

Columbia City Council – Work Session Minutes  
Saturday, May 16, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
**Walton Building, 300 S Providence Road**

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

Absent: Jason Thornhill

---

The City Manager reviewed the five goals for the Saturday session:

- 2010 budget framework
- Six month update
- CIP plan review
  - Reviewed three pieces of the CIP:
    - Policy issues
    - How do you read the CIP? Staff described the different sections and what they mean.
    - Changes from the 2009 CIP to last year's CIP – quickly reviewed the list of projects and asked if Council had any questions.
- Discussion of core programs and fee cost recovery policy/goals
- Retreat budget discussion information

The City Manager wrapped up the morning session discussion by stating that there are some very important issues Council will need to deal with preferably not too far from when the City Manager submits his budget to Council.

Council member Wade distributed a handout which described his proposal that the Council organize itself into three teams of two and, over the next two weeks, divide the categories and identify critical questions of substance that need to be asked about those programs.

Mayor indicated his preference that the Council discuss the issues as a whole. He feels that breaking into subgroups isn't the way to go. He disagrees with Mr. Wade's proposal. He felt the Council needed to focus on new sources of revenue and consider a "use tax" to combat the declining sales tax revenues due to internet sales. He also favors an increase in storm water fees to increase our revenues and respond to federal mandates being imposed on us. He agrees with Mr. Wade with respect to user fees – need to review and collect for the cost of enforcement. He also thinks we need to concentrate on making investments on what will be sustainable to us in the long run. Other issues – growth planning, community foundation, and positive economic growth.

Council consensus to appoint work groups. It was suggested that the Mayor appoint the three work groups. Issue will be further discussed at May 18 pre-council meeting.

Discussion of core programs and fee cost recovery policy/goals discussion will continue at the Council retreat.

The meeting adjourned at approximately noon.