

Columbia City Council - Work Session Minutes
Monday, September 11, 6:00 p.m.
Daniel Boone Building, Fourth Floor Conference Room

Council Members Present: Mayor Hindman, Chris Janku, Bob Hutton, Jim Loveless, Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe

Council Members Absent: Almeta Crayton

City Manager Bill Watkins and other city staff members were present.

Review Budget Amendment Sheet

Lori Fleming, Finance Director, reviewed the FY 2007 Outstanding Issues as of September 11, 2006.

The City Manager indicated that he had a telephone conversation with Phil Steinhaus, Columbia Housing Authority Director, late this afternoon. Mr. Steinhaus is preparing a letter to the editor of the Missourian to clear up some of the misinformation in an earlier article regarding the Youth Empowerment Program.

Ms. Fleming pointed out that item 8 on page 2 (Railroad – funding needed to complete rail terminal track #2) was added to the amendment sheet. This would require a loan from the electric utility.

Ms. Fleming reviewed the items shown as Council Issues:

- Additional Radar Signs – program annual funding in base budget to continue program. In addition to the \$23,000 carryover, Council requested an additional \$30,000 in this year's budget. Staff to provide options on funding source (do not take from Council reserve). Janku suggested location – Smithton at Silvey.
- Cultural Affairs Commission request to increase funding to \$100,000 – do not include in budget. Next Council meeting, Council will direct staff to send this matter to the Cultural Affairs Commission for a recommendation.
- Countdown timers - there is no funding in this year's budget; PW develop list for Council review.
- Rollins/Burnham project – move design (approximately \$100,000) to FY07; build to FY08/09.
- Increase utility assistance – review promotion/advertising efforts and come back with a plan. Question was raised how much money is budgeted in W/L for assistance.
- Valley View Park Trail and Rockhill Park Trail – fund trail improvements out of 2007 Annual improvements.
- Adopt a Spot funding for plants - \$500 Share the Light balance; if funds not available there, will suggest use \$500 Council reserve.

- The City Manager reviewed the proposed budget for CDBG funds. There were no changes made to the CM recommendations.

Review options for retirees' health insurance premiums

CM is proposing that the retirees health insurance premiums not be changed more than 12.5% as opposed to the previous recommendation of 20%. Margrace Buckler, Human Resources Director, reviewed the employee benefit fund budget issues for FY2007 and other health plan design options that might be considered.

Staff will prepare an amendment to B383-06 establishing health insurance premiums to reflect the above change. A revised FY07 Outstanding issues will also be prepared for the 9/18 Council meeting.

Nuisance Property Report

Fred Boeckmann, City Attorney, reviewed the three proposed ordinances submitted by the Nuisance Task Force for Council consideration. The three ordinances include chronic nuisance property ordinance, nuisance party ordinance and amendment to aesthetic regulations.

Following Council questions and discussion of the proposed ordinances, Council informally asked staff to do the following:

- Chronic nuisance property – identify ways to make this a more useful tool. Consider changing to one year versus 60 day period.
- Ugly ordinance – discuss with Health Department ways to step up enforcement; need to strengthen enforcement in this area, especially with repeat offenders.
- Vacant/abandoned properties – Council requested a staff report.

The City Manager indicated the Task Force report would be placed on a formal Council agenda for formal Council direction to staff.

Work Session adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Following the work session, Council adjourned to Closed Session. Closed Meeting minutes are on file in the City Clerk's Office.