

A POLICY RESOLUTION

establishing a policy regarding the display and release of utility usage information and data on the City website.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is unique as a utility service provider in that municipal customer utility costs and usages are documented and available as a public record through the City's utility billing office; and

WHEREAS, the City has received requests from various agencies, boards, commissions and neighborhood associations about making utility information more widely available through public websites and data feeds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council directed City staff to seek input from the Environment and Energy Commission, the Water and Light Advisory Board and the Community Development Commission on a proposed utility information and data policy; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the City Council establish a policy to make a month by month City combined utility statement available on the City website as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri, hereby establishes a utility information and data policy to provide on the City website a month by month City combined utility statement for all City account service locations to include:

1. Electric and water utility cost; and
2. Electric and water utility usage; and
3. Rate classes; and
4. Parcel identification as residential rental, residential non-rental, non-residential or mixed uses; and
5. A list of heat sources available on the parcel, if known.

SECTION 2. The combined utility statement provided, as part of the utility information and data policy, shall not include the release of customer names or contact information, other than the address location of the services provided.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2014.

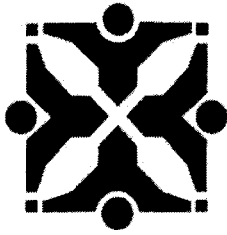
ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor



Source: City Manager

Agenda Item No:

To: **City Council**
From: **City Manager and Staff**

Council Meeting Date: Apr 7, 2014

Re: Utility Information and Data Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

City boards and commissions have shared input regarding utility information and data policy, leading to a resolution to move forward with providing month by month data for electric and water utility usage and cost for residential rental, residential non-rental, non-residential, and mixed uses.

DISCUSSION:

After sharing a Utility Information presentation at the 16 September 2013 work session, Council directed staff to give the presentation to several City boards and commissions for input.

Columbia is unique as the municipal utility makes cost, usage, highs, and lows a public record that is currently available through the Utility Billing Office. City staff have received requests from the Green Rental Housing Tool Collaborative, the Rental Housing Energy Efficiency Group and the midmohousing.com website, and have had interest expressed by City commissions and neighborhood associations about making utility information more widely available through websites and data feeds.

This information was presented to: the Environment and Energy Commission 24 September 2013, who provided a letter of recommendations dated 13 November 2013; the Water & Light Advisory Board 10 October 2013, who provided a letter approved at their 6 November 2013 meeting; and the Community Development Commission 13 November 2013. The letter from the Community Development Commission dated 8 January 2014 was presented as report 8-14 at the 21 January 2014 Council Meeting. The letters from all three are included with this report.

Feedback from the boards and commissions range from taking no further action to making the data open and available as cost and usage by residential rental, residential non-rental, and non-residential status with supplementary information.

Options:

A) Take no further action.

B) Provide 36 month average City Combined Utility Statement cost, electric and water utility cost, electric and water utility usage for all parcels containing City accounts via a City website or map, flagging parcels as containing residential rental, residential non-rental, non-residential uses, and mixed. Cost and use information will show the overall monthly average and a quarterly average. Data will be reported as the average of all service locations on the parcel and include the number of service locations. List heat sources available on the parcel if known.

C) Provide 36 month average City Combined Utility Statement cost, electric and water utility cost, electric and water utility usage, and rate classes for all City account service locations (addresses) via a City website or map, flagging service locations as containing residential rental, residential non-rental, non-residential uses, and mixed uses. Cost and use information will show the overall monthly average and a quarterly average. List heat sources available on the parcel if known.

D) Provide month by month City Combined Utility Statement cost, electric and water utility cost, electric and water utility usage, and rate classes for all City account service locations (addresses) via a City website or map, flagging areas as containing residential rental, residential non-rental, non-residential uses, and mixed uses. List heat sources available on the parcel if known.

E) Collect and make available the data described in options B, C, and/or D.

None of the options would include the release of customer names or contact information other than the address location of the services provided.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff time to compile data and make it programmatically available.

VISION IMPACT:

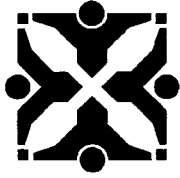
<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php>

Columbia will work toward achieving maximum energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy sources.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Approve the resolution moving forward with Option D.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates	
City's current net FY cost	\$0.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated	\$0.00	Duplicates/Expands an existing program?	No	Vision Implementation impact	
Amount of budget amendment needed	\$0.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
Estimated 2 year net costs:		Resources Required		Vision Impact?	Yes
One Time	\$0.00	Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	9.3
Operating/ Ongoing	\$0.00	Requires add'l facilities?	No	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	
		Requires add'l capital equipment?	No	Fiscal year implementation Task #	



RECEIVED JAN 14 2014

REP 8-14

City of Columbia

Community Development Department

701 EAST BROADWAY • PO BOX 6015 • COLUMBIA, MO 65205-6015

January 8, 2014

Columbia City Council

RE: Policy Recommendation, Access to Utility Usage Data

Dear City Council:

On behalf of the City of Columbia Community Development Commission (CDC), I am providing a policy recommendation at the request of the Council. A majority of the CDC recommended that no further action be taken in regards to making utility data more open and available to the public. The CDC understands utility data is already a public record and can be made available to individuals upon request.

The CDC does not feel that additional public resources should be utilized to make this data more open and accessible through the use of the City's website or City Map. The CDC recommends further education efforts are undertaken to ensure citizens know how to request utility usage data using current procedures.

Sincerely,

Mitch Ritter

Community Development Commission, Chairperson



CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

WATER AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT
COLUMBIA TERMINAL RAILROAD

November 7, 2013

City of Columbia, MO
Mayor and Council

Dear Mayor and Council:

Matt Gerike, GIS Manager, met with the Water and Light Advisory Board at the Board's October 8th, 2013 meeting and made a presentation of the GIS system and related potential links. As a result of this presentation, the board approved a sub-committee of Dick Parker and Tom O'Connor to formulate the board's recommendation to incorporate Water and Light customer usage data and other data useful to our owner customers.

Per Council request, the Water and Light Advisory Board, at their November 6th, 2013 meeting, endorsed the attached recommendation related to utility data being made available on Columbia's GIS map system.

The Water and Light Advisory Board would appreciate the opportunity to have a Water and Light staff member be involved during the discussion of implementing this recommendation at the GIS level.

The advisory board appreciates the opportunity to provide a recommendation regarding utility data availability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John T. Conway".

John T. Conway, P.E.

Chairman of the Water and Light Advisory Board

Cc: Matt Gerike, GIS Manager
Water and Light Advisory Board

The Water & Light Advisory Board recommends that individual meter utility information be posted on Columbia's GIS map system for the benefit of CWL and our entire customer-owner community. This is public information about a utility in which we all share ownership, and it would behoove us not to place artificial barriers in front of it.

Utility data availability will permit renters and home buyers to consider utility costs with the price of rent or purchase while searching for a place to live and prior to the last stages of a contract. This will encourage more attention to energy efficiency, which benefits not only the occupants but all customer-owners of CWL.

The most useful information for people when looking at properties is the total Combined Utility Statement. In addition, historical monthly electrical and water usage (kWh and CCF) should be provided, along with separated average costs of electricity and water. Better data availability will encourage energy efficiency improvements, thus slowing the need for all of us to spend more money on additional generating capacity.

All customers should be shown. For electricity, the rate class should be identified as well as an indication of rental or owner occupied property. If customers have reason to believe that the information could cause them harm, they should be able to opt out of having the information provided on the city's map.

Data availability is not only important for the benefit of potential renters and purchasers, but also for local journalists, researchers, and all concerned citizens who own and share this public utility.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

City of Columbia & County of Boone
City Hall, Conference Room 1A

November 11, 2013

Mr Gericke,

The following are the EEC Recommendations on Potential Policy Direction Regarding Release of Utility Information on Columbia's GIS map.

These EEC comments are provided in response to the sequence of questions which Matt Gerike posed at the end of his power point presentation to the EEC. The questions are in bold italics.

Status quo or open and available?

Open and available because:

It is important information for renters when comparing rental properties. Having the information readily available makes it possible to rapidly compare the combined rent and utility cost of multiple properties without having to request multiple sets of data from the Finance City Dept.

It is important information for individuals looking at purchasing property for the same reason.

Having this information available will be an advertising advantage to landlords who have done energy efficiency improvements on their property or who have built more energy efficient units. It may also be an incentive to make energy efficiency improvements for those landlords who have not yet done so.

This might also serve as a stimulant to home owners to do energy efficiency improvements if they are using more than their neighbors.

This information would be of benefit for individuals seeking small to medium sized office space rentals. Retail sales space decisions are largely based upon location.

If open and available: Each and every or classified?

Sites should be identified as residential or non-residential, and rental or non-rental.

Each residential unit should be available as well as moderate sized commercial units.

Usage, cost, or both?

Information should emphasize cost first. Both cost and usage should be available.

Electric use cost information should include PILOT charges.

A field which indicates the type of heat source should be included. There should be a notation indicating lack of information. Property approved for rental has this information on file. There are other sources of this information which should be brought into this field.

Water use information should include PILOT and sewer charges.

***Aggregated (parcel or larger), point-based,
and / or raw data feed?***

For apartment complexes an initial field could have the aggregated values. The reason for having individual apartment information is that many buildings have apartments with different numbers of bedrooms.

Aggregation of areas with similar houses would also be useful but is less important and considerably more difficult to determine but might be added at a later date.

Information on the GIS site should be updated quarterly, as frequent raw data feed is not appropriate.

Associated information?

Sites should be identified as residential or non-residential, and rental or non-rental.

A field which indicates the type of heat source should be included. There should be a notation indicating lack of information.

Houses for sale should be identified. Perhaps this can be done using information from the realtors Multiple Listing Service. This information would require frequent updating.

Names of bill payers and owners should not be included.

Respectfully Yours,

Lawrence Lile, PE
Chair
Environment and Energy Commission