

Columbia City Council – Budget Work Session Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Daniel-Boone Building, Council Chambers

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Paul Sturtz, Jason Thornhill, Karl Skala, Jerry Wade, Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe

Absent: None

The Council reviewed the following department budgets: Public Works, Water, Electric and Railroad and the CIP.

Mr. John Glascock reviewed the highlights of the Public Works budget, including, but not limited to: temporary salaries decreased; one position in PI eliminated due to decrease in the number of building permits being issues; reduction of 1 equipment operator which will result in a reduction of street sweeping; staff is developing standards on sidewalks for Council consideration (upgrade design standards to accommodate electric wheelchair, etc.; GetAbout Columbia Phase I audit is complete – waiting on results; start construction on Hunt Avenue on August 30; limited pro-card purchases to \$1,000 and no one spends more than \$200 without prior Director approval.

Council comments:

Wade – patching potholes – coal mix to hot mix; lasts longer, saves money.

Thornhill – parking garages – capacity.

Mayor – crosswalk – new parking garage/post office; Scott is evaluating.

Nauser – water borne paint marking – street striping – have we cost comparison of other options (oil is a more permanent material).

Nauser – reduction in mowing services – will there be a public announcement?

Sturtz – Wabash station landscaping/Adopt a Spot – where can it be done in other places and be successful.

Hoppe – Adopt a Spot for mowing – has this been considered – problem areas the city cannot get to timely.

Wade – replacement of private collectors – current list exceeds the budget.

Water and Light:

Wade – long-term strategic maintenance plan for capital improvements (railroad). Need to do.

Skala – railroad traffic report – interested in trends over the last several years – quantify % down and impact.

Mayor – favors financing conservation – how to deal with decrease in revenue to general fund.

Wade/Skala – cost of service comparison/business plan (summary) for achieving self sufficiency of water utility over the next several years.

CIP – passed around changes to CIP requested by Council.

Pedestrian bridge repair – focus on ADA accessibility – suggested Glascock.

Hoppe – Rockhill Park – deterioration of walking trail; Clyde Wilson plaque needs attention/reported it may be missing.

Hood – will try to tackle basic repairs with operating budget and include capital repairs in 2011 budget; add as a project in 2011.

Nauser – Jay Dix Park – identify project (unfunded) as future CIP project.

Skala – requested consideration be given to connecting the Links area to Indian Hills Park (trail connection The Links to Indian Hills Park).

Hoppe – Gans/Hwy 63 (Discovery Ridge) interchange – needs landscaping; no TIF dollars to do landscaping.

Hoppe – 3-5 year Rock Quarry Road – Grindstone Parkway to Stadium - \$10M for improvement – way more than what is needed for a scenic roadway; review – do we need to sue another n/s road, e.g. Old 63.

Thornhill – Creasy Springs (streets #16) joint project with County alignment study. Currently on 10 plus list; move to 6-10 years.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.