

Columbia City Council
Pre-Council Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2007, 5:45 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room, Daniel Boone Building

Council members present: Mayor Hindman (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), Almata Crayton, Chris Janku, Karl Skala, Jerry Wade, Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe.

Absent: None

The City Manager reviewed the following items:

Federal project list - list previously forwarded to Council members. No additional Council thoughts/comments. Staff was instructed to proceed.

Mail delivery – Council members were asked to turn on porch lights on evenings Council packets are being delivered. Staff will also place a magnetic sign on car, so they can be easily identified by Council/neighbors.

Monday, December 10, Council Work Session. Topics include: natural resources plan (not ready), land disturbance, steep slope, and city hall building plan. *Council requested that we extend an invitation to the E/E chair to attend the work session wherein land disturbance/steep slope will be discussed.

Thursday, December 6, 4 – 7 pm, mezzanine conference room – the public is invited to review proposed plans for the City Hall renovation, expansion and accompanying community plaza and streetscape.

Columbia Landfill Gas Project – ribbon cutting will be held on December 18 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a major, keynote speaker from Denver, Colorado.

Chief Boehm provided Council with some information on the recent increase in criminal activity. Key points included:

- General crime statistics – 17% increase in violent crime.
- Clearance rate is very good.
- 1994: last unsolved homicide.
- Staffing levels: look at calls for service and response times.
- Home invasion robberies are almost always related to drug activity; very seldom are they random.
- Shooting incidents – many times these are drug related and tend to be retaliatory.
- Couple of things CPD is doing to address problem – established robbery detail and formed a violent crimes task force.

The City Manager provided a staffing update for the Police Department – 7 vacancies in early January. He reviewed a proposal to take part of the cable franchise tax (\$100,000) and move it into general fund which would require an appropriation.

Chief Boehm added that he will be meeting with CPS administration tomorrow to discuss the possibility of pulling school resource officers from the three middle schools.

*Council asked for statistics to comparable cities and a report on the staffing levels at CPD.

The City Manager indicated that we would continue discussion of the sewer ballot issue at the December 10 work session. He noted that the ballot language is very general and does not delineate specific projects.