

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

February 19, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Mayor William E. Gentner called the Regular Meeting to order, pursuant to proper notice having been given. City Recorder Betty Modrall called the roll. Present were Mayor William E. Gentner, Vice Mayor Wayne Kennedy, Council Members Carl McCullen, Debbie Matthews, Christa Martin, Dean Dickey and Susan Stephenson; City Manager Paul C. Boyer, Jr.; City Attorney Tim Tisher; City Recorder Betty Modrall; and Wendy Crumley, Recording Secretary.

Pastor Arch Warren offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Martin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Gentner made a motion to approve the Agenda with the exception of items 6.5 (Presentation of the City’s Graffiti Ordinance as requested by Councilman Dean Dickey) and 8.2 (Consider approval of a professional services agreement from Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc for the development of a strategic plan and authorize related transfer of funds). Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:

Item 6.1 – **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2009.** Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2009 City Council Meeting. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. Mayor Gentner asked Mr. Tisher if additional language was needed with the motion since the attached minutes had highlighted title changes. Mr. Tisher stated, “No, because the corrected minutes are part of the attachments”. All Council Members present voted aye.

Item 6.2 – **CONSIDERATION OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR BOBBY JOE HAYWOOD, LIEUTENANT, POLICE DEPARTMENT.** Council Member Martin made a motion to approve the retirement benefits for Lieutenant Bobby Joe Haywood. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

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Item 6.3 – APPOINTMENT OF MS. MONICA WITHERSPOON TO THE COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD TO FILL THE REMAINDER OF A FIVE-YEAR TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE JULY 11, 2011. Mayor Gentner moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Monica Witherspoon to the Columbia Housing Authority Board. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

Item 6.4 – APPOINTMENT OF MS. LESLIE COLLEY TO THE STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE; NOMINATED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SUE STEPHENSON. Council Member Stephenson made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Leslie Colley to the Stormwater Advisory Committee. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. All council members present voted aye and the following items were approved:

1. Disbursements for the month of January 2009 in the amount of \$9,894,215.27.
2. Bid award for water based automatic fire sprinkler system design and installation – Ward 5 – Fire Department.
3. Acceptance of annual reports of City of Columbia Employees' Retirement Plan, the City of Columbia Employees' Retirement Supplemental Health Insurance Benefit Fund and the City of Columbia, Tennessee Retirement Health Insurance Post-Employment Benefit Trust for the year 2008 – City Recorder's Office.

ADMINISTRATION:

8.1 – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE HOUSE RULES; CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE COUNCIL PROTOCOLS. Council Member Stephenson made a motion to approve the House Rules and Code of Conduct but to defer approval of the Council Protocols. Council Member

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Matthews seconded the motion for discussion. Council Member Matthews asked what the reasons to defer were. Council Member Stephenson stated that she has a list of notes of things to change that she has not had time to rewrite and type up and that she would like to get this accomplished so she can provide members of Council with the list. Council Member Martin stated that she would also like more time to review because there are some things left out that she would like included. All Council Members present voted aye.

8.3 – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MACTEC TO DEVELOP A NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION AND REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR THE EAST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD AND AUTHORIZE RELATED TRANSFER OF FUNDS – WARD 3. Council Member Martin made a motion for approval of a professional services agreement with MACTEC for the above-mentioned plan. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Kennedy stated that he supports this plan but is concerned about getting involved with MACTEC on this project when they are currently under contract to work on the Comprehensive Plan. If a problem arises with the Comprehensive Plan, he is concerned it will backlash into this agreement as well. Mayor Gentner stated there are two reasons we need to move forward with this item. MACTEC has been involved in the comprehensive planning process, which includes Ward 3. If another firm were brought in, they would require time to become familiarized with this Ward and its needs. Also, as discussed at the study session, time is of the essence. This money is basically up for grabs for any community and we have a good opportunity with this project to obtain some of the funds. Council Member Martin stated that she agrees with Mayor Gentner. The East Hills community is in this area and it would greatly benefit from this project. The City has received Community Development Block Grant funds for this area before so we have that positive experience to apply to this project. Council Member Matthews stated that we cannot let this money go to another community. The area of East Hills needs this plan and most of the money for this project has been budgeted. We need to go after the money that is available for our County and City. Council Member Dickey stated that the City needs to move forward on this; it is a great opportunity for this neighborhood. City Manager Boyer stated that a revised version of the agenda item was being handed out to Council Members that

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includes a change in the financial certification. There is \$16,000 budgeted within the City Manager's budget and an additional \$1,500 budgeted and available for transfer from General Government Reserves. Council Member Stephenson stated that this project is needed. This is a grant process, which will be totally different from the Comprehensive Plan process being done by MACTEC. We are under time constraints and we need to get everything in order. Council Member McCullen stated he is in support of this program. Vice Mayor Kennedy stated that he supports the program 100%, he just wants to be cautious in having MACTEC work on two projects for the City and he also wants to watch the money situation. After a vote was taken, the motion passed, with Vice Mayor Kennedy voting nay.

8.4 – CONSIDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO MAURY COUNTY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE MAURY COUNTY/CITY OF COLUMBIA ANIMAL SERVICES FACILITY FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF FY 2008-2009 – FINANCE DEPARTMENT. Council Member Dickey made a motion to authorize payment to Maury County to provide funding for the above-mentioned. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Council Member Matthews stated that she is on the Animal Shelter Board and that she wanted to mention that the cooperation between the City and County has been great to witness and be a part of. The County is currently in the process of hiring a new director for the shelter. The position will have a salary in the range of \$33-50,000 depending on experience. The salary range is a pay grade nine in the County's pay scale. Mayor Gentner stated that the pay grade was determined by the paid consultant who created the pay plan for the County. All Council Members present voted aye.

8.5 – AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT TO H.L. JOHNSON MULCH CO. FOR BRUSH SERVICES – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. Council Member McCullen moved to authorize payment to H.L. Johnson Mulch Co. for brush services. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. Council Member Matthews stated that maybe the City could look into getting some mulching equipment so Public Works employees can do the mulch work. The City spends a lot of money for this service. Over two weeks there was over \$130,000 paid to this company. All Council Members voted aye.

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8.6 – AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL PAYMENT INTO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL (LGIP) FOR INDUSTRIAL PARK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT – FINANCE DEPARTMENT. Council Member McCullen made a motion to authorize additional payment into the Local Government Investment Pool for the above-referenced project. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Council Member Stephenson stated that she received word Tuesday night that this project did not fall under a “shovel ready” classification; she is continually trying to change minds on this matter. This is a Tennessee Department of Transportation project; however, the City’s 20% match has continued to increase. All Council Members voted aye.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-07 - TAX CORRECTIONS – CITY RECORDER’S OFFICE.

Council Member Dickey moved to approve Resolution No. 09-07. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-08 - A REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TDOT) SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM – WARD 1 – ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

Council Member McCullen moved to approve Resolution No. 09-08. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Mayor Gentner asked the City Manager to brief those in attendance as to what this application is for. Mr. Boyer stated this application is for Phase 2, which will improve pedestrian access to Whitthorne Middle School and Baker Elementary School. The first phase of the sidewalks, construction of which will begin in the spring, will bring the sidewalk down the western entrance of Baker Elementary from the intersection of Oak Springs Drive/College Park Road/Hampshire Pike. A

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sidewalk will also be built down Oak Springs Drive to the YMCA. The second phase will extend the sidewalk to the intersection of Lion Parkway/Hampshire Pike and take it into the subdivision to the north. It will then continue 100 feet down Hampshire Pike, completing the network around Lion Parkway to the rear property line of the elementary school. It will also provide enhancements to the signal light at the intersection to provide a protective pedestrian crossing. Council Member Stephenson asked Mr. Boyer if these monies are only available to elementary and middle schools. Mr. Boyer stated that seems to be the case, schools qualify if they have “walking” attendees. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 3793 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT PLAN – THIRD CONSIDERATION CITY RECORDER’S OFFICE

Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve Ordinance No. 3793 on third consideration. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3792 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY 2008-2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 3753 AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND – FINANCE SECOND CONSIDERATION DEPARTMENT

Council Member Dickey moved to approve Ordinance No. 3792 on second consideration. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Council Member Stephenson stated she would be abstaining from voting due to the fact she does not agree with having to pay the Howell Group. All Council Members present voted aye, with the exception of Council Member Stephenson who abstained.

ORDINANCE NO. 3798 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 3638 – THE SAME

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BEING ARTICLE XI (PUD DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS) OF THE FORMER ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, BY AMENDING THE PUD MASTER PLAN AT 2536 NASHVILLE HIGHWAY IN NEAPOLIS AT DAILY'S MARKET TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE BUILDING – WARD 5 – GRANTS AND

SECOND CONSIDERATION PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Council Member Stephenson moved to approve Ordinance No. 3798 on second consideration. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3799 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN –

SECOND CONSIDERATION CITY RECORDER'S OFFICE

Council Member Martin moved to approve Ordinance No. 3799 on second consideration. Council Member Dickey seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3721 - AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX PROPERTY KNOWN AS WINDY HILL FARM LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CAMPBELLSVILLE PIKE CONTAINING 131.89 ACRES AND ESTABLISH THE DATE OF MARCH 19, 2009 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ANNEXATION AND PLAN OF SERVICES – GRANTS AND

FIRST CONSIDERATION PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to defer Ordinance No. 3721 on first consideration. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

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ORDINANCE NO. 3722 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 3638 – THE SAME BEING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, TO ZONE PROPERTY BEING ANNEXED BY ORDINANCE NO. 3721 KNOWN AS WINDY HILL FARM LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CAMPBELLSVILLE PIKE CONTAINING 131.89 ACRES TO R-10 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISH THE DATE OF MARCH 19, 2009 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING – GRANTS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

FIRST CONSIDERATION

Vice Mayor Kennedy motioned to defer Ordinance No. 3722 on first consideration. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3795 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 3638, THE SAME BEING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, REGARDING NON PAVED STORAGE AREAS AND ESTABLISH THE DATE OF MARCH 19, 2009 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING – GRANTS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

FIRST CONSIDERATION

Council Member Matthews made a motion to defer Ordinance No. 3795 on first consideration for further study. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye, with the exception of Vice Mayor Kennedy who voted no. Mayor Gentner referred to Mr. Tisher, stating that during the next study session discussion needs to be held related to the items being deferred, as we seem to be getting into the habit of deferring.

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ORDINANCE NO. 3796 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 3638, THE SAME BEING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, REGARDING SOCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTIONS AND ESTABLISH THE DATE OF MARCH 19, 2009 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING – GRANTS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

FIRST CONSIDERATION

Council Member Matthews made a motion to defer Ordinance No. 3796 on first consideration for further study. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. Council Member Stephenson stated she has obtained the information she needed and will be meeting with Mr. Boyer and David Holderfield. She hopes to have a draft prepared for the next Council meeting. All Council members present voted aye, with the exception of Vice Mayor Kennedy who voted no.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Johnny Littrell, resident of West 8th Street, stated that after watching the last Council meeting, he was concerned with the status of the fields at Ridley Park. Mr. Littrell stated that he was confused as to the number of ball fields approved and that he was here in support of the league. Mr. Boyer stated that Council approved to go forward with the Master Plan approved in 2006, which has 10 fields. Six of those are girls' fast pitch softball fields and four are designed for tournament play. Two football fields will also be included in the park. The project will go out for bid in the spring. Mr. Boyer also stated that the right-of-way issue has been resolved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Council Member Stephenson responded to Mr. Littrell's comments. Council Member Stephenson informed Mr. Littrell that her concern was based on the economy and the budget for the project, which had started at \$2.2 million. We have already spent \$2.6 million, add to that another \$5 million and the project will still not be completed. However, when the project is completed it will be a great complex and will produce much needed revenues for the

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City Council Member Stephenson asked Mr. Boyer for an update on a sewer line problem mentioned in the weekly report. Mr. Boyer stated the line in question only services the Boys and Girls Club. Instead of tearing up the new intersection at 8th and Garden, Wastewater is working around this to handle the situation.

Council Member Dickey asked Mr. Boyer if Ridley Park were completed on schedule, would it be possible to be playing ball games in the spring of 2010. Mr. Boyer stated that it can be done, depending on everything falling into place and decisions being made when they need to be made. Council Member Dickey asked whether the Maury County Animal Services Facility is operating within its budget. Ms. Patti Baltzer, City Finance Director, stated that the City has made two quarterly payments totaling \$70,000 so far and that additional funds are included within the current budget amendment.

Council Member Martin thanked each council member for his or her approval of the Neighborhood Stabilization Project for the East Hill area. Council Member Martin asked Mr. Boyer what kinds of changes to expect during the new fiscal year in terms of meetings, spending, etc. Mr. Boyer stated there that would be several more meetings concerning the new fiscal year. Department budgets have already been turned in to the Finance Director. Also, it needs to be discussed among Council members what really needs to get done and what can be let go. Ms. Modrall reported that this has been the hardest year for her to work on revenue projections. Mr. Boyer stated that he and his staff are monitoring the economy, but he can already tell the budget will be bare bones this next fiscal year. Council Member Martin asked Mr. Boyer what he would suggest to Council and others to help with this situation. Mr. Boyer stated that Council does not need to think about extending any programs or to engage in any new programs.

Council Member Matthews stated she is now a member of the Maury Alliance Retail group. She would like to give a “shout out” to some local businesses: Soul Food Café, Olive Garden and Amore on Port Royal Road. Council Member Matthews asked for an update on Parkview Manor. Mayor Gentner stated the last he heard was that all the tenants are still moving out and they have a March 31st deadline. Council Member Matthews stated she has now heard that Columbia Power & Water Systems (CPWS) is in talks

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with Spring Hill to sell our water. Spring Hill is our direct competition and Columbia should have the respect of CPWS to not be put in this situation.

Council Member McCullen asked for an update on the College Park realignment project. Mr. Boyer stated there was a preconstruction meeting held two weeks ago and that we are waiting for an agreement from East Tennessee Natural Gas to cross their line, which is in place at this location. Council Member McCullen stated again that he is the Council representative for the Power Board and that he will be glad to mention any problems that Council at their board meetings. The Power Board has not entered into an agreement with Spring Hill; however, they did request it be considered. Council Member Stephenson asked Council Member McCullen to inform the Council Members when this item is brought before the Power Board so those interested may attend as guests.

Mayor Gentner reminded Council Members about the opportunity presented by Maury County Board of Education to see the Vocational Program at Central High School tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Gentner stated since Mr. Boyer has shared concerns regarding the budget and some ideas of what can be done to help alleviate some of the strain, he feels that the Council can help by watching their travel expenses. Mayor Gentner made a motion to suspend City Council travel to conferences and meetings outside of Tennessee that would require City reimbursement for expenses. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Mayor Gentner clarified Council could still travel out of state, but it would be out of their own pocket. The reason in-state travel was not included because the annual TML Conferences are in-state. The conference will be in Chattanooga this year. Council Member McCullen stated he has been attending the leadership classes held at the National League of Cities and would be receiving his silver award this year. He decided not to attend, so they will be mailing him his award. Council Member Martin stated that on February 12th she shared an email with Mr. Boyer that she has been appointed as the Representative of Tennessee on the Information Technology Committee for the National League of Cities. There are about four meetings a year (out of state) and attendance is required. With a budget of around \$66-\$67 million, she asked how much money is actually being spent on travel. If travel is such a concern, then she would like to amend the motion to not allow travel at all for any Council Member. There was no second on the motion; therefore, the motion failed.

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Mayor Gentner stated he was unaware of Council Member Martin's appointment to this committee. Since this has come to light, Mayor Gentner moved to amend his motion to recognize Council Member Martin's position and to allow her to attend her required meetings. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. Council Member Matthews stated Council does have a fiscal responsibility; however, Ms. Martin has a national appointment, which is an honor to her and our Council. She did not attend the first meeting of the year, with the impression she would be going to the other meetings. Council Member Matthews suggested with in-state travel, Council could drive and not spend the night to eliminate some of the cost. Eliminating ourselves from the TML conference would be detrimental to the Council and City. Council Member McCullen stated this is a great opportunity for Council Member Martin. He himself is up for a silver award at a leadership convention sponsored by the National League of Cities but has decided to forgo attendance and get his award mailed to him; however, his attendance is not mandatory. Vice Mayor Kennedy stated he respects Council Members Martin's and McCullen's positions; however, if travel is to be cut, it should be cut. Council Member Stephenson stated one thing she is concerned with is that there is no timeline on the motion not to travel. She has spoken to Ms. Baltzer and was told that there was \$19,000 in travel budgeted for Council, and after the City Manager moved \$5,000 to pay another expense, the account is left with around \$3,500. Council Member Stephenson stated the following, "Most members on this Council did not blink an eye when it came to authorizing \$2.3 million or \$2.6 million or another \$5-6 million for capital projects but yet we are sitting here discussing a travel line of about \$19,000 for the year for the Council Members. When you come onto this Council, you do not come on with a training manual. This is an on the job training for new Council Members and it is a lot to take in all at once. I have benefited incredibly from the two conferences that I have gone to in over the year that I have been here and I find these workshops and seminars very beneficial. I find the dialogue that we are able to have with other Council Members, Mayors and Vice Mayors from other cities to be very beneficial, and people that we can call in the future if we need to consult with them. This last November when we went to this conference in Florida, I was not in the pool, I was not on the golf course and I was not in the cocktail lounge. From 9-5, we flew down on a Monday, and from 9-5 on Tuesday through Saturday, I was in workshops and seminars". The Mayor called to vote on the amended motion to recognize

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Council Member Martin's position and to allow her to attend the required meetings. All Council Members present voted aye, with the exception of Vice Mayor Kennedy who voted no. Mayor Gentner stated that discussion could continue on the initial motion. Council Member Stephenson stated that she did not see the need for this motion. Council has not abused the travel budget and she, for one, is not about to pay for travel when it is required to help her do her job as a Council Member. All Council Members are responsible enough to make their own decisions and travel should not be restricted. If anything, the travel budget for the Council should be increased. Council Member Dickey stated that he made an announcement at the last meeting that he would not be attending any meetings or conferences. Council Member Martin stated that she could e-mail the person who is over the steering committee meeting to see if her attendance is required or if there are other options. Council Member Matthews stated she believes that it is a good thing to try to save this money now considering the fiscal situation we're in. We are dealing with what is dire and necessary for this town. However, the travel should be reinstated as it is a benefit to everyone in this community. Mr. Boyer stated because there is so much confusion on this matter he would like to clarify some things. On November 12, 2008, a memo was issued to staff implementing travel restrictions to slow spending due to impending revenue issues. He stated that his memo does not apply to the Mayor, Vice Mayor or any Council Member. The City Manager does not oversee the Council nor write rules for them. Mr. Boyer stated when he signs off on Council's travel requests, he is only signing off to say he has reviewed their request and it complies with the City's travel rules. Council Member Stephenson stated she has an open-ended concern with this travel restriction. She would like to make a motion that each Council Member can make his/her own decision as to travel in-state or out-of-state. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. Mr. Tisher stated if this amendment passes, there would be no underlying motion to vote on because the Council would be restoring policy to what it currently is. Council Member Stephenson's amendment was voted upon and failed with a 3-4 vote. Those voting no were Mayor Gentner, Vice Mayor Kennedy, Council Members Dickey and Matthews. Mayor Gentner stated that a vote was then needed for the motion as amended, which was to allow out-of-state travel only to Council Member Martin. The motion failed with a 3-4 vote. Those voting no were Vice Mayor Kennedy, Council Members Martin, McCullen and Stephenson. There was some confusion among the Council Members as

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to what the status of travel was after the above discussion and votes; however, Mr. Tisher informed everyone the travel policy was in effect like it was before the meeting ever started. Mayor Gentner stated he was disappointed that Council was not able to take the leadership role that they need to take on this matter.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

WILLIAM E. GENTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BETTY MODRALL, CITY RECORDER