

## **Columbia City Council Work Session Minutes**

Monday, February 16, 2015 5:00 p.m.

City Hall – Conference Room 1A/1B

701 East Broadway

**Council members present:** Mike Trapp, Karl Skala, Ian Thomas, Laura Nauser, and Barbara Hoppe

**Absent:** Mayor McDavid

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Mayor Pro Tem Hoppe called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02 p.m.

**Poverty Simulation:** City Manager Mike Matthes explained that tonight's work session will be dedicated to a poverty simulation facilitated by Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA). Angela Hirsch, Community Services Director with CMCA provided the groups with some exercises about living in poverty. She also discussed some facts and statistics about poverty noting that the poverty level was determined in the 1960's by estimating a family's minimum food needs. It was determined that most families spent approximately one-third of their after-tax income on food. Therefore, the Economy Food Plan for various family sizes was multiplied by three to determine the poverty threshold figures. The Census Bureau later adopted these figures as the official poverty thresholds. The Census Bureau updates the figures each year for inflation using the consumer price index; however, there have only been minor changes in the way the figures are calculated since their adoption. The federal poverty level for a family of four is \$24,250. She cited many other facts all of which can be found in the presentation linked below. The group then participated in a mini-poverty simulation where each group was assigned a family with various needs and the group had to find ways to make ends meet on their provided budget. They discussed these issues as a group. Ms. Hirsch wrapped up by explaining that the City has an opportunity to move the needle significantly on poverty issues in the community and hopes that can be considered during the development of the next strategic plan.

The mini-poverty simulation presentation can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=16794>

The list of strategic priorities can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Commissions/downloadfile.php?id=16795>

**Other items Council may wish to discuss:** None.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:57 PM.