

Council Work Session Minutes
Monday, March 13, 2006, 6:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room, Daniel Boone Building

Council members present: Mayor Hindman, Almeta Crayton, Chris Janku, Bob Hutton, Brian Ash and Laura Nauser

Council members absent: Jim Loveless

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

Prior to the Council work session, City Manager Watkins provided a memo to Council which provided damage estimates as a result of the recent storms. Mr. Watkins indicated that the numbers in the report are preliminary. Staff will continue to gather information and update the numbers.

Mr. Hutton expressed concern that the 4:00 p.m. siren on Sunday went off too early and he asked who determines when the sirens go off. Mr. Watkins explained the procedures/guidelines that are followed by Joint Communications (JCIC).

Mr. Watkins reviewed the March 20th pre-Council topics. Topics include Planning and Zoning Commission candidate interviews which will begin at **5:30 p.m.** He indicated that we will also need to talk a few minutes about the Prairie State issue.

Mr. Janku asked when the public hearing would be held on the warning sirens and Mr. Watkins indicated that staff is still working on the plan and that a date has not yet been set.

Mr. Watkins reviewed the topics for tonight's work session which include commercial lighting, sidewalk master plan and discussion of cable franchise negotiations (Closed meeting) with the cable consultant and Fred Boeckmann.

Tim Teddy, Planning Director, made a presentation on commercial lighting (see attached). The presentation included a review of the (7) reasons for lighting ordinances. Mayor Hindman indicated that he had one to add to the list – put everyone on an even playing field.

Mr. Teddy provided Council a review of the existing Columbia ordinances. Mr. Teddy clarified that it's normally understood the pole height to be above grade. Mr. Teddy's presentation included a review of previous efforts in this area, including implementation concerns – review time, staffing, cost to retrofit, etc.

Mr. Teddy reviewed a suggested approach to dealing with this complicated issue. Mr. Teddy's approach included six steps which he felt could be accomplished in three months.

Following Mr. Teddy's presentation, Council was provided an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions. Council comments/questions included the following:

- Staff work on issue and obtain input from E/E and P/Z Commissions, possibly Chamber of Commerce.
- Don't think we need something that's cumbersome; needs to be simple; take baby steps and evaluate later.

-Where does noise ordinance fall? Staff indicated it falls in Chapter 16 General Offenses. Would like it to be more like noise ordinance (simple) versus sign ordinance (more complicated); just don't make another sign ordinance.
-Agree to make it simple and provided suggestions for doing so – limit on pole height, foot candle, everything be cut off with special exemptions, etc.

Mr. Watkins indicated that one of the issues dealt with security and Mr. Tim Thomason of the Columbia Police Department was present to present his thoughts from a security perspective. Mr. Thomason reviewed the attached power point presentation.

In summary, Mr. Watkins indicated that Mr. Teddy has suggested a process and requested any thoughts/comments the Council might have. Council felt these were good suggestions.

Mr. Watkins stated that in preface to our sidewalk presentation this evening, we anticipate this to be the first of several discussions on this subject.

Mr. Teddy indicated that he placed on the table an updated "draft" sidewalk master plan. He stated that they still need to integrate information from the Columbia Public Schools. He explained that they reformulated their routes to school list submitted last May and the new school information is provided to Council tonight as a separate handout.

Mr. Teddy's presentation included a review of the highlights on the 2006 draft master sidewalk plan and the project rating criteria. He also reviewed the issues for discussion.

Mayor Hindman described the complex funding sources available which include – taxes, safe routes to school, enhancement and non-motorized grant funding. He expressed an interest in developing a master plan that would show everything. He suggested criteria for safe routes to school; each of the categories above/funding sources.

Mr. Watkins suggested that the Council may want to establish a target amount that would be spent on safe routes to schools and develop a range of percentage which would be spent on schools. He also suggested that before we adopt priorities to school routes meetings should be held, at the schools possibly/PTA meeting, to obtain input. He pointed out that there are not that many schools identified on the school's list.

Mr. Ash pointed out what he felt to be a flaw in the existing criteria for pedestrian generators; that is, a link in a chain which is not necessarily a pedestrian generator but a path people take.

Mayor suggested a map with different colors for the different categories would be beneficial.

Mr. Janku suggested that we may want to conduct an inventory of city properties in need of a sidewalk if we haven't already done so.

Mr. Watkins explained that if a sidewalk appears on the project list then by Council policy it will be funded 100%. Mr. Watkins asked if funding for downtown sidewalks is also something the Council would like to consider.

Council expressed an interest in a sidewalk plan that includes all sidewalks, including those that are not paid for by the city, i.e. the map would be drawn to show everything including the gaps which are not included in the master plan.

Mr. Janku brought up an issue about culverts and whether or not the city should participate in that area.

In conclusion, Mr. Watkins indicated three general things we need to do:

- (1) Prepare an overlay/map that shows existing condition/proposed replacements.
- (2) Local Safe Route to Schools – conduct meetings with neighborhoods at schools.
- (3) Prepare a breakdown of potential sidewalk projects – based on funding sources.