## **Columbia City Council Pre-Council Minutes**

Monday, June 2, 2014 6:00 p.m. City Hall – Conference Room 1A/1B 701 East Broadway

**Council members present:** Mayor McDavid, Ginny Chadwick, Mike Trapp, Karl Skala, Ian Thomas (arrived at 6:07), Laura Nauser and Barbara Hoppe (arrived at 6:07)

Absent: None

Mayor McDavid called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

City Manager Mike Matthes introduced Leah Christian, the new City Management Fellow and added that Council Members from Wards 2, 3 and 6 will communicate with her on inquiries; Council Members from Wards 1, 4 and 5 will continue to communicate with Lelande Rehard for their inquiries and Mr. Matthes will continue to assist Mayor McDavid with his inquiries.

## **Future Ballot Planning:**

Mr. Matthes reviewed the Ballot Initiatives coming in the next 1-2 years. He has pulled together staff teams for each ballot and he noted that any ballots coming in the current year will be having weekly meetings to prepare. At some point down the road, staff will hand off their work to the ballot committee for advocacy work. Each ballot team has a council person assigned. Staff will do the legwork, research, presentation preparation, etc. with guidance from one lead council person. Other council members with deep interest could attend meetings as well, but we ask that no more than three Council members attend or we will have to begin posting meeting agendas and taking minutes, etc.

Council members Chadwick and Nauser traded their assignments, so Ms. Nauser will plan to serve as the lead Council person for the Electric ballot and Ms. Chadwick will serve as lead Council person for the ¼ Cent Capital Sales Tax Extension. Mr. Matthes reviewed the team members for each ballot team and noted that Finance and Law will be involved on all teams. Council person Thomas noted that he also wanted to be on the Developer ballot team and Council person Hoppe wants to be the third Council person on that team. Ms. Nauser indicated she will stay on the ¼ Cent Sales Tax team as the second Council person. Mayor McDavid will be the lead Council on Public Safety with Skala as the second Council person.

Mr. Skala felt that the developer fee ballot gives lift to the others. Mayor McDavid wondered if we were taking too big a bite to have three issues on the

November ballot. He noted that Columbia Public Schools, the County and the State typically target low turnout elections. He added that the Governor opposed the transportation sales tax today too. He wondered if we are we setting a tougher challenge for ourselves for a November election. Council person Trapp thought that the Governor moved their ballot to August to decrease chances of passing, and that date wouldn't help us much. Ms. Nauser noted that if the electric ballot doesn't pass, those users will have to pay through raised fees. She felt that ballot must pass or rates will increase substantially. Mr. Matthes added that you can raise rates without a ballot under certain circumstances. Thomas felt that an electric utility connection fee would be more likely to get ballot issue passed and we are more likely to get voters to pass both. City Counselor Nancy Thompson added that a connection fee does require a vote of the people as does a sewer and water connection fee. Mr. Trapp felt that piece doesn't go well with the developer fee because we are already asking them to pay more and he felt that separating those two items would make more sense. Mr. Matthes asked if the term "Developer Fee" makes sense as a title. Mr. Skala felt that title would probably ring true more with the public. Mayor McDavid commented that the sewer does pay for itself thru user fees, electric does some, and roads do not. Focusing on development charges for roads, makes more sense since we don't have road user fees other than a small amount of gas tax. Mr. Matthes indicated that we will survey the community again this fall to see citizen responses on the importance of these areas to community.

Mr. Matthes continued to review the ballot teams and noted Ms. Hoppe would be the lead Council for the Storm Water team and Mr. Skala would be the second. Ms. Chadwick will be the lead Council for the ¼ Cent Sales Tax Extension Ms. Nauser will be second. Mr. Skala feels this will be a hard one, since it barely passed last time and this time we are asking for more. Mayor McDavid felt that these come down to a vote of confidence in leadership or vote of no confidence. Mr. Matthes added that this team will work ahead of schedule to get information out to the community on this.

Mr. Trapp will be the lead Council on the 1/8 Cent Park Sales Tax with Ms. Hoppe being second and Mr. Thomas being third. Mr. Thomas will be lead for the Transit Utility Fee, with Ms. Hoppe as second and Ms. Chadwick as third.

Mr. Matthes noted in regard to the timing of the ballots, that we have three slated for November 2014. (Public Safety, Electric and Developer Fee ballots) He added that those must be introduced to Council on an agenda in July in order to get them on a November ballot. Ms. Nauser has concerns about items coming to council without getting to push out information to the community. Mr. Skala felt that all three of these are high impact items, but he also felt that this was coming up very soon. Ms. Hoppe felt that public safety has strong support and could be a shining star to run early on an August ballot. Ms. Thompson noted

that it was too late to get on an August ballot. To go in April 2015, the deadline would be the third week in January. Ms. Nauser felt that this needs public outreach to explain the property tax increase is clearly only going to be used for public safety. Ms. Chadwick added that the only opposition she has heard is to be sure the money is used only for public safety. Mayor McDavid commented that we are off the scale as being low on property tax compared to other cities.

Mr. Trapp commented that the developer fee has not been discussed much in terms of what that language will entail. He felt that the best chance to pass it is to have a good thought out public process. Mr. Skala feels that a user based approach is the direction he feels developers and the community want to go. It is unreasonable to expect 50 categories of use, but we could separate out commercial and residential, etc. Water and Light Director Tad Johnsen added that the electric fee ballot could move to April 2015. If the electric and developer fee items need to go together, they could both wait until April. Ms. Nauser felt that the electric item should stay in November. Mayor McDavid asked if the electric fails in November, when it could come back for another vote. Ms. Thompson replied that she would have to look at individual wants to determine when it could come back. Mr. Johnsen added that some rate increases will occur with the bond issue which will only be to repay debt. Mayor McDavid confirmed that the cost of service rate increase could be part of the budget. Ms. Thompson replied that an ordinance will be on the Council Agenda for August 4<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Chadwick commented that a lot of voices are to raise developer fees, and she felt it should Mr. Thomas agreed and noted that the other two will struggle November. without that one to carry it. Finance Director John Blattel added that interest rates are favorable right now. The longer you wait; the risk of increasing rates Mr. Thomas stated that the developer fee should include a transportation component as well as other components. Mr. Glascock added that the cost of service study should be back in the next month or so and we will plan to do a Pre-Council on that. Mr. Skala felt that regardless of where the money is coming from, that helps with current argument on Opus. Mayor McDavid added that Opus and American Campus Communities were willing to pay more but we don't have user fees for roads and we are behind on that. He has an analysis that shows the contributions made by neighborhoods, which is understated. Mr. Thomas agreed that many do build infrastructure on their own property, but we are talking about the public cost to expand infrastructure and he suggested the title be "New Development Fee". Ms. Nauser confirmed that when we replace common sewers, that money comes from bonds. Mr. Matthes said that was correct.

Mr. Matthes reviewed the time line for the other ballots. Ms. Nauser asked what the County and Columbia Public School Board would be doing on upcoming ballots. Mr. Matthes replied that CPS won't have anything until April or so and

those will likely be renewals after that. This August the County is doing a Fairgrounds tax.

Mr. Matthes noted again that teams with 2014 ballots will meet internally on a weekly basis. Staff will consult with each lead Council person to schedule those. Everyone on the team must commit to what is accomplishable by next meeting. Each team develops an implementation strategy, what public members should be asked to serve on each committee, confirm their interest, get the first committee meeting set up and then hand off to the committee. Staff can attend committee meetings, but only to answer questions. Council can advocate, but staff cannot. He added that ballot committee's cannot meet on City property, and will complete the State required forms for the Missouri Ethics Committee. They will also fundraise for the marketing and promotion of that ballot issue. Mr. Skala asked for a list of recent ballot Committees and members. Mr. Matthes indicated we would provide that and added that the Committees will also engage with rotary clubs, etc. Ms. Nauser felt that if property tax passes, the use tax would be worth waiting on to see what happens at the State and Federal level since it needs to pass there too. She felt that 2016 seemed sensible. She asked if the County was also pursuing Use Tax. Mr. Matthes replied that he has not heard that they are, but he is not sure what they have planned for November although he hasn't seen much of an organizational push there.

The presentation on Future Ballot Planning can be viewed at the following link: <a href="http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=13882">http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=13882</a>

## Other Topics Council Wishes to Discuss: None.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:56 PM.