

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL  
701 E. BROADWAY, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI  
APRIL 14, 2014**

The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a special meeting at 6:00 p.m., on Monday, April 14, 2014, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The roll was taken with the following results: Council Members HOPPE, MCDAVID, SCHMIDT, TRAPP, SKALA, THOMAS and NAUSER were present. The City Manager, City Counselor, City Clerk and various Department Heads were also present.

**Comments of Outgoing First Ward Council Member**

Mr. Schmidt thanked everyone that had helped him, to include former Council Member Dudley, the City Clerk, Ms. Amin, current Council Member Hoppe, and especially former Council Member Anthony as they all assisted him when he was new to Council. He also thanked City staff as they worked all day and were then at meetings all night. He commented that when he was first elected to the City Council, former City Manager Ray Beck provided him a packet of articles on sewer construction. In addition, his mother provided him a box of clippings that included a 2002 discussion of the lack of downtown infrastructure. He thought they were lucky to have those types of resources to help them remember the past. He also thanked members of the public that assisted in times of need, such as Colleen Coble and Wiley Miller, who served on the Ward Reapportionment Committee, Tyree Byndom and the rest of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence, the members of the Citizens Police Review Board, who participated in time consuming and thankless tasks, and former City staff and Council Members who provided him advice and solace through the process. He thanked his wife Cathy who assisted him with speeches, talked through issues with him, and had been his rock.

Mr. Schmidt commented that one of the reasons he had run for office was because he thought his financial knowledge and experience would help the City through difficult times. When he was young, Columbia was a town of about 30,000 people and everyone knew each other and knew who at the City to go to if assistance was needed, but when he returned in 2004 after being away for 30 years, he thought that process had broken down. He explained a number of administrative changes had taken place over the past few years, and provided some examples. The Columbia Financial Enterprise Resource System (COFERS) had moved into the implementation phase and its associated efficiencies and access to information would be tremendous. The budget documents had vastly improved although some work was still needed. He pointed out economically, it had been scary as late as 2011, but the City had been able to balance the budget even though reserves had to be spent. In addition, they had been able to save transit for a better day and save CAT-TV for now. He thanked Mayor McDavid for spearheading the pension situation and City staff as they had to make some hard choices. He noted the City was working on salary compression issues and overall compensation system, and had developed a strategic plan. He pointed out there were still things left to do, to include accessory dwelling units, the rewriting and regular review of the zoning ordinances, form-based zoning, the regular review and update of the strategic plan, better communication with the public in terms of the projected plans and ways to

address issues, such as infrastructure, and providing more searchable and historic information on-line.

Mr. Schmidt commented that the tax rate was growing at roughly the population rate plus inflation, and any growth in infrastructure beyond that, to include roads, was not sustainable. He pointed out the City was on a 60 year repaving cycle, and even an addition of \$10,000 would only reduce that to a 59 year repaving cycle. He noted he had wanted to see more progress in terms of infrastructure when he was elected to the Council, and explained some improvements were in process due to the recent sewer bond. He stated he believed they wanted infill, but then made infill development difficult, and thought they needed to do a better job. He felt fees and taxes needed cover what the public expected the City to deliver. As leaders, he did not feel they could continue to promise a level of service that was not supported by the fees charged or the taxes levied, and as long as they did, the public would be disappointed because needs would not be met and the City continue to go from crisis to crisis. Although the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Plan was a plan, it had many projects that would never be built, and he believed they needed a 10 year plan similar to the Columbia Public School District. He thought the days of federal and MoDOT grants to help the City financially were likely over, and felt they needed to be honest about the costs of various projects.

Mr. Schmidt referred to a 1902 Missouri Herald article that predicted Columbia would grow to about 100,000 people by 2002, would grow to the river, would be a major stop between Kansas City and St. Louis, etc., and noted a lot of those predictions were correct. He pointed out he believed Columbia in 2100 would look more like it did in 1900 than it did today because there was not enough money to continue to build sprawl. The vision of the article, and his vision, was for a cohesive community that worked together for the common good. He thought how they got around was less important than how they got along. He stated he would miss serving the public and was pleased to be followed by his friend, Ginny Chadwick, who was prepared, smart, capable, etc. He thought it was best when the public chose leaders based on their character and wisdom instead of their position on a particular issue. He was proud of the newest addition to the Council as well as the entire Council. He noted it had been privilege to serve with such a distinguished group, and closed with the remembrances of Helen and Doug Anthony, who were well but no longer in Columbia, Rita Dudley, Almeta Crayton, Wynna Faye Elbert, Darrell Foster, Willie Bell and Bruce Britt.

Mr. Schmidt joined Mayor McDavid and Mr. Matthes at the podium.

Mayor McDavid presented Mr. Schmidt with a Resolution of Appreciation, a plaque recognizing his years of service on the Council, and a certificate for a heritage tree to be planted in his honor in the park of his choice.

Mr. Matthes presented Mr. Schmidt with a glass tile with the City logo and a gift from City staff.

**Oath of Office for Newly Elected First Ward Council Member and Fifth Ward Council Member**

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Ginny Chadwick, and Mayor McDavid presented her with a framed Commission of Office.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Laura Nauser, and Mayor McDavid presented her with a framed Commission of Office.

Everyone then took their places at the dais.

**Comments of Newly Elected First Ward Council Member and Fifth Ward Council Member**

Ms. Chadwick pointed out she did not know everything, but the citizens had indicated they believed in her ability to do this job, and thanked them for the opportunity. She thanked Mr. Schmidt, who had been an invaluable resource in the process of running for First Ward City Council, and noted she knew he would continue to be an invaluable resource in the future. She commented that Columbia had an amazing City Council and she was honored to serve with them. She stated she looked forward to the three years ahead in terms of representing the First Ward. She explained she had heard from constituents regarding a number of issues, such as public safety, infrastructure, and the public transit system, which were all near and dear to her, so she looked forward to advocating for them as a member of the City Council. She believed that by working together, they would make a healthy and safe community, and a community they loved and would live in.

Ms. Nauser thanked her husband Greg, who had been the backbone of her most recent term on the City Council, her son Ryan for taking time out of his college schedule to attend this event, her friend Rosa Robb, who had provided her invaluable help and advice she over the years, and her neighbors Mary and Barry, who were wonderful friends. She thanked City staff for making her job easy and for their dedication to the community. She thanked the people of the Fifth Ward who had the confidence in her to allow her to represent them again as it was an honor and a privilege. She looked forward to working with the Council in moving the community forward on important issues and noted she would continue to advocate for individual responsibilities, property rights, and the rights to privacy as those issues were important to her. She thanked the citizens again for allowing her to represent the Fifth Ward and Columbia, and hoped to continue to do the job they expected.

**Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor McDavid made a motion that Ms. Hoppe be appointed Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Mr. Skala and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor McDavid reminded everyone of the reception being held in Conference Room 1A/1B immediately following the special meeting and noted it was open to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheela Amin  
City Clerk