which had resulted in \$1.3 million in local and state government revenues. The arts were a sound investment for increasing tourism, contributing to community livability, enhancing education, encouraging economic activity, improving public safety, and making Columbia a retirement destination. Funding from the

City of Columbia encouraged all of this, and was truly about providing greater access to art and culture for all citizens and visitors. He noted they estimated 180,000 visitors would participate in City funded arts activities and events in the current fiscal year, making the City's investment just over 50 cents per audience member. He stated the Commission commended and thanked the Council for recognizing the importance of actively supporting the arts in Columbia.

Michael Fletcher, 912 Hickory Hill Drive, explained he was the Chair of the Community Development Commission and noted the Commission oversaw the funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds, which were used to improve lower income neighborhoods and households. He pointed out the recommendations made had been developed through a series of reviews, the consolidated five-year plan, a needs survey, and a rating process similar to what was described for the Commission on Cultural Affairs. He stated a public training process was held so those interested in applying were aware of the application process and funding process. The Commission had rated the applications and compared those ratings to the Consolidated Plan to develop recommendations. This year they had \$1.25 million available in funds and had received over \$2 million in requests. The HOME funds were roughly equivalent to the amount requested, but the CDBG funding recommendations had been particularly challenging as they had \$1.7 million in requests and only \$880,000 available to provide. The projects they had recommended included new sidewalks for Garth Avenue, Sexton Road, Lynn Street, and Oak Street, continued funding for Job Point vocational training, initial site work for a new housing development by Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity, and seed money for a rehabilitation project by the Columbia Housing Authority. He noted they had recommended continuing to fund a number of programs that were vital to the neighborhoods, and these included the code enforcement program, the rehabilitation and repair program for low-income residents, low-interest loans for home repairs, and the homeownership assistance program. He explained they had also recommended funding for Services for Independent Living for ramp repairs and accessibility programs to help the elderly stay in their homes longer and for Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) Head Start for a new parking lot and to address access issues.

Stacy Ford, 2701 Andy Drive, noted she was the Chair of the Human Services Commission and stated support for the City's long-standing investment in community social infrastructure through the social services funding process. She explained poverty was a persistent and growing issue in Columbia and across the country, and pointed out the poverty rate had increased steadily since 1980 when only 13 percent of Columbia residents had lived in poverty. Currently nearly 26,000 or 25 percent of Columbia residents lived below the poverty level. She noted 16 percent of families with children lived in poverty and almost 4,000 children lived in poverty within Columbia. She pointed out a significant number of people living in households with incomes above the poverty level were still unable to meet their basic needs and needed to utilize social services. She stated 39 percent of Columbians were living in low income households and over 41 percent of public school students qualified for a free or reduced lunch as compared to only 27 percent in 2000. She commented that in addition to poverty, social, economic, health, and educational disparities continued to be a significant issue in the community. African Americans experienced disproportionately high rates of poverty, unemployment, and mortality and disproportionately low rates of educational and economic attainment. This disparity persisted in a self-perpetuating cycle that was rooted in poverty, racial, and economic segregation. It started with 37 percent of black children in Columbia living in poverty as opposed to only five percent of white children, and contributed to the academic achievement gap between black and white students, which then led to lower economic attainment for African Americans as black households only earned 64 cents on the dollar of white households in Columbia and had a poverty rate that was four times higher for African American families thereby perpetuating the cycle of low economic attainment. She noted the household income for middle- and low-income households had been flat in

Columbia over the past 50 years, and almost all gains since 1967 had gone to those in the top 20 percent. She stated economic mobility was highly limited for persons born into poverty, and the Columbia area ranked in the bottom 17 percent of communities throughout the nation when it came to income mobility for children from low-income households. She commented that while poverty was increasing, they were seeing positive results from their investments in social services. She pointed out they had succeeded in slowing the rate of child poverty in Columbia, and this was critical since it was particularly challenging to escape poverty. Social services equipped their low-income neighbors with the skills and resources needed to get jobs and the services needed to keep those jobs, and before and after school programs contributed to the low unemployment rates and the median family income, which outpaced the rest of the State. She noted there was a high correlation between crime and economic insecurity, and the investments in social services also led to Columbia's relatively low violent crime rate. These positive outcomes would not be possible without the City's investment in social services as it substantially increased the availability of services to residents. Examples of the services purchased included employment readiness and support from Job Point, the Youth Empowerment Zone, and In2Action, emergency shelter and housing assistance from the Salvation Army, the Voluntary Action Center, Welcome Home, Rainbow House, and Reality House, positive youth, development, and academic support from the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Columbia Housing Authority, and Fun City, domestic violence services from True North, nutrition and supplemental foods from the Food Bank, Community Garden Coalition, and Meals on Wheels, and behavioral health from Compass Health and Phoenix Programs. Without funding from the City, many of these services would be unavailable to their most vulnerable residents. She noted the City's investment allowed the contracted partners to leverage additional external resources, which further increased the community's capacity to deliver social services. In their most recent analysis, they found that for every dollar the City of Columbia invested in local social services, the contracted providers generated \$58 additional dollars. In addition, a significant portion of the revenues were obtained from sources outside of the community. She commented that the City's investment in social services had not kept pace with the growing rate of poverty and income inequality in the community. It had been reduced in 2010, and had been held flat since that time. In 1980, the City's investment in social services was the equivalent of \$851,483 in today's dollars or \$47 per low-income resident. The City's current investment was \$893,556, which resulted in \$22 per low-income resident. She reiterated the issues of poverty and inequality had conspired to keep too many community members from realizing their true potential, and noted the Human Services Commission applauded the City's strategic plan, which sought to better address the issues. Their hope was that this would result in an increased investment in social services, which not only helped with basic needs, but also built the skills and assets needed to move up and out of poverty. She thanked the Council for its long standing support of the social infrastructure of the community, and stated the Commission looked forward to presenting the 2018 recommendations to the Council on December 18.

Mr. Thomas asked for clarification regarding the process by which the Commission reviewed applications and determined how to allocate the limited dollars, and how they evaluated the agencies that received funds to see if the funds had been well spent. Ms. Ford replied the process had changed greatly over her time on the Commission. They now required proposals as they were focused on purchasing services instead of providing grants. She explained they conducted needs-based assessments to determine what the community needed, and worked via categories on a three-year cycle as they felt three years allowed an organization to be able to provide results to ensure they were providing the services they had indicated they would provide. They had a call for proposals and had reviewed the organizational budget to determine their capacity as an organization along with the program that would be provided to determine if it met what was needed in

the community. They also compared programs to determine if they utilized best practices and for the cost of services by unit. They then ranked the organizations and programs so they were able to purchase the best service from the best provider. Those funded were required to report back to the City to show they met the terms of the contract and that it was not duplicated. She pointed out they worked closely with Boone County and the United Way to ensure there was not a duplication of services, and had turned people down that did not meet their standards. She noted it was a detailed process.

Mr. Skala felt this was a logical nexus with the City's strategic plan in terms of social equity, and asked Ms. Ford if she had seen any gains other than reduced crime. He also wondered if the Commission was coordinating with the City Manager's Office on the strategic plan goals. Ms. Ford replied yes. She understood more funding had been provided for Room at the Inn because they found it was easier to have the homeless population safe, off of the streets, and in one location. This assisted officers as they did not have to spend their time moving the homeless population all over the community. They could be taken to the Room at the Inn.

Pat Fowler, 606 N. Sixth Street, stated she was the Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission and noted the Commission was asking for additional funding as they were close to the centennial celebration of the Daniel Boone Building and the bicentennial of the City of Columbia and Boone County. She noted they were viewing the planning process for both events as an opportunity to promote healing between groups that had been advantaged and disadvantaged by the City's policies. She explained the Commission had decided they were about engaging the public and creating a culture of preservation in Columbia, which meant a lot of things to different people. It was not just about buildings. It was about their individual history. She stated the Commission had seven members, and introduced those that were with her as Joe Gagliardi, an artist and carpenter, and Amanda Staley Harrison, a heritage scholar and a museum curator. She noted they also had a staff liaison for staff support, 65 volunteers that had helped them salvage architecturally significant items, over 100 participants of their walking tours, and many community partners that also had the goals of preserving history and unity among cultural events that affected all citizens and not just the dominant culture. They had four funding and action priorities, which included legislative changes and a grant match, promoting historic businesses and businesses in historic structures, programming for the centennial and bicentennial, and salvage, repurpose, and technical assistance. In terms of the legislative changes, she believed important business had been left unfinished in terms of the Unified Development Code (UDC), which involved the protection of historic structures downtown and the large inventory of workforce housing from the 1920s and 1930s. In order to revisit that issue, they would convene a process for all to discuss ways to preserve workforce housing, and would obtain the services of a professional facilitator so they could all work together in a more collaborative manner. She commented that Gatehouse Media, which had purchased the Columbia Daily Tribune, had made the decision to not maintain their physical archives, and the Commission wanted the grant match available should an opportunity arise to ensure those archives remained available to the public to access. They also wanted the grant money to apply for opportunities with the State Historic Preservation Office. She understood some cities were identifying and promoting doing business with businesses that were in historic structures due to the economic development opportunity, and noted they wanted to lead the charge in Columbia by partnering with other business organizations.

Amanda Staley Harrison, 6875 S. Brookhaven Court, explained the Historic Preservation Commission had several ideas with regard to programming for the centennial and bicentennial celebrations to help encourage the community to be involved in the history of Columbia. They felt the bicentennial was a good opportunity for economic development as encouraging history encouraged people to come to the City to visit. During the first year, they were proposing a series of five workshops to assist citizens in discovering,

assessing, and using the resources available in the community. For the second year, they wanted to bring in a professional to get citizens interested in creating displays and sharing the information garnered in the first year, and in the third year, they wanted to do community engagement whereby they were encouraging and assisting neighborhoods and subsets of neighborhoods to celebrate the histories they had discovered. This would lead them into the bicentennial year.

Ms. Fowler commented that Columbia had been very good over the years of telling the story of the dominant culture, but they had many other cultures including African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and the LGBTQ, and the Historic Preservation Commission wanted to ensure they had a vital role of telling the story of the past 200 years as the dominant culture had. She described the type of website they could build for the results of their history. In terms of the salvage, repurpose, and technical assistance, she explained their first goal was to do full cycle salvages whereby they returned valuable items to public spaces. She noted there was a cost to salvages as they needed consumables to keep people safe, a truck, etc. She pointed out they had held sales, but had held some items back for auction to raise funds for a building fund that would provide assistance to property owners in historic structures that would like to conduct façade improvements to keep buildings viable for future generations to enjoy.

Mayor Treece asked if any of this was in their current budget as recommended by the City Manager. Ms. Fowler replied the Commission would receive a \$10,000 allocation as had been received previously. Due to changes in leadership, they had not been able to provide their full request in time, which was why they had come to Council with a request for an additional \$16,230.

Mr. Skala understood the Commission had harvested materials from the Bull Pen Café. Ms. Fowler stated they had harvested some very interesting items, to include forty seats out of the arena and metal signs, which they hoped would first reappear in the Clary-Shy Park and then be available to the public.

Mayor Treece commented that he liked the initiative to tell other people's version of history, and for the bicentennial as the opportunity to provide for it.

Mr. Ruffin asked if the funds requested for the bicentennial would be prorated over the next few years or if would it all be expended in the first year. Ms. Fowler replied it was for the first year, and would include the centennial of the Daniel Boone Tavern this year as the building would celebrate its 100th anniversary on September 1, 2017. She explained civic life had looked different depending upon one's socio-economic status and race given that it was 100 years ago so they wanted to ensure a discussion of civic life among all community groups within Columbia.

Cheryl Price, 511 Parkade Boulevard, explained she was Chair of the Public Transit Advisory Commission and recognized Dawn Zeterberg, a member of the Commission and one of the City's consummate volunteers. She commented that the Commission had been involved in supporting the Vision Zero plan prior to the establishment of the Mayor's Task Force on Pedestrian Safety in May of 2015, which was due to four pedestrian deaths and six other serious injuries during a seven-month period in 2014-2015. Since that time, there had been even more deaths and serious injuries. She asked the Council to adopt the Vision Zero plan and fund it by allocating \$100,000 of savings for the implementation of the three-year plan as the Commission had voted unanimously to support the Vision Zero plan and the allocation of the \$100,000. She noted the Commission had also proposed a policy of requiring crosswalks at key bus stops and the elimination of long distances between places where one could cross. They believed this could go a long way in reducing the rate of injuries and deaths of pedestrians. She explained she was a case manager and advocate volunteer for the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, and noted injuries could sometimes be worse and more devastating than a death and more expensive. She stated she had assisted a person with a brain injury that had received a \$5 million settlement, and it only lasted about 10 years. She commented that Columbians relied primarily or exclusively on personal motor

vehicles for transportation, and noted the challenge was to change the hearts, minds, values, and lifestyles so they could grow into a community where mobility options were available to and affordable for all Columbia citizens and students. She understood the Council had already seen the report from Olsson and Associates and had also received budget recommendations from staff with regard transit asking for an increase in paratransit fares and the elimination of three low ridership routes. She stated the paratransit fare was currently \$2, and while the increase to \$3 might not seem like much, it was a lot for those living on social security as their only source of income. They already had rent, utilities, food, and medical bills to pay in addition to transportation. She knew of people that had to make the difficult decision of eating or paying for utilities or medical bills. She suggested an incremental increase of 50 cents so fares were \$2.50 each way or \$5.00 for a round trip, and believed it would make a huge difference in people being able to adjust their budgets. They could then revisit the issue of another increase at a later date and provide more advance notice. She also asked the Council to not eliminate the three routes proposed. She understood those routes did not have much ridership, but noted they were important to those that relied on them. She suggested they delay the elimination until an on-demand flex-zone or flex-route system could be designed and implemented. This would allow the City to reduce its deficits while continuing to provide service to riders on those routes with an on-demand flex-route system. She thanked the Public Works - Transit staff for their consideration and understanding of the issues many riders faced and for always trying to do their best to solve any problems.

Mark Farnen, 103 E. Brandon Road, stated he represented the over 200 people living at the Bethel Ridge Estates and the Gentry Estates located at Bethel Street and Nifong Boulevard, and all were senior citizens on low or fixed incomes. During the past two weeks, they had held three different focus group meetings with residents and those residents had asked him to express their concerns collectively. He noted they were unequivocally opposed to the proposed increase in paratransit fees as fares would go from \$2 to \$3 per ride, which was a 50 percent increase. It was a larger increase on a percentage basis than almost any other fee, rate, or fare increase included in the proposed budget. They felt this would hit low income people too hard and that it was counter to the *Columbia Imagined* goals and the narrative contained in the Olssen and Associates report. The report clearly identified those members of the community who most depended on transit for mobility as the elderly, disabled, low income, youth, college-aged, and minority populations along with those with limited English proficiency and those that owned only one or fewer vehicles. Those he represented were included in 4-5 of those top eight populations most dependent on transit for mobility, and they were the only ones that would suffer from a fare increase. This was targeted toward the older population and the disabled users throughout the community. They were opposed to this increase along with the unilateral elimination of the fixed routes without implementing a replacement option. He commented that Ms. Price had mentioned a flex system, and they could support that with some tweaks. He suggested they follow the Olssen and Associates recommendation, which involved an alternative system being designed for January and for no permanent changes to be made until August 2018. He stated they had been led to believe this would happen, and the recommendation associated with the proposed budget was different than what had been discussed in March and April. He asked the Council to oppose a paratransit fare increase and prepare an alternative to the outright elimination of bus service to the 25,000 or more people that lived south and west of Stadium Boulevard.

Phil Steinhaus, 201 Switzler Street, stated he was the CEO of the Columbia Housing Authority and noted many of his residents used paratransit, particularly those that lived at Paquin Towers and Oak Towers. He explained they also subsidized transportation and contracted with Services for Independent Living to augment it. He understood they had a hard time paying those fares. He commented that he was also present to speak about

the importance of social service funding from the City of Columbia. Prior to taking the job as the CEO of the Columbia Housing Authority, he had served as the Manager of Community Services for 13 years, and in that position, he had learned about the value of that funding. It was of a significant benefit to the community. He stated the City of Columbia had recognized that supporting the local network of social service agencies greatly improved the quality of life in Columbia in the 1970s, and noted many of the agencies in Columbia had started in the 1970s through the grassroots efforts by people responding to needs. He commented that Columbia had a strong network of health and human services agencies because they were a caring community that wanted all citizens to succeed. The network of health and human service agencies was a response to the social problems they had encountered and was not the cause of them. Columbia citizens were very caring and could not ignore the suffering of others or for human potential to be unrealized. He noted social service funding from the City of Columbia was often key to leveraging federal, state, and private resources as many grants required matching funds to demonstrate local commitment. City funding also often filled the gaps grant funding did not support as grant funding could be specific and exclude paying for critical administrative expenses. Filling gaps made the programs successful. He stated the social services funding from the City provided significant support to families and individuals receiving housing assistance from the Columbia Housing Authority. They could not afford to warehouse people in poverty. They needed to provide housing with supportive services that promoted self-sufficiency and independent living. He pointed out social service agencies were some of the most efficient businesses in the community. They leveraged significant private donations, volunteer hours, and creative solutions by engaging others. He noted agency staff often worked for wages well below the private sector due to their commitment to helping others and making Columbia a better place to live, and local agencies worked very hard to collaborate in programming and the utilization of limited resources. City funding was coordinated with other local funding sources to ensure services among a spectrum of community needs, and was strongly focused on funding programs that had measurable outcomes and involved the greatest needs in the community. It was also directly in line with the strategic plan to eliminate economic and social disparities. He appreciated the continued support by the Council of this important aspect of the social service network.

Jimmy Hart, 2115 Creasy Springs Road, Apt. A, and Jerod Crum, 1506 Preakness Drive, explained they worked with the City of Columbia's Solid Waste Division and the City of Columbia's Street Division respectively. Mr. Hart commented that although they had ratified their contract with 25 payments of \$40, they had originally been promised a \$1,000 lump sum payment. They were disappointed they would not receive that money due to comments by the State Auditor, and asked the Council to honor the \$1,000 lump sum payment, which had been scheduled for October 20.

John Conway, 4902 Thornbrook Ridge, stated he was the Chair of the Water and Light Advisory Board and noted he had provided the Council a supplemental letter as to the Board's review of the FY 2018 water and electric budget. He commented that there was a culmination of studies in terms of the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Infrastructure, the Integrated Water Resource Planning Committee, and the Drinking Water Planning Work Group, and thought it might behoove them to conduct a comprehensive financial study for a 10-15 year time frame due to the potential impact on the citizen or customer. He believed this should include a conversation with Boone County, the Columbia Public Schools, etc. to determine what they were doing in terms of infrastructure that might impact the City of Columbia. He suggested they not look at each infrastructure need in isolation.

Mayor Treece asked Mr. Conway where he would find the supplemental letter from the Water and Light Advisory Board. Ms. Amin replied it had been included in the packet as part of B220-17. Mayor Treece asked if the Water and Light Advisory Board had taken a position on the proposed electric and water rate increases. Mr. Conway replied a

position had been taken in terms of looking at 3-4 elements, which included the CIP, the operations budget, the debt service ratio, etc. Mayor Treece asked Mr. Conway if the Board had actually taken a vote on the proposed rate increases. Mr. Conway replied they had not taken a vote. Mayor Treece understood they did not have a position on the rate increases. Mr. Conway explained they had not received financial statements this past year so there was some reluctance to make a determination for the FY 2018 budget. Mayor Treece asked when the last time was that they had received a financial statement. Mr. Conway replied the last one had been dated September 30, 2016. Mayor Treece understood the Board had not taken a position on the rate increases. Mr. Conway stated that was correct, but noted they had conducted a financial assessment in terms of the CIP, the operations budget, the debt service ratio, and the cash reserve policy, and when looking at that, they could come to a conclusion. Mayor Treece understood the Board had not made the conclusion. Mr. Conway stated he thought they had as they had authorized him to send the letter indicating what they had done. Mayor Treece understood they had not endorsed the rate increase. Mr. Conway stated that was correct as there had not been a vote.

Sean Brown, 4366 W. Millbrook Drive, explained he was the Managing Director of Columbia Access Television (CAT), the community's public access television station and community media center and a 501(c)(3) non-profit community service organization. He noted he was speaking in support of funding for CAT and thanked Mr. Matthes for including CAT in this year's proposed budget at \$35,000. He asked the Council to approve that funding, and to consider additional funding should resources become available. He pointed out CAT had reduced staff to include only himself and had moved its operations, which had revitalized an aging downtown building, had improved their ability to serve members by placing the media center and the HD television studio under the same roof, and had reduced expenses. He and the Board of Directors had streamlined the organization and were able to serve the membership while offering affordable video production services to non-profit organization and other community organizations in the area. The services allowed them to hire local freelance video producers and storytellers. He commented that they were proud to partner with local organizations to include the League of Women Voters, Special Olympics - Missouri, Citizen Jane Film Festival, PACE Children's Theatre, Columbia Public Schools, and Columbia Independent Schools. He commented that CAT was the community's voice and allowed citizens of all ages and walks of life to learn digital media skills while sharing their voice, and that there was no other service like this available in the community. He asked the Council to approve the proposed funding for CAT.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, commented that as a disabled individual, he did not use paratransit or the bus system, but noted he might be forced to in the future. He stated there were TIF, CID, and other projects within the community that taxed the poor, and did not feel this was beneficial. He explained his electric rate was going up 1.9 percent since his service was through the Boone Electric Cooperative, and believed the poverty rate was getting worse.

Mayor Treece explained there would be a work session on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 and there would be two other public hearings in September.

There being no further comment, Mayor Treece continued the public hearing to the September 5, 2017 Council Meeting.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

B198-17

Authorizing a professional services agreement with Heart of Missouri United Way for facilitation of a community engagement process for a community policing forum; appropriating funds.

The bill was given third reading by the Clerk.  
Mr. Matthes provided a staff report.

Mr. Skala understood there had been some budgetary considerations, but did not feel that was a primary issue. Based on the comments at a previous meeting, there were some ongoing initiatives to include a forum by the NAACP. If this bill was being withdrawn, he felt it might be premature to start making suggestions for an RFP. He thought they might want to go back to the original resolution as well as it had a broader perspective than just focusing on community policing as a philosophy. He believed this was an important question to ask, but did not feel it was the only question or issue. He foresaw a much more comprehensive approach, but thought it was premature given the fact there some initiatives in the works now.

Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Matthes for sending the survey out again and gathering what appeared to be a lot more information. He thought 15-20 different neighborhood associations had responded and confirmed for him that there was still a considerable amount of community desire to have these conversations. He stated he was looking forward to the community engagement event scheduled for tomorrow evening by the NAACP as he felt it might provide them guidance moving forward. He suggested they allow public comment before withdrawing this item, but noted he was happy to not take any further action tonight. He commented that the resolution had been fairly comprehensive and had directed the City Manager to work with the Council to develop a process to address staffing levels in the Police Department, officer morale and safety, and community-oriented policing, and through the proposal that had been received by the United Way had clearly targeted those three items. He did not feel it was fair to say it only focused on community policing, and understood some people had opposed it because they thought it too heavily emphasized staffing levels.

Ms. Thompson pointed out there was nothing for the City to act upon at this time since they did not have a proposal before the Council.

Mayor Treece stated he wanted to see the outcome of tomorrow's citizen engagement process. He thought the ultimate process should be organic and come from the bottom up, and suggested the organizations that had testified at the previous meeting on this issue get together to develop an agreed upon objective and the process for achieving that objective. If they chose to move forward with a paid consultant, he recommended it follow the traditional RFP process as it would help with cost-effectiveness and allow for intellectual competition.

Mr. Skala commented that he agreed it might not be fair to suggest the proposal had only been about community policing, but noted the proposal had been reduced down to a focus of just the philosophy of community policing with some of the other points. He stated he had received tremendous feedback about the possibility of getting participation from the bottom up, and that process had come to fruition through neighborhood meetings within the three targeted areas of the strategic plan. He suggested they go to those people that did not normally appear before the Council rather than asking them to come to them. Mr. Thomas stated he agreed those meeting had been extremely successful and that the program should be expanded.

Mr. Trapp noted it was fait accompli that they would withdraw this item as they were not able to move forward, and believed it was appropriate to wait as the last listening session would be held tomorrow. He thought they would likely need some kind of proposal process to move forward, and agreed with Mayor Treece that it would be nice if direction was provided by the organizations as they could then move toward an RFP process. He stated he did not believe they should delay this process indefinitely. He explained he had received a request for Council to formally endorse the concept of community policing in the interim similar to what had been done with the Downtown Charrette whereby they had accepted it as a report and years later had endorsed the ideas of it. He noted this would re-endorse the concepts recommended by the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence, and he stated it was something he wanted to see moved forward.

Mayor Treece understood this item had been withdrawn, and no further action was needed.

B217-17      Calling a special election, to be held on November 7, 2017, on the question whether to impose a local use tax.

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.

Mr. Matthes provided a staff report.

Mayor Treece asked which community in Boone County had already voted to put this issue on the November election. Ms. Amin replied Harrisburg.

Mayor Treece asked how the use tax was collected. Mr. Matthes replied it was collected now for the state equivalent sales tax by businesses. State statute expected individuals to do the same if they reached a certain threshold by filing a use tax form. He noted they had checked with the Department of Revenue and 200 individuals within the State of Missouri had done it, which was a low number. He thought the reason was because it was a difficult process. He pointed out it was easier for businesses to comply with it because they had the requirement already. The individual would pay it or the sales tax, but not both, and it was dependent upon the transaction.

Mr. Thomas asked if there was not proper enforcement of the state use tax. He wondered if it was too difficult to enforce. Mr. Matthes replied they did not have the resources to enforce it on an individual basis, but they had randomly audited businesses. Mr. Thomas asked how it would work in Columbia if it passed. He wondered if they would only enforce a part of it and asked how much it would generate. Mr. Matthes replied the enforcement was a state government responsibility. The action by Columbia as a voting community was to require it or not require it. If the voters approved it, the local use tax would be added to the state use tax that was already being collected in Columbia. He explained a business did not pay a use tax on goods it purchased for resale. It was only on goods purchased outside of the State of Missouri that was consumed or used to conduct their business.

Ms. Peters asked for examples. Mr. Matthes replied a primary example involved building materials. If one was to build a building downtown, there was not an incentive to purchase the product locally at this time because one would save about 10 percent if purchased directly from China through a port in New Orleans. The use tax would require that person to pay the equivalent of the sales tax because it was being used to construct the building. As a result, it created an incentive to buy locally if the cost was the same.

Mr. Thomas asked if this would be enforced by tying it to the issuance of a building permit. He wondered how they would make a developer pay the use tax. Mr. Matthes replied enforcement was a Missouri Department of Revenue function. Mr. Thomas asked if they expected the Department of Revenue to successfully enforce it. Mr. Matthes replied he understood they handled enforcement now on the 4.225 percent. This passage of the ballot issue would simply raise that rate. Mr. Skala understood the State function was likely not sufficient at this point, but it would produce some revenue if they chose to proceed with the ballot issue and it passed, and thought it could produce more with effective mechanisms in place. Mr. Matthes stated he felt that was a fair assessment. He commented that in terms of another example, the federal government exempted internet transactions from sales tax. If the federal government changed that exemption, the use tax would enable the City of Columbia to collect the sales tax from internet transactions.

Mr. Pitzer understood some online retailers were collecting state sales tax now, and asked if this use tax would affect the tax collected in those transactions. Mr. Matthes replied he believed it would. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct, and explained the use tax would apply to sales by catalog companies that did not have a physical presence in the State of Missouri. She commented that the use tax protected local businesses that had a brick and mortar place of business as they had to collect and pay the sales tax unlike those without a presence as they did not have to pay an equivalent use tax at this time. She felt it would level the playing field. Mr. Matthes clarified people were already paying the State of Missouri sales tax of 4.225 percent. If this use tax ballot

issue were put to the voters and passed, it would raise that rate by two percent, which was equivalent to the City's sales tax percentage.

Ms. Peters asked for clarification because the ballot language indicated this only applied if one exceeded \$2,000 in a calendar year. She wondered if she was supposed to keep track of how much she spent with different vendors from out of state and report that out of the goodness of her heart. Mr. Matthes replied that was the statute language today, and felt the difficulty and unrealisticness of it was widely understood. Ms. Thompson agreed that was the current law, and noted people were currently required to file the tax return and pay the 4.225 percent now. She stated the proposed ballot language was the statutory language required for the use tax. They did not have the flexibility to amend the language to delete that requirement.

Ms. Peters understood this would not affect most internet sales on an individual level. Ms. Thompson stated she believed it would because the vendors that shipped those were the ones that paid the use tax. A purchase via the internet that would be considered a catalogue sale already included the 4.225 percent, and that would increase by two percent to 6.225 percent if this were approved by the voters. Ms. Peters understood the catalogue people collected the tax. It was not something the consumer had to handle. Ms. Thompson stated the merchant paid that tax. In instances where the merchant did not pay the tax, the responsibility fell to the customer to pay the tax.

Mr. Thomas asked what determined which merchants paid the tax. Ms. Thompson replied those without a physical presence in the State of Missouri that were shipping goods into the State of Missouri should pay the tax, but noted she could not explain why some sales were classified as internet sales or e-commerce and exempted from that tax while others were classified as catalogue sales and did not receive that exemption. She stated she did not know enough about the technical operations for a sale to be considered a catalogue sale versus e-commerce. She understood Amazon had started paying the use tax in 47 states on some of the goods and services it shipped. Mr. Thomas understood Amazon had a physical presence in Missouri now. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct so they were paying the 4.225 percent to the State of Missouri on some of its activity, and Amazon would pay the additional two percent to the extent goods were shipped to Columbia, Missouri if the use tax issue was passed by the voters.

Mayor Treece asked why there was not a reference to online sales in the ordinance. Ms. Thompson replied this was the statutory language required by the State of Missouri, and pointed out there was a federal preemption on e-commerce. She reiterated she was not an expert on the difference between e-commerce and catalogue sales, which was historically what was captured by a use tax.

Mayor Treece asked about the enforcement mechanism to compel someone who failed to pay the two percent tax on the out of state goods to pay it. Mr. Matthes replied it was fundamentally an honor system similar to sales tax. It was a random audit danger a business selling the goods would risk. Mayor Treece asked if they could pass an ordinance withholding an occupancy permit if it involved a developer purchasing out of state goods. Ms. Thompson replied they should already be paying the 4.225 percent. If the City of Columbia enacted the use tax, the City's portion would be included. They would not file a separate return. The State of Missouri would collect the use tax, which would then be remitted back to the City of Columbia. Mayor Treece understood the State of Missouri would collect the use tax from out of state vendors if this were to pass. Ms. Thompson stated that was correct.

Mayor Treece understood this would at least level the playing field for their local small businesses, and asked if the Columbia Chamber of Commerce had taken a position on this. Mr. Matthes replied they had not. Mayor Treece thought it would conceivably help their members. Mr. Matthes stated he thought one could argue it would be helpful to level the playing field. A business competing against firms outside of Missouri would have higher costs for the exact same product. He believed most retailers wanted to see that evened out. Mr. Skala stated this had been discussed by the Chamber Government

Affairs Committee on numerous occasions and thought it was fair to say there were flaws as it was based on an honor system and the State of Missouri was responsible for collection and enforcement. He commented that he viewed this as a placeholder for the eventuality of movement at the national and state levels to do away with the subsidies that provided advantages to non-brick and mortar companies the internet provided.

Mr. Pitzer understood staff to say that since Amazon was collecting the 4.225 percent on some purchases, they would also collect the additional two percent on those same purchases. As a result, he did not feel it was a placeholder. Mr. Skala stated that was correct for Amazon because they had a presence in the State of Missouri. Mr. Matthes pointed out it was on a limited basis due to Amazon losing a court case. He understood it was a very narrow ruling on just the products stamped as Amazon products purchased from Amazon. He believed it was a very small subset of their traffic.

Mr. Thomas asked if they had an estimate of the how much would be generated for the City of Columbia at two percent. Mr. Matthes replied the Department of Revenue had indicated the additional two percent would be \$916,997.88 in an average year.

Ms. Peters understood the Downtown Community Improvement District had sent the Council a letter in support of the use tax.

Taylor Burks, 4905 Shadow Circle, explained he was the Boone County Clerk and wanted to share what would be expected in terms of special election costs. He commented that \$160,000-\$250,000 was the amount his office estimated as the cost of a November special election. In order to put something on the ballot, his office had to receive a notice of election, and he had not received a notice from any other jurisdiction, including Harrisburg, Missouri. He noted special elections had historically low voter turnout, and thought they could expect 8-11 percent of citizens to engage in the process. He felt it was commonly held that the more special elections they had on single issues, the more they drove down voter participation in the community, and stated that was a concern to him as a voter and private citizen. In terms of a timeline for potential implementation of a use tax, if the voters approved it at the November special election, his office would not be able to certify the election in time to get it to the Department of Revenue with collection to start in January. The earliest his office could notify the Department of Revenue meant collections would begin for the City and County was May 1. If the use tax issue was placed on a regular municipal election ballot, collections could begin on July 1. They were talking about a five month gap versus a three month gap, and there were significant costs associated with holding the election in November versus April. Placing this item before the voters in November represented significant costs, discouraged residents and taxpayers to engage in a civic process since it was a single-issue item, and revenue collection would not occur before they saw peak online collections in Quarter 4 so this year's online Christmas sales would not be captured.

Mr. Trapp asked Mr. Burks if he had an evidence basis for the assertion that special elections decreased turnout as he believed the average person would say the first Tuesday in November was election day if asked. He thought voting in November 2016, 2017, 2018, etc. would help voter turnout. Mr. Burks replied his office had reviewed data from past single-issue elections regardless of the date, and the biggest driver was candidate elections, not tax issues. Mr. Trapp understood, but did not feel that implied it reduced overall turnout. If there were more elections, there were more opportunities to vote. Mr. Burks commented that the citizens did not engage or take that opportunity to vote based on historical data. Mr. Trapp understood the State had eliminated the February election and asked if voter turnout increased as a result. Mr. Burks replied he did not know.

Mayor Treece asked how the cost of the election was prorated on political subdivisions. He wondered if it was based on the number of questions, the number of voters, the number of inches on the ballot, etc. Mr. Burks replied it was based on the proportion of voters per question. If the City of Columbia had two questions, they would double the number of voters, and it would then be proportional to cumulative questions with voters on

the ballot. If there was an election involving only the City of Columbia and Boone County, it would be prorated on the number of voters in Boone County plus the number of voters in the City of Columbia. Mr. Trapp asked if Columbians were counted as Boone County residents. Mr. Burks replied yes, and explained it was because they would also vote on the Boone County ballot issue. Mr. Trapp understood the City's share would be based on the City residents that would vote on the City issue, and the County's share would be based on all of them in Boone County, which included Columbians and non-Columbians. Mr. Burks stated that was correct. He noted City of Columbia residents would see two use tax questions, one for the City and one for Boone County. Mr. Trapp understood the City might pay 85 percent while the County paid 115 percent because they were larger.

Mr. Skala commented that some of the scheduling for elections was based on accommodating other taxing entities, and historically, Columbia had placed issues on the November ballot, and asked if the verification turnaround time had changed in the County Clerk's Office. Mr. Burks replied a 10-day certification process was required by the State of Missouri. There was an election certification process, and a process to notify the Department of Revenue. The November election fell halfway through the fiscal quarter and certification would put them past the halfway point. Mr. Skala understood Mr. Burks had referred to May. Mr. Burks clarified the certification from the County Clerk's Office would occur within the 10-day time frame. The notice to the Department of Revenue would occur as soon as they were able to certify the election, but collections on the next quarter were dependent on when the notification to them occurred.

Wayne Hawks, 3212 West Creek Circle, commented that he bought locally and forced his vendors to buy locally in Missouri because they would not have anyone to tax if they did not keep the local people here. He provided an example of a huge air conditioner that went out at one of his developments whereby they obtained bids. He noted he thought the cost should have been about \$5,700, but had received a bid for \$7,853. They decided to obtain a bid from Amazon for the same air conditioner, and it came in at \$5,150 with shipping guaranteed in two days. They then went back to the local vendor, who reduced his price to \$5,800. He stated he had been willing to pay the extra \$700 to buy locally. He felt this use tax would hurt the City. He commented that sales in Columbia were flat now. He had about 20 businesses and 40 employees, and they were struggling with the lower-end businesses. In addition, the numbers of students at the University of Missouri had decreased. He believed they needed to be real aggressive in promoting Columbia. He reiterated he thought they needed to be careful with regard to the use tax because they could go through the expense and it not pass.

Mr. Skala stated he appreciated the dedication of Mr. Hawks to purchase from local vendors. Mr. Hawks noted he was the exception to the rule. He commented that he had been trying to build a \$165,000 house, and his permit fee, which should not have been more than \$3,200, had been \$5,100. He stated he could not build a small house for less than \$175,000 any longer. He thought the use tax would slow down construction as he was the exception since he would buy locally regardless. Others were trying to make payroll and budgets.

Pat Fowler, 606 N. Sixth Street, explained she handled compliance for a small construction company that had about \$3 million in sales annually of which about half included materials. As a result, she filed the compensating use taxes for the State of Missouri or the sales and use taxes for the State of Kansas as they worked in both states. She commented that Kansas had an awesome tax system for determining the amount of tax owed when delivering Missouri materials to Kansas. She noted she had to pay the sales tax when it had not already been paid on the materials, and the amount was just under 10 percent in some jurisdictions. In Missouri, it was as low as 5.375 percent in some jurisdictions. She explained that although her company tried to squeeze costs, it did not make a difference because they needed materials when they needed to construct buildings for customers. Currently, when she paid sales tax in Missouri for materials purchased in Missouri, it varied widely depending upon where it was purchase.

The only time she had a compliance issue was when materials were shipped from out of the state. She understood this use tax would only apply to materials purchased from outside of Missouri as opposed to purchases in another jurisdiction within Missouri whereby she had already paid a tax, and asked if that was correct. She understood she would not have to pay an additional Columbia sales tax since she had paid the tax in the other jurisdiction. Mr. Matthes stated that was correct. She explained this would not change how much her company would grow and expand as it was the cost of doing business, but hoped it would make a difference for Columbia as she was in favor of looking for ways to expand the tax base, and as a citizen she was happy to pay the additional use tax. From the viewpoint of someone that filed the paperwork, it would likely be very limited in when it applied to her company. She pointed out the State of Missouri was fairly aggressive when someone did not file paperwork correctly, so she was confident they would catch up to those that did not do that well.

Jerry Dowell, 300 S. Providence Road, stated he worked for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and noted they had not endorsed the ballot initiative. He explained they usually waited for the issue to be placed on the ballot and then went through a process to determine whether to support a proposition or ballot initiative. Although they had not endorsed anything at this point, their legislative priority guide included a federal fix and a state legislative agenda item that involved the streamlining of sales and use taxes.

Mr. Skala commented that he did not mean to imply there had been a determination, but noted it had been discussed. Mr. Dowell agreed it had been discussed, and noted they were supportive of leveling the playing field for brick and mortar businesses in Missouri.

Mr. Trapp explained he wanted to speak firmly in support of placing this on the November ballot. He understood the November special election would cost about \$150,000-\$200,000. It had been represented to them that if the City placed the issue on the ballot, the County would do so as well, and as a result, the costs would be split. This meant the cost to the City of Columbia would be about \$75,000-\$100,000. If they waited until April, they would not collect the tax from May 1 to July 1, which by the State of Missouri estimation would be about \$152,000 in lost tax collection, and would have election costs of \$30,000-\$40,000. He noted he and Ms. Peters would be up for reelection, and the Columbia Public Schools would have likely have a ballot question for that election. He understood Mr. Burks had represented 9 percent has the typical turnout for a November single-issue election, and explained the turnout had been 9 percent when he ran for election three years ago in April. He commented that they could not just vote on ballot measures and tax incentives in November every four years, which was the only time a majority of the people voted. He thought they had to continue to encourage turnout. He believed the level of political engagement and activism had changed and was curious to see the result. He also thought having a November 2017 ballot would encourage November voters to continue to vote. He pointed out that research showed a 20-minute conversation about voting could change life-long voting behaviors. He agreed turnout was deplorable and was a direct threat to public participation in the process. He believed they needed to run public campaigns, aggressively campaign, and encourage people to run. Historically, they had not done press releases about when a filing period opened and closed, and noted he had asked that it be done this year even though he was up for reelection because he wanted to ensure there was competition. He commented that the Second Ward was a low voting ward as the vast majority of votes in the City of Columbia came from the Fourth and Fifth Wards. In past election cycles, he and the other candidates had seen themselves as partners in telling the story of the City of Columbia, and positive campaigns helped drive voter turnout. He thought they all needed to take responsibility for drawing more people to the system by engaging in political activity in a positive way. He stated he thought a use tax made sense. He explained he had attended the Downtown Community Improvement District meeting when they had discussed the use tax, and their relationship with it was complicated. He understood it had been messaged as pro-local business, and suggested they be careful because if

Columbia instituted the use tax, the State of Missouri streamlined its sales tax collections, and the federal government acted to tax internet sales, it would only level the playing field. They were supportive of leveling the playing field and had only asked the question of how many individuals paid the tax because very few were paying it now. He commented that he believed the use tax positioned them for the future and sent a message that they were not hypocritically asking the state and federal governments to act. He reiterated they had to be careful in their messaging so they did not paint it only as a pro-local business initiative as they were the ones mostly paying it and would continue to pay it. He stated they had a nice check and balance in the system as they only had to decide whether to put it on the ballot, and the dollars suggested they should. Foregoing two months of revenue would reduce it, and most of this involved construction materials, whose prime season was May-July. He did not believe Christmas was a huge factor in terms of use tax collections. He felt there were compelling reasons to place the use tax on the ballot and not any legitimate reasons to not place it on the ballot.

Mr. Skala stated the balance sheet was something they needed to consider, and thought there was some benefit based on the calculations. He commented that he would support this to have something in place in case something was to happen at the national and state level. He viewed this as a placeholder that provided some benefits in the interim, and noted they had a history of teaming up with Boone County for elections in November, which had worked well in the past. He explained it also fit within their notion of how the taxing entities tended to stagger the scheduling of the initiatives to the maximum benefit of each taxing entity. He commented that he would support placing this item on the ballot.

Mr. Pitzer stated he wholeheartedly supported anything that would level the playing field for local businesses, but based on some of the discussion earlier in the evening, he was less sure now than he was previously about how this tax would work, who it would apply to, and how it would be collected. As a result, he was not comfortable with supporting it. He explained he was not necessarily against it philosophically. He was just not comfortable with what he knew or what had been presented to them.

**B217-17 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: THOMAS, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: PITZER. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:**

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- B218-17 Amending Chapter 2 of the City Code relating to conflicts of interest and financial disclosure procedures.
- B231-17 Voluntary annexation of property located on the east side of Arrowhead Lake Drive and north of Sinclair Road; establishing permanent R-1 (One-Family Dwelling District) zoning (Case No. 17-156).
- B232-17 Rezoning property located on the east side of Arrowhead Lake Drive and north of Sinclair Road from District A (Agriculture) to District R-1 (One-family Dwelling) (Case No. 17-155).
- B233-17 Approving the Final Plat of Columbia College Subdivision - Plat 3 located between Range Line Street and Eighth Street to the east and west, and

between Wilkes Boulevard and Rogers Street to the north and south; granting design adjustments relating to street right-of-way width (Case No. 17-144).

- B234-17 Approving the Final Plat of Spring Creek Plat 6, a Replat of Lots 401, 402 & 403 of Spring Creek Plat 4, located on the north side of Vawter School Road and east of Scott Boulevard (4103 Vawter School Road) (Case No. 17-153).
- B235-17 Approving the Final Plat of Ridgemont Park, Plat No. 1 located on the south side of Ridgemont and adjacent to the southern terminus of College Park Drive; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 17-158).
- B236-17 Amending Chapter 29 of the City Code as it relates to planning and zoning processing fees.
- B237-17 Authorizing a right of use permit for transit system purposes with The Curators of the University of Missouri for construction, operation and maintenance of a bus shelter and related facilities on property located on the north side of Southampton Drive, east of Providence Road.
- B238-17 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to remove on-street parking along a portion of the east side of Tiger Avenue.
- B239-17 Accepting conveyances for street, sidewalk and transit system purposes.
- B240-17 Appropriating funds to reimburse for a railcar unloading ramp and development of an automotive loading and unloading facility at the Columbia Terminal Railroad (COLT) transload site.
- B241-17 Amending the FY 2017 Annual Budget by adding a position in the Finance Department - Accounting Division; amending the FY 2017 Classification and Pay Plan by adding a classification.
- B242-17 Authorizing a program services contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for public health emergency preparedness services.

- B243-17 Authorizing Amendment No. 1 to the program services contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for WIC local agency nutrition services.
- R113-17 Authorizing an agreement with We Always Swing, Inc. for festival and events funding under the Tourism Development Program; authorizing an agreement with the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association for sports development funding under the Tourism Development Program.
- R114-17 Authorizing a lease for real property with the Boone County Historical Society for operation of a museum, gazebo, art gallery, visitor's center and other historic buildings at the Frank G. Nifong Memorial Park.
- R115-17 Authorizing a grant award agreement with The Missouri Foundation for Health and Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture for a community food assessment and for construction and programming costs associated with the Clary-Shy Agriculture Park.
- R116-17 Granting a temporary waiver from the requirements of Section 16-185 of the City Code to allow possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages for the Harvest Hootenanny fundraising event.
- R117-17 Transferring FY 2014 General Fund savings for the development of a climate action and adaptation plan.
- R118-17 Authorizing the installation of street lights on Nifong Boulevard, Fox Creek Way, Ridgeview Drive, Opal Drive and Iris Drive, and authorizing the upgrade of street lights at the intersection of State Farm Parkway and Nifong Boulevard and on Highview Avenue.
- R119-17 Authorizing an operations agreement with Majestic Live, L.L.C., d/b/a The Blue Note, for the production of four (4) Ninth Street Summerfest events to be held in September.
- R120-17 Authorizing an operations agreement with Thumper Productions, L.L.C. for the 2017 Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival at Stephens Lake Park.
- R121-17 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant of easement for electric purposes to Boone Electric Cooperative for the installation of power poles,

power lines and other related appurtenances within the right-of-way located along a portion of the north side of New Salem Lane.

The bills were given third reading and the resolutions were read with the vote recorded as follows: **VOTING YES: THOMAS, PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, RUFFIN, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: NO ONE.** Bills declared enacted and resolutions declared adopted, reading as follows:

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

R122-17

Authorizing an agreement with Boys and Girls Clubs of the Columbia Area for funding of an expansion to an existing facility located at 1200 N. Seventh Street, the use of a gymnasium and related facilities and equipment for youth services and sports programs by the Parks and Recreation Department, and expanded programming services for at-risk youth in 8th-10th grades.

The resolution was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Griggs provided a staff report.

Ms. Peters understood this was the \$500,000 the Council had appropriated last year, and it had come with strings. Mr. Griggs stated that was correct. Ms. Peters asked how they would decide what hours they would be able to use the gym or if the City was providing the programming for the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Griggs replied the City was not providing the programming for the Boys and Girls Club. He explained by September of each year, the City would provide a list of the proposed times they wanted to use the facility. The Boys and Girls Club would look at it to determine if they would work or not. He noted it was similar to what they did with the Columbia Public Schools for the use of their gyms. Ms. Peters understood this money had come from the general fund, but the Parks and Recreation Department was now involved. Mr. Griggs explained he had become involved when Mr. St. Romaine retired and because they would be able to make use of the facility.

Mr. Skala understood there would be attention to the strategic plan and underserved areas, and asked how that would be implemented. Mr. Griggs replied he thought the school system would work with the Boys and Girls Club to encourage youth to attend their programs based on where they lived. He thought a representative of the Boys and Girls Club could address specific questions.

Valorie Livingston stated she was the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, and explained they had projected how many youth they would be able to serve in the particular strategic program plan areas and would keep track of and report on the hourly program services provided to those youth on an annual basis. She noted they would work closely with the Columbia Public School District to refer those particular eighth, ninth, and tenth grade youth to ensure they were on a path to set goals, attain a higher education, and explore career options so they understood what earning a living wage really meant. She commented that they were excited about the partnership and pointed out they already had similar programming in place that focused on teens. This would allow them to expand and enhance it.

Ms. Peters asked if there were not programming options for juniors and seniors in high school. Ms. Livingston replied this funding was strategically directed to those particular age groups, but they served kids through the twelfth grade, and those kids would also participate, but it would not be funded from this pool of revenue.

Ms. Peters asked for clarification on the exploration of career options. Ms. Livingston replied this would include employment skill readiness. She stated they saw the opportunity to enhance the C.A.R.E. program. As a non-profit, they had a lot of corporate relationships and partnerships whereby mentorship and job placement opportunities could

be provided to the youth. She thought they could also continue to coach them through the first phase.

Stacy Ford, 2701 Andy Drive, explained she was speaking as a citizen that had knowledge of the processes of the Human Services Commission. She stated she was concerned about funding this human service organization without allowing the same opportunity to other human service organizations. She noted they only received \$200,000 to fund children and family services. The ability to come directly to the Council without going through the established proposal process for such a large sum of money was unfair to other organizations. She understood the Boys and Girls Club had great intent and worked well with the population they served, but did not agree with the process of going directly to Council as it allowed them to bypass the standards set by the Human Services Commission. It was not fair to those that had served on the Commission or the other organizations that could provide the same services if given that amount of money who could do it better or at the same level. As a citizen, this was concerning to her. She asked that future funding be allowed to go through the established process.

Mr. Thomas commented that he would vote against this resolution. He explained this had come up about a year ago as part of the budget process, and noted he had been very uncomfortable with the lack of process that had led to the proposal to award the funding. He believed this bypassed a really good process they already had that evaluated proposals and applications systematically in a data-driven way and awarded funds according to a model and structure that had been tested. It also evaluated the outcomes of the awards to continue to feed the process. He worried this would send a signal to agencies to forego the normal process and look for ways to bypass it. He understood it might also go against some of the wording in the City Code that funding for these kinds of projects had to come with a written recommendation of the Human Services Commission. He stated he would be more comfortable if the \$500,000 was provided to the Human Services Commission so it went through a process. He explained he thought the Boys and Girls Club was a wonderful organization and did good work, and was only concerned about the process. As a result, he would vote against this.

Mr. Trapp asked if it was legal to disperse the funds proposed. Ms. Thompson replied it was not illegal, and explained the City would enter into a contract for services, and those services were outlined within the contract. Although there was a process outlined in the City Code for funding for service-related entities, Council retained the power to enter into a contract with community service organizations for services.

Mr. Trapp commented that this was additional social services funding. It had not gone through the regular process, and had been done on a few other occasions. He thought they should look at catalytic investments or key gap funding of immediate needs with the use of one-time funds. The normal process was good, but it was not responsive to immediate conditions. This had provided a chance to participate in a capital campaign that had been integral to the strategic plan and specific recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence. Facilities for activities for young people had been seen as vital to crime prevention strategies, which was what had encouraged him to support it. He commented that they had made the public commitment and were late in the process to decide not to move forward. He explained he loved the use of one-time funds for these types of needs because it softened the fact they had not been able to keep up on a per capita basis. Partnering with other groups, like the Boys and Girls Club, magnified the impact of the one-time funds. He stated he thought they had been strategic with the organizations they had supported with the additional funds, but agreed in the future they might want to put them in the form of an RFP. He felt this should inform how they moved forward less, and not whether or not they funded this particular campaign as they were well down the road and it complied with one of the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence. He commented that there was no way they could have taken the \$500,000 of one-time funds and been able to do this amazing work with the people that needed it the most. He felt this was appropriate. He pointed

out he felt anyone had the right to reach out to Council as it was a democracy and they were elected by the people. It also did not stop them from going through the normal processes and did not take away any money from social services funding as these were additional funds. He thought it was important for them to approve this tonight.

Mr. Skala stated he tended to agree with Mr. Trapp in that there was some precedence. He was sensitive to the fact the process needed to be tweaked with at least some guidelines when it came to significant expenditures like \$500,000. Since it came from savings, he felt this fell into the same category as the Blind Boone house. He explained he supported this because he viewed this as an integral part of the strategic plan and a link to the three underserved areas. He commented that the East Area group had recently asked him to put together a list of what they had done for that Third Ward area, and this was something he felt could be added to the list. He encouraged the Human Services Commission to compete for some of the savings in this year's budget as it was still fungible. He stated he would support this proposal.

Mayor Treece commented that this was essentially the agreement that fulfilled the appropriation the Council had already approved in last year's budget. The Boys and Girls Club served 781 kids and they could not do as much with the \$500,000 they were contributing in terms of the level of quality, effort, and continuity.

**The vote on R122-17 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: PITZER, PETERS, TREECE, TRAPP, SKALA. VOTING NO: THOMAS. ABSTAINING: RUFFIN.  
Resolution declared adopted, 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.

- B244-17 Rezoning property located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Providence Road and Forest Avenue from R-2 (Two-family Residential District) and M-OF (Mixed-Use Office District) to PD (Planned District); approving the statement of intent; approving the Bisk LLC Coffee Shop PD Plan (Case No. 17-166).
- B245-17 Granting a waiver and a design modification relating to the construction of a sidewalk along a portion of the north side of Primrose Drive, approximately 500 feet east of Gardner Drive (2301 Primrose Drive); setting forth a condition for payment in lieu of sidewalk construction (Case No. 17-157).
- B246-17 Approving the Final Plat of Kelly Farms located on the east side of Cinnamon Hill Lane and approximately 1,200 feet north of Stadium Boulevard; authorizing a performance contract (Case No. 17-134).
- B247-17 Authorizing a contract for exchange of real estate with the Paul Alan Branham Revocable Trust relating to City-owned property located adjacent to the northwest corner of the Stadium Boulevard and West Boulevard intersection and property located adjacent to the southeast corner of the Stadium Boulevard and Planter Road intersection.

- B248-17 Vacating the right-of-way for an alley located on the north side of Anthony Street, approximately 200 feet east of College Avenue (Case No. 17-185).
- B249-17 Authorizing a consolidated grant agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for FY 2018 transportation planning services (Case No. 17-214).
- B250-17 Authorizing a joint funding agreement for water resources investigations with the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior for groundwater monitoring of well sites in the vicinity of the wetland treatment units and the Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.
- B251-17 Accepting conveyances for sewer, temporary construction, drainage and utility purposes; accepting Stormwater Management/BMP Facilities Covenants.
- B252-17 Accepting conveyances for water and electric utility purposes; accepting a declaration of restrictive covenants for a water main extension exemption.
- B253-17 Appropriating funds to upgrade aging network infrastructure and to purchase cyber security software in the Information Technology Department.
- B254-17 Amending Chapter 19 of the City Code relating to mutual aid emergency pay.
- B255-17 Appropriating funds for compensation to Water and Light Department employees sent to Florida to assist with restoration efforts associated with damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016.
- B256-17 Authorizing a professional services agreement with Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated for financial advisory services for The Broadway Phase II tax increment financing application; appropriating funds.

**X. REPORTS**

- REP68-17 Potential Future Route 740 extension impacts on St. Charles Road and Grace Lane.

Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.

Mr. Skala commented that he had asked for this so constituents in the area had the information, and thanked staff for providing it.

Mr. Thomas asked for the projected cost of the 740 extension and the plan for accumulating the funds and constructing the project. Mr. Teddy replied \$68 million was the figure they had, which included the upgrades to Highway WW. He noted Ballenger Lane had also been cleared as part of the environmental study, but it had been described as a local project at about another \$34 million. Mr. Thomas asked if there was an anticipated timeline for the money. Mr. Teddy replied no, and explained it had been included in the illustrative category in the long-range plan, which meant 25 years of financial projections would not accumulate enough to pay for it. It assumed something would happen to bring about a financing plan for it. Mr. Thomas asked if environmental assessments had been conducted on the project even though it was unlikely to happen in a reasonable time frame. Mr. Teddy replied he understood MoDOT had budgeted a small amount for mapping a number of years ago. The environmental impact statement had been signed at the end of 2009, and not a lot had happened since then.

REP69-17 Administrative Public Improvement Project: Twin Lakes Recreation Area -  
Bathhouse Improvements.

Mayor Treece asked if there was any objection to proceeding with the administrative public improvement project. No one objected.

REP70-17 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

Ms. Buffaloe provided a staff report.

Mr. Pitzer commented that he thought having the per capita information would be useful going forward. He also noted it appeared as though the numbers from energy were pretty solid, but the transportation numbers seemed squishy for lack of a better term, and asked Ms. Buffaloe if she would agree. Ms. Buffaloe replied yes, and explained the amount of transportation emissions was harder to capture because it was not measured well. The vehicle miles traveled information assigned to communities came from the Federal Highway Administration, which was the standard practice when there was not local data. The vehicle miles traveled for the different vehicles was considered the daily mile and they then multiplied it by 365 for an annual number, which was then associated it with the emission standard for Columbia. Mr. Pitzer stated he also thought comparable data from other cities or a way to benchmark it would be helpful. Ms. Buffaloe explained for the 2010 inventory she had compared the per capita data to Iowa City, Iowa, Lawrence, Kansas, Lincoln, Nebraska, and Bloomington, Indiana, and could add that to this.

Mr. Thomas asked how the Federal Highway Administration assigned vehicle miles traveled to the City of Columbia. Ms. Buffaloe replied through information provided by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), which might include some counts. She explained it was not as robust as some of the other information they had. The RFQ for the Climate Action Plan included working with the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Missouri to determine how to obtain better local data. Mr. Thomas asked if there were models in other communities for more reliable local data. Ms. Buffaloe replied they might have to develop their own methodology.

Mr. Pitzer asked where they were in the RFQ process. Ms. Buffaloe replied it had been released in July and would close on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. The deadline for questions from potential consultants had been Monday of last week. She stated she was hoping they would have a good response.

REP71-17 Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds Request.

Mayor Treece understood money was being moved from printing to travel in the Public Works Department on the non-capital side for a new employee and board chair to attend

a conference, and asked which board chair that would be. Mr. Matthes replied he would have to check and get back to him. Mayor Treece commented that there had been turnover on the Water and Light Advisory Board and several members had asked to attend municipal finance and utility finance training. It had strangely been unavailable to them so he wanted to ensure they were prioritizing training for the new board members instead of the chair. Mr. Matthes stated he thought it was the Mid-Missouri Solid Waste District, but would check and get back to him.

## **XI. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF**

John Clark, 403 N. Ninth Street, commented that he had found evidence that the voters had authorized a maximum levy of 45 cents. He understood they could have done something to cancel it, but did not believe they had. He pointed out each cent was \$190,000, so four cents was \$750,000, and the Council had the authority to impose it without going to the voters. He noted it could improve the financial situation for public safety and could help with other budget situations. He encouraged the Council to direct staff to conduct an exhaustive search about this, and suggested they reconsider their earlier vote on the property tax rate.

Mary Christian, Sylvan Lane, explained she had participated in the Central Missouri Community Action transportation simulation on Thursday, and had been told someone would contact her regarding transit, but had not yet heard from anyone. She understood there was a gas mileage reimbursement program, and wondered why that program could not help paratransit. Mayor Treece asked Ms. Christian to leave her number with the City Clerk, who could then provide it to someone to call her.

Eugene Elkin, 3406 Range Line Street, commented that Ms. Christian, who had just spoken, was his girlfriend, and she had just come out of homelessness, but the social service agencies were not helping her as she slept on the floor. He asked the Council to look into the situation. He noted Ms. Christian had been mistreated at the Harbor House and by other organizations. He reiterated his request to look into the shortcomings of various organizations, to include Love Inc. and the Harbor House.

Paul Wislowski provided a handout and explained he was on a mission across America to share Jesus through collective art. He commented that he had made an art piece for Columbia, and displayed it. He noted Columbia was an awesome city. The people were generous and kind. He suggested they leave up the lighted tree year round instead of just at Christmas. He also suggested the art piece be hung in the hallway between the two buildings as there was an open wall. He commented that he was trying to get towns and cities to set up an A-frame for artwork and invite families so they had something free to do, and suggested a group determine a place to send the artwork, such as a sister city, another Columbia, etc. The cost would be very little because the A-frame could be used over and over again, and used bedsheets could be used for the artwork. He asked that Columbia reach out to citizens and other communities through art. He stated his goal was to start a revolution with Jesus, bedsheets, pastels, art, and love instead of religion, guns, war, and hatred. He provided the artwork to the Council.

Mr. Skala asked for clarification regarding the 45 cent property tax limit Mr. Clark had described could be utilized without going to the vote of the people. Ms. Thompson replied there was a certification letter from the State Auditor in the packet on the property tax issue, and it included the tax rate ceiling for the City of Columbia, which was 41 cents. She commented that the State Auditor calculated the tax rate ceiling, and they did not have the ability to exceed the tax rate ceiling. Mr. Skala asked if there was any room for not going before the voters. Ms. Thompson replied no. She explained they were bound by the Missouri Constitution and the Hancock Amendment, and the Hancock

Amendment required a rollback of the property tax in certain years if they had inflation that exceeded a certain percentage. While they might have had a voter approved levy, which was higher, there was the mandatory rollback and a tax rate ceiling calculated by the State Auditor. She noted a prior approved levy could impact whether a simple majority or higher percentage was needed for a voter approved increase, but voter approval was needed to exceed the tax rate ceiling.

Mr. Skala congratulated Mayor Treece on joining the Mayor's Compact to Combat Hate, Extremism, and Bigotry in the aftermath of the incident in Charlottesville, Virginia. He thought it was worthy to build on it and draft a resolution to reinforce the idea.

Mayor Treece commented that over 250 mayors across the country had joined it now, and there were ten specific items they had pledged to enhance enforcement. He pointed out they were already doing a number of things and some things he thought they could do better. He felt tomorrow night would be an important part of that civic engagement. He explained the NAACP had emphasized civility and was proud of the fact Columbia had done a good job over the last several years confronting issues in an honest and civil way. He expected nothing less as they moved forward together.

Mr. Skala noted the third East Area Neighborhood meeting would begin tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the Hanover Estates Community Room on Hanover Boulevard. The turnout for the first two had been phenomenal, and included 20 year olds and others.

Mr. Skala stated the NAACP had also planned a meeting for tomorrow entitled Community Engagement on Policing, Equity, and Civility, which would be held at the Second Missionary Baptist Church at 407 E. Broadway at 7:00 p.m. He encouraged the public to attend.

Mr. Trapp commented that the Community Land Trust had received the permits necessary to break ground this week so they should see houses soon.

Ms. Peters asked for clarification regarding paratransit. She wondered what how much of the transit budget it was, and why they had not raised rates for any other rider. She suggested that be addressed Wednesday. Mr. Matthes stated they could address it then.

Mr. Ruffin noted Mr. Wislowski had a documentary on his work that was available on YouTube. He stated Mr. Wislowski had done impressive work in New York City and encouraged people to view it.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Treece adjourned the meeting without objection at 11:08 p.m.