MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
JANUARY 17, 2012

INTRODUCTORY
The City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri met for a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, in the Council Chamber of the City of Columbia, Missouri. The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Boy Scout Troop 706 of Saint Andrews Lutheran Church. The roll was taken with the following results: Council Members SCHMIDT, THORNHILL, KESPOHL, DUDLEY, ANTHONY, HOPPE and MCDADVID were present. The City Manager, City Counselor, City Clerk and various Department Heads were also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
The minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2012 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Kespohl and a second by Mr. Dudley.

APPROVAL AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA INCLUDING CONSENT AGENDA
Ms. Anthony asked for R6-12 and R7-12 to be moved from the consent agenda to new business. Ms. Hoppe made a motion to approve the agenda with the change requested by Ms. Anthony. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thornhill and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Upon his request, Mayor McDavid made a motion that Mr. Kespohl be allowed to abstain from voting on B4-12, B5-12 and B13-12 due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Kespohl noted on the Disclosure of Interest forms that his home was in the affected area with regard to B4-12 and B5-12 and that his business paid the license fee with regard to B13-12. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thornhill and approved unanimously by voice vote.

SPECIAL ITEMS
None.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Upon receiving the majority vote of the Council, the following individuals were appointed to the following Boards and Commissions.

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Schmidt, Ronald, 501 Longfellow Lane, Ward 4, Term to expire November 1, 2012

COLUMBIA SPECIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT BOARD
Maxwell, David, 809 Sherwood Drive South, Jefferson City, Missouri, Term to expire January 1, 2015
Shaw, Valerie, 2101 Hillsboro Drive, Ward 2, Term to expire January 1, 2015

DISABILITIES COMMISSION
Zanetti, Lisa, 505 Fay Street # 107, Ward 1, Term to expire June 15, 2013
MAYOR’S COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL FITNESS
Hockett, Joshua, 5135 Clark Lane # 202, Ward 3, Term to expire November 30, 2014
Kullman, Steve, 205 South Garth, Ward 4, Term to expire November 30, 2014

SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(A) Construction of the Anderson Avenue PCCE #15 Sewer Improvement Project.

Item A was read by the Clerk.
Mr. Matthes and Mr. Glascock provided a staff report.
Mayor McDavid understood staff was recommending the option involving the street as it had less of an impact on the neighbors. Mr. Matthes stated that was correct and noted it was the $350,000 recommendation.
Mr. Schmidt asked if the neighbors had a preference. Mr. Glascock replied the neighbors preferred the option impacting the street.
Mayor McDavid opened the public hearing.
There being no comment, Mayor McDavid closed the public hearing.
Mayor McDavid made a motion directing staff to proceed with final plans, specifications and construction of the PCCE #15 – Anderson Avenue Sewer Improvement Project as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hoppe and approved unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

B2-12 Vacating street right-of-way along portions of Short Street and Walnut Street.

The bill was given second reading by the Clerk.
Mr. Matthes and Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.
Mr. Kespohl asked if this matter had been before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Teddy replied it had not. He explained a final plat of subdivision was on the docket, but staff was requesting it be tabled so the right-of-way vacation information could be incorporated, assuming Council approved this ordinance. Mr. Kespohl understood the Council needed to act on this before the Planning and Zoning Commission could review it. Mr. Teddy stated that was correct and noted the plat the Planning and Zoning Commission would take action on would refer to this vacation of right-of-way.
B2-12 was given third reading with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SCHMIDT, THORNHILL, KESPOHL, DUDLEY, ANTHONY, HOPPE, MCDAVID. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Bill declared enacted, reading as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA

The following bills were given second reading and the resolutions were read by the Clerk.
PR4-12 Establishing a revised City travel policy.

B1-12 Authorizing a performance contract with North Boone County Properties, LLC to extend the time allowed for completing infrastructure improvements in connection with the Final Plat of Tuscany Ridge, Plat No. 1, located on the west side of Brown Station Road west of Mojave Court.

B3-12 Vacating utility easements across Lot 41 within College Park Subdivision, Plat No. 4 located north of Campusview Drive and east of Memorial Drive.

B4-12 Authorizing construction of the South Country Club Drive PCCE #6 Sewer Improvement Project; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.

B5-12 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of the South Country Club Drive PCCE #6 Sewer Improvement Project.

B6-12 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code to prohibit parking on the east side of Heather Lane between Broadway and Ash Street.

B7-12 Authorizing a cooperative agreement with Boone County, Missouri relating to Grissum Building Urban Stormwater Retrofits and BMP validation in the Hinkson Creek and Bear Creek watersheds; appropriating funds.

B8-12 Accepting conveyances for sewer purposes.

B9-12 Accepting a conveyance for utility purposes.

B10-12 Calling a municipal election to elect Council Members for Ward 2 and Ward 6.

B11-12 Accepting a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Department of Homeland Security to retrofit Fire Station Nos. 4, 5 and 6 with fire sprinkler systems; appropriating funds.

B12-12 Accepting a grant from the Missouri Office of Homeland Security for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program; appropriating funds.

B13-12 Repealing the additional business license tax on persons doing business in the Columbia Special Business District.

R5-12 Setting a public hearing: construction of sanitary sewer improvements, more specifically described as the Valley View Pump Interceptor Sewer Project.

R8-12 Authorizing an agreement with the Memorial Day Weekend - Salute to Veterans Corporation for an air show to be held at Columbia Regional Airport May 23 - 29, 2012; authorizing the City Manager to provide support services for the Memorial Day activities planned by that organization; and authorizing a parachute jump onto Broadway.

R9-12 Authorizing a lease/purchase master agreement with IBM Credit LLC for the replacement of three servers for the Police Department and 911 records management system.

R10-12 Authorizing the sale of special obligation bonds for the construction of the Short Street parking garage.

The bills were given third reading and the resolutions were read with the vote recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SCHMIDT, THORNHILL, KESPOHL (except for B4-12, B5-12 and
NEW BUSINESS

R6-12 Authorizing an agreement with the Central Missouri Humane Society for animal control services.

R7-12 Authorizing an agreement with the Central Missouri Humane Society for municipal shelter funding.

The resolutions were read by the Clerk.

Ms. Browning provided a staff report.

Ms. Anthony referred to R7-12 and understood the City would be paying $10,000 now and $5,000 with each report for a total of $20,000, and that each report would include the items listed to ensure the money was being used properly. Ms. Browning stated that was correct.

Ann Peters, 3808 Berrywood Drive, commented that she had volunteered at the Central Missouri Humane Society for a number of years, but had a few questions and concerns. She understood there were 800 impoundments per year and wanted a breakdown as to how many of those involved lost animals and dog bites, and what the average stay was for those animals. She explained an issue she had was that the shelter currently closed at 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays, which made it difficult to find a lost dog or obtain a new dog for those that worked Monday through Friday until 5:00 p.m. In addition, the pet could be held by Animal Control and that portion of the shelter was not open to the public, so people were not able to find their pet. She noted the voucher program also removed the opportunity for local veterinarians to build a rapport with a family and animal since services were provided in-house. Although families received a packet with a free visit to many local veterinarians, most people did not take advantage of that visit since there was nothing left for the veterinarian to do. She asked the City to consider providing the vouchers to local veterinarians so they were more involved. She also asked the City to consider changes to its impoundment rules. Many cities allowed owners to impound their own dog for a first dog bite incident if they had a fenced yard, and this would reduce the number of animals needing to be housed by the shelter and the cost to the City and taxpayers. She noted, currently, there was not a requirement for dogs accused of biting to be evaluated by a certified behavioralist and believed that should be required to help facilitate better pet/human relations. She explained she had recently spent $175 for her dog to be evaluated and it had made a significant difference in her pet and herself in terms of how she handled the animal. She asked the Council to table these items for 60 days in an effort to address the issues she had mentioned. She understood the use of the shelter was needed and suggested the Central Missouri Humane Society be paid for those 60 days only at this time. She pointed out the City owned the land and building where the shelter was located and understood the Central Missouri Humane Society was allowed to use the building and land for as long as they operated a shelter in that location.

Ms. Anthony asked Ms. Peters if she was representing a group. Ms. Peters replied she was with a group, but was not representing them. She had informed the group she had
requested these resolutions be moved to new business and they had decided to attend. The group was holding a community meeting at the library the following evening.

Ms. Anthony asked Ms. Peters if she had addressed any of her concerns with the Humane Society. Ms. Peters replied no and explained she had become aware of these resolutions through an article in the Columbia Tribune over the weekend. Had she known about it earlier, she would have tried to discuss these issues with the Humane Society.

Ms. Hoppe asked Ms. Peters what changes she anticipated would occur by delaying a vote on these resolutions for 60 days, given the concerns that had been outlined. Ms. Peters replied the change would involve the voucher program if a percentage of the vouchers were offered to veterinarians at-large. In addition, there could be a reduction in the cost to the City if number and length of stay of animals changed due to a re-evaluation of the hours of operation and the allowance of home confinements. She commented that any animal adopted at the shelter was a consumer and veterinarians were involved with many small businesses. She hoped more would be done to promote the adoption of animals.

Ms. Hoppe asked how the City would be impacted if the request of Ms. Peters was accommodated. Ms. Browning pointed out there were two contracts. The first contract was for the care of animals impounded by Animal Control. The bulk of that money went to housing animals and was a set amount. Animal Control was entitled to up to 30 cages per day and the Central Missouri Humane Society was welcome to use the cages that were not in use. Some spay and neuter vouchers, veterinarian care services and office space needs were included in that contract as well. She felt this contract was needed operationally because there was no other place for the animals at this time. She noted the second contract involved $20,000 and was a result of Council wanting to give the Humane Society an additional $20,000 dollars because they recognized more animals were coming in from Columbia than were being brought in by Animal Control. Instead of just providing $20,000, they tied it to additional spay and neuter incentives. With regard to impoundments, she explained for a first dog bite if the animal had a City license and was up to date on its rabies vaccinations, it would be allowed to be impounded at home depending on the circumstances. She also pointed out the spay and neuter voucher program was targeted towards people of low income because oftentimes they had the least resources to go to the veterinarian. She stated the City had a great relationship with local veterinarians and did not want to take business away from them either.

Mayor McDavid commented that he felt these were two funding resolutions and that this was not necessarily the appropriate time to deal with the operational issues of the Humane Society. He respected the input provided and believed the more appropriate forum might be through the Board of Health, City staff and the Central Missouri Humane Society Board. In addition, from his perspective, they had to provide funding for this service.

Ms. Anthony stated she agreed this needed to be funded as they were already providing the services identified in the contract, but understood many people were not happy with the policies of the Humane Society and had not had success with the Humane Society Board in addressing those concerns. Since the City had a contract with the Humane Society, she believed the Humane Society needed to listen and respond to these concerns. She wondered how that might occur as she understood the Humane Society was not being
Ms. Browning explained the Central Missouri Humane Society was currently without an executive director and the Board was searching for someone to fill that position. She agreed they were closed at 5:00 p.m. during the week and were closed on Sunday, and understood that was a financial issue. She thought they were committed to change, but it took resources.

Mr. Schmidt understood this had been approved as part of the budget and this would renew the contract for one year. He asked why this was coming up now. Ms. Browning replied the contract was based upon the fiscal year of the Central Missouri Humane Society.

Mr. Schmidt commented that it would be interesting to hear the results of this group meeting with the Humane Society as the suggestions seemed reasonable, but also thought they needed to go ahead with these resolutions as these services were needed.

Mayor McDavid suggested members of this group contact the Council with their ideas of improving the care of animals.

Ms. Anthony commented that she thought they needed to keep pressure on the Humane Society to be responsive to the constituents of the City.

The vote on R6-12 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SCHMIDT, THORNHILL, KESPOHL, DUDLEY, ANTHONY, HOPPE, MCDAVID. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

The vote on R7-12 was recorded as follows: VOTING YES: SCHMIDT, THORNHILL, KESPOHL, DUDLEY, ANTHONY, HOPPE, MCDAVID. VOTING NO: NO ONE. Resolution declared adopted, reading as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

The following bills were introduced by the Mayor unless otherwise indicated, and all were given first reading.

PR11-12 Establishing a policy for intergovernmental relations.
B14-12 Authorizing the issuance of special obligation bonds for the construction of the Short Street parking garage.
B15-12 Voluntary annexation of property located on the north side of Bethel Drive, northeast of the intersection of Forum Boulevard and Old Plank Road; establishing permanent R-1 zoning.
B16-12 Approving the Final Plat of Unity Center Subdivision located on the north side of Bethel Drive, northeast of the intersection of Forum Boulevard and Old Plank Road; granting variances from the Subdivision Regulations.
B17-12 Approving the Final Plat of Old Plank Estates located on the east side of Old Plank Road, east of the intersection of Old Plank Road and Route K; authorizing a performance contract.
B18-12 Authorizing a road maintenance cooperative agreement with Boone County, Missouri relating to road portions along portions of St. Charles Road, Rock Quarry Road, Gans Road, Bearfield Road, Oakland Gravel Road, Old Miller’s Road and Prathersville Road.
B19-12 Authorizing a power purchase agreement with Crystal Lake Wind III, LLC.
B20-12 Authorizing a utility agreement with Boone County, Missouri to relocate electric transmission line structures at the intersection of Rolling Hills Road and New Haven Road.

B21-12 Accepting conveyances for utility services.

B22-12 Authorizing an agreement with the Columbia Public School District to construct a fitness track and football/soccer field at West Junior High School.

B23-12 Accepting a donation from Keep Columbia Safe to the Police Department for the purchase and installation of a safety camera to be located at the intersection of Tenth Street and Cherry Street; appropriating funds.

B24-12 Accepting the 2012 Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant from the Missouri Department of Public Safety; appropriating funds.

B25-12 Amending Chapter 14 of the City Code as it relates to taxi stands and no pick-up or drop-off zones.

REPORTS AND PETITIONS

REP6-12 Greyhound Lines, Inc. Desire to Use the Wabash Station as its Columbia Terminal.

Mr. Glascock provided a staff report.

Ms. Hoppe commented that she thought it made sense for the two systems to be together, but wondered how much staff time it would involve. She wanted to ensure this would not take away from the present services staff provided in terms of the City's bus system. She wondered if they would have sufficient time or would need to add a part time staff person. Mr. Glascock stated he did not believe the City would have to add staff. The Greyhound software would be placed on the City's system for ticketing. Ms. Hoppe understood he felt City staff could provide that service while still providing the same level of service to the City's transit system. Mr. Glascock stated that was correct. Mr. Matthes explained this involved about 25 passengers per day from Columbia and 171 passengers that passed through Columbia. He thought the staff work would be focused on those 25 passengers from Columbia, which he did not believe would involve a large amount of work.

Mr. Schmidt stated he thought it would benefit lower income people that relied on bus service for transportation for this service to be located at a more convenient location.

Mayor McDavid made a motion directing staff to negotiate a contract with Greyhound Lines, Inc., and to bring the contract back to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dudley and approved unanimously by voice vote.

REP7-12 Street Closure Request - Soap Box Derby.

Mr. Matthes provided a staff report.

Mr. Thornhill made a motion to approve the street closure as requested. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kespohl and approved unanimously by voice vote.

REP8-12 Policy to Recognize Homeowner Associations.

Mr. Matthes and Mr. Teddy provided a staff report.
Mr. Schmidt commented that informally the Office of Neighborhood Services had worked with homeowner associations as if they were neighborhood associations, but this would help and was great.

Ms. Hoppe stated she believed it was good to have more contact with homeowner associations if they were not neighborhood associations, but noted she had some concerns. She understood homeowner associations did not include renters and 60 percent of the housing in Columbia was rental. She felt this might discourage homeowner associations from becoming neighborhood associations, which would include renters. Although she thought it was important to provide notice to homeowner associations, she thought it needed to be clear the homeowner associations did not wish to be legally recognized and did not meet the criteria for neighborhood associations since they did not include all people in the area. She also understood there might be some overlap in terms of homeowner associations that were partly or totally within neighborhood associations and asked how that would be dealt with. She explained part of her neighborhood association was within a homeowner association, which was different and had different rules based on when property was purchased. Mr. Teddy replied he believed this would be an either/or situation as there were a number of neighborhood associations that were already formed and had a coincident area that was within a homeowner association and might even have restrictive covenants.

Mr. Schmidt understood the purpose of neighborhood associations was to create dialogue between the citizens and the City, and was a forum for providing public input on zoning and other changes. He agreed with Ms. Hoppe in that homeowner associations would operate with specific rules which might exclude tenants, but for the purposes of disseminating information and sharing ideas with the City, he hoped the homeowner associations would include tenants.

Ms. Anthony commented that many larger subdivisions had homeowner associations that prohibited the renting of property and there was no opportunity for them to receive notices. This helped solve that issue, so she wanted to see it go forward.

Ms. Hoppe suggested clarification be added to the legislation to distinguish a homeowner association from a neighborhood association. Mr. Schmidt thought it already provided that distinction. Mr. Teddy stated they would be called homeowner associations in that section of the proposed policy resolution. Mr. Matthes noted there would be two groups. One was neighborhood associations and the other was homeowner associations.

Mayor McDavid made a motion to adopt the amendment suggested to the Neighborhood Organization Policy resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anthony and approved unanimously by voice vote.

**REP9-12 Lodging Tax.**

Mayor McDavid commented that the City’s 1969 airport only had room for 50 passengers and was non-ADA compliant, and if the City decided to build a new terminal, it would take a public vote, which would require Council action to put the issue on the ballot. He understood state legislation would also be required to clear up some ambiguity prior to the Council deciding whether to go in this direction.
Mr. Boeckmann explained there was no state legislation involving hotel/motel taxes when the City originally adopted its current hotel/motel tax, so there was not a problem with a charter city proceeding with the tax. Since then, there had been a number of amendments to the state statutes dealing with the hotel/motel tax, and although it was not clear, he thought someone could argue the legislative action restricted the power of charter cities to enact these kinds of taxes. As a result, he thought it would be helpful to have clarifying legislation.

Mayor McDavid understood Mr. Boeckmann had written proposed legislation the City could submit to its local legislators. He also understood Jefferson City had done this last year. Mr. Boeckmann stated that was correct.

Mr. Kespohl noted the proposed legislation indicated the tax would be paid by any transient guest at hotels and motels, and asked if a citizen of Columbia could rent a hotel room and not pay the tax. Mr. Boeckmann replied the language in the proposed statute was the language reflected in the City’s current ordinance and believed transient was not defined as someone that did not live in Columbia. He thought whoever rented a room would be covered by the tax. Mayor McDavid asked if the language was intended to allow for a Columbia citizen to rent a hotel room for a year and for it to become his or her home. Mr. Boeckmann thought if longer than 30 or 31 days, the person was not considered transient.

Mayor McDavid made a motion to ask the state legislators representing Columbia to sponsor this legislation, to alert the City’s contract lobbyist of this legislation and to pursue passage of this legislation during the upcoming legislative session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thornhill.

Ms. Hoppe pointed out this increase in hotel/motel tax could be used for the airport or to help the transit system with its gaps, so it provided some options. Mayor McDavid agreed the City could write the ordinance any way it chose if they put it to the voters.

Mr. Schmidt noted he had received a call from a distraught hotel owner and had assured the hotel owner that there would be quite a bit of public discussion in terms of whether this was a good idea, so there would be the opportunity for input. This was only a request for clarifying legislation.

The motion made by Mayor McDavid and seconded by Mr. Thornhill to ask the state legislators representing Columbia to sponsor this legislation, to alert the City’s contract lobbyist of this legislation and to pursue passage of this legislation during the upcoming legislative session was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**REP10-12 Recommendations of the Downtown Community Improvement District Regarding Street Closures.**

Mr. Matthes provided a staff report.

Mayor McDavid commented that in view of the local private initiative for Tiger Town for the upcoming SEC alliance, he assumed staff would be working this into that initiative. Mr. Matthes stated that was correct.

Mr. Schmidt thought it would be better to do this through a policy versus an ordinance as ordinances were onerous. In addition, dealing with street closures on a case by case basis had been too arbitrary and was also not a good idea.
Mr. Matthes provide a staff report.

Ms. Hoppe commented that she was concerned with a focus on just the downtown as there were other priority areas throughout the City, and suggested looking at priority areas for snow removal on sidewalks similar to what was done for streets. Those priority areas could include walkways to schools, school routes, walk areas to bus routes, sidewalks and pedestrian ways to main shopping areas, etc. throughout the City.

Mr. Schmidt stated he had received comments from people on West Broadway about the need to shovel a crumbling sidewalk because concrete would be shoveled along with the snow and the need to shovel sidewalks in general when a City plow would later come along and put snow back on those sidewalks. He felt this was a difficult situation because they received complaints regarding the requirement of having to shovel sidewalks and complaints from people because the sidewalks were impassable. He explained the emphasis had been education when he served on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission because many people did not know it was a requirement and wondered if there was an economical way to do some education while supporting volunteer efforts. He noted the City had a lot of able-bodied people that needed work and wondered if the City could provide people shovels and pay them during snow emergencies to clear off sidewalks. He also wondered if the City could buy machinery that removed snow from sidewalks, although he preferred spending money on people and not machines. Mr. Glascock explained machines that removed snow from sidewalks existed, but the issue continued to be priority as a decision would need to be made as to whether the streets or sidewalks would be priority. He pointed out 31 miles of sidewalk was a lot and there were issues of priority and the street snow plows pushing snow back on the sidewalks. Mr. Schmidt encouraged the public to help the elderly or a neighbor with a disability this winter, but thought, for the long term, they might want to look at a combination of a volunteer and paid effort for snow removal on sidewalks. Mr. Glascock noted the services of Job Point had been used in the past to help clear bridges. Mr. Schmidt hoped they could do as much as possible in terms of the recommendations made in the report.

Mayor McDavid noted REP12-12 discussed the culture of volunteerism within the community, which was something they could be proud of, and believed healthy people, given the awareness would do their part for the community. He agreed there were a lot of able-bodied young people at the University and in the Columbia Public School system that could help the elderly and the disabled that needed assistance clearing their sidewalks, and thought this could be done as a team as the whole would surpass what individuals could do alone.

Ms. Hoppe stated she wanted staff to identify priority walking routes, so those areas could be made public and the City could then focus on enforcing snow removal in those areas. She wanted those routes to be identified throughout the City and did not want it to include only the downtown. She thought routes to public schools, business areas, hospitals, etc. should be priority as well. She noted she had received an e-mail from someone that had identified which houses on Fairview had and had not been cleared 48 hours after two snow events during the last winter season, and the results indicated the sidewalks in front of 31
houses had been cleared, the sidewalks in front of 40 houses had not been cleared and the sidewalks in front of six homes had only been partially cleared while all of the driveways had been cleared. She felt it created a problem when only half of the community cleared its sidewalks, especially when it affected main routes. She believed people would clear their sidewalks as more emphasis was put on the issue. She understood the snow melted on its own within half of a day in some events, but felt a policy and enforcement was needed for times it stayed longer. She also believed the City needed to take ownership of sidewalks in some places, such as when they were important to the community and disconnected from the property, and provided the sidewalks on Old 63 as an example since a 30 foot wall separated the sidewalks from people’s homes as no one would expect those homeowners to clear those sidewalks. She thought the City should contact those homeowners to gain ownership of that section of sidewalk and be responsible for snow removal. She provided the steep and wooded area where homes backed up to Chapel Hill as another example.

Mayor McDavid commented that he did not hear a consensus from Council with regard to the recommendation for the City to shovel sidewalks and bill property owners for that service, and suggested a positive public service announcement be issued during snow events to encourage the public to remove snow from the sidewalks for the good of the community as he assumed that would not be very expensive. Mr. Schmidt agreed.

Mr. Dudley suggested a program similar to the adopt-a-spot for the landscaping of medians for snow removal on sidewalks in areas that were disconnected from houses as described by Ms. Hoppe. Mayor McDavid thought that was a good idea since those in the neighborhood would be using the sidewalk. Ms. Hoppe commented that once they identified those areas, they could seek sponsors.

Mr. Schmidt asked if the City could help coordinate volunteer efforts as they had multiple organizations, such as CMCA and Job Point, providing snow removal services. Mr. Teddy noted a brochure had been developed emphasizing a voluntary effort to clear sidewalks, and they could continue with that effort, while also coordinating with the organizations mentioned to determine when they might be available and on what terms.

Mayor McDavid pointed out REP12-12 referred to volunteerism in the community and thought snow removal on sidewalks could get some traction if they incorporated the need into this culture. Mr. Matthes stated the amount of volunteerism was remarkable and fairly unique from his experience. It equated to approximately 25 full time employees.

Mr. Matthes asked if Council wanted staff to come back with a City-wide priority route map or if it wanted staff to focus on the recommendation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission. Mr. Schmidt commented that if staff sent this back to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission with the comments of Ms. Hoppe, the Commission could provide the priorities, as he thought the Commission might have already discussed the issue when developing this recommendation. Mr. Matthes understood Council wanted staff to ask the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission for a City-wide route map. Mr. Schmidt agreed and noted the priority list could then be used to focus volunteer efforts.

Mr. Schmidt stated he was pleased the City had a Volunteer Coordinator as it helped and noted the people in Columbia were remarkable in that they volunteered. Mayor McDavid suggested they challenge the Volunteer Coordinator to incorporate snow removal in future
volunteer efforts. Ms. Hoppe commented that the beauty of Columbia was that there were so many citizens interested in the community. She thought they should maintain and grow those volunteer efforts.

**REP13-12 Intra-Departmental Transfer of Funds Request.**

Mayor McDavid understood this report had been provided for informational purposes.

Mr. Kespohl congratulated the Public Works Department on their prudence in the Mexico Gravel to Route PP effort as he understood the estimated budget was $4.5 million and the project was finished at $3.1 million, so they were able to put $1.4 million back into the road tax revenue fund to be used elsewhere. Mayor McDavid asked for the reason the total cost was so much lower than estimated. Mr. Matthes understood a portion of the easements were donated and noted the bids were competitive.

**COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, COUNCIL AND STAFF**

Tracy Green, 2501 Hartford Road, stated she was with No-Kill Columbia and provided information regarding the organization. She asked for time for the group to meet with the Council, either separately or together, in the future. Mayor McDavid noted each of the Council Members would be happy to meet with representatives of the organization.

Michelle Bird, 2411 Kendallwood Road, stated she was a representative of No-Kill Columbia and noted this movement had become the champion of the newest shelter model in the United States, which was commonly known as the “No Kill Movement” and stood for “no kill due to space.” The group was dedicated to ending the unnecessary killing of adoptable companion animals in Columbia and the surrounding areas. They aimed to do this by educating the public and partnering with other animal welfare organizations to increase community awareness. The live release rate, which was the rate at which animals left the shelter due to adoption, being rescued or being returned to their owner, at the Central Missouri Humane Society had remained stagnant or had decreased over the last three years even as intake had decreased. In addition, the rate of euthanasia in Columbia was four times that of the national average for the same time period, and was about 50 percent of the animals. As a result, No-Kill Columbia felt something needed to be done and believed, by partnering as a community to raise awareness, they could make an impact on the number of animals that faced euthanasia every year. She explained Columbia’s diverse rescue community had already made strides in implementing the goals of the no kill movement and invited the Council to join them at the group’s first public meeting, tomorrow night, at the Columbia Public Library.

Jevon Jerke stated he was the President of the Columbia Hospitality Association (CHA), which represented the majority of the 34 Columbia-based motels and lodging establishments, and the owner of the two Super 8 Motels in Columbia. The CHA was against the raising of the bed tax from four percent to seven percent. It was a tough time for the industry as they were still in a recession and a tax increase would create more problems. He explained they supported the Columbia Chamber of Commerce appointed task force in its review of the Airport, but noted it was hard to take away a tax once established, so they
wanted to ensure there was a defined outcome that would be beneficial to all. He pointed out they had stiff competition from existing businesses and explained Columbia hosted some Missouri State High School Activity Association and Show-Me State Games events, and they wanted to keep those events. He noted the existing bed tax was well defined as two percent went toward the operating funds of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and one percent went toward proposals reviewed by the Convention and Visitors Advisory Board in an effort to get heads in beds. The raising of the rate another dollar had a negative impact on the occupancy of hotels and motels and a huge impact on the industry.

Mike Kelly commented that he served on the Convention and Visitors Advisory Board, the Columbia Hospitality Association Board, the Missouri Restaurant Association Board and the Missouri Hotel and Lodging – Columbia Chapter Board, and was a member of the American Hotel and Lodging Association and the Missouri Hotel and Lodging Association. He noted there was a direct correlation between increases in taxes and occupancy, and provided Jefferson City as an example. He applauded the effort of the Mayor and City Manager to review the issues at the Airport, but suggested they look at the results in other cities as he had viewed regression in terms of the loss of flights in East Peoria, Sioux City, Des Moines and Branson. He also applauded the efforts of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce as they were approaching this issue from a business standpoint. He suggested the City allow the Chamber to do its job prior to pursuing a tax.

Ms. Hoppe stated she had received several reports from residents of Shepard indicating the timing of the left turn light at the intersection of Audubon and Stadium had shortened, particularly at the busy times when Shepard Elementary was opening and closing and during rush hour. She understood only two cars, if any, could get through the intersection when traveling south on Audubon and turning left on to Stadium. She explained buses were turning left off of Stadium to go on to Audubon towards Shepard Elementary School and cars were turning in front of those buses due to this situation. She understood cars were stacking up to Azalea. She asked staff to contact MoDOT and ask them to review the left turn lights, particularly when turning left on Stadium from Audubon and turning left on Audubon from Stadium as there appeared to be a terrible congestion and safety problem there.

Mr. Schmidt pointed out the public could report issues, such as this, to MoDOT through its website and noted they had been responsive in the past.

Ms. Hoppe understood there had been difficulty in getting a response from MoDOT in the past and staff had contacted them previously, which resulted in improvements being made, but something had since changed creating problems again. She felt this was particularly important since development that would likely generate more traffic had begun at Crosscreek.

Mr. Kespohl understood an interested parties meeting would be held at City Hall on Wednesday, January 18 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. regarding sidewalks on Windsor, Melbourne, Ripley, Pratt and William, which was within the Benton-Stephens neighborhood, and invited those interested to attend.
Mr. Kespohl commented that the Council approved the sale of $9.175 million in bonds earlier tonight, but the actual cost of the garage was estimated at $11.3 million. The parking fund would be used to make up the difference between the total cost and the amount of bonds. The payment on the bonds was estimated at $686,000 per year for 20 years. There would be 424 parking spaces in the garage, and if every space was rented at $60 per month, the City would be provided $25,500 per month, so the City was losing $22,000 per month over the next 20 years on this garage. He wanted the public to be aware of the fact garages did not pay for themselves, and that this was not a $9 million garage.

Mr. Schmidt asked for clarification regarding the contingencies. Mr. Blattel replied there was no longer a contingency in the bond sale itself. The only contingency was the $400,000 change order contingency that was shown on the budget schedule.

Mr. Blattel pointed out the City would rent some reserved spaces for $100 per month. Mr. Kespohl understood only fifteen spaces would be rented for that amount. Mr. Blattel stated he thought there would be a minimum of 45 of those spaces.

Mr. Kespohl referred to a motion made at the October 3, 2011 Council Meeting to proceed with the garage and noted he believed they had agreed to a $9 million, 410 space garage at that time. He suggested a new motion be approved for a $11.3 million garage. Mayor McDavid referred to the meeting minutes and stated the motion directed staff to proceed with the final plans, specifications and construction of Short Street Parking Garage with 410 parking spaces. He explained the cost of the garage was not a part of the motion. He pointed out the Council expected, and he was satisfied, they had received fiduciary oversight on this issue. An additional 80 spaces cost $2 million more, and he believed they knew it would when they voted to approve the 410 spaces.

Ms. Anthony commented that she had planned to request a report regarding the Central Missouri Humane Society, but in light of the presentation of No-Kill Columbia, she would meet with them prior to asking for anything formal.

Ms. Anthony stated she was hosting a community discussion regarding the traffic issues on Forum Boulevard on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Country Club of Missouri. She encouraged those interested to attend.

Ms. Hoppe noted there was a pedestrian crossing on Walnut Street near PS Gallery and The Bridge and the indicator sign in the middle of the street was often missing. She asked staff to consider the installation of signs on both sides of the street informing people of the pedestrian crossing. Mr. Kespohl stated he thought that was a good idea because the street was too narrow for a sign in the middle of the street and trucks kept knocking it over.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheeila Amin
City Clerk