



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor  
6801 Delmar Blvd.  
University City, Missouri 63130  
**August 22, 2017**  
**4:30 p.m.**

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At the Special Session of the City Council of University City held on the fifth floor of City Hall, on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Mayor Pro Tem Terry Crow, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

In addition to the Councilmember Crow, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Rod Jennings  
Councilmember Paulette Carr  
Councilmember Steven McMahon  
Councilmember Michael Glickert (*via video conference*)  
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson (arrived at 4:33 p.m.)  
Mayor Shelley Welsch (Excused)

Also in attendance were Interim City Manager, Charles Adams, HR Manager, Kellie Cannon and IT Coordinator Michael Carlin.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember McMahon moved to approve the agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously

**4. Protocol for Communications with MSD the Clear Water Project**

Mr. Adams turned the discussion regarding the protocol for communications with MSD on the Clear Water Project over to Council. Councilmember Crow stated at the last meeting Councilmember Carr expressed concerns about the communication process with MSD. In response to that; Councilmember Crow recommended appointing only one person to communicate with MSD both for affirmative communications going outbound and also for MSD's communications coming inbound to Council. He believes this will give MSD greater clarity as to whom they should speak with. This will provide us with a consistence mechanism by which we can exchange information; both our thoughts to MSD and also MSD's thoughts to back to us. Councilmember Crow then opened the floor for discussion about other suggestions to streamline communications with MSD.

Councilmember Glickert stated he could not agree more with the assessment presented. He believes Mr. Adams is the point person and that it is the City's responsibility, so he wholeheartedly agrees with having one person and he should be the Interim City Manager.

Councilmember Jennings said he concurred that if it will be one person; that should be the City Manager. If Council is to be involved, he would not want to see just one member but maybe a person from each Ward. He is comfortable with the City Manager being the point person.

Councilmember Carr moved to authorize the City Manager to be the point person, and that the City Manager will communicate to MSD that he is in fact the point person and any other communications coming to and from the City should come from him. And the City Manager will keep Council informed on a weekly basis of what is going on with MSD. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson.

Councilmember Crow stated that he believes it's important that we ask MSD to direct all of their communication to the City Manager. Not just that he is authorized to speak for Council and receive information but at this point in time, after all the water that we've all seen under this bridge, no punt intended; it will serve us better if we ask MSD to streamline all their communication to the City Manager. That clearly means not to each or any of Council but to the City Manager. If separate conversations are had; which will happen and that's fine, the protocol needs to be the MSD knows that we expect that communication will go to all of Council should go through Mr. Adams. It has to be very clear that any communication directed to all of Council should go through Mr. Adams and not to any member of Council, Mr. Adams and then send it back out to Council. This is a concern and he asks to amend the motion to include this direction.

Councilmember Carr stated she did not mind making the amendment and added that MSD should actually communicate with the City Manager as opposed to just staff. Just as it is when Council wants to ask a question of staff they must direct it to the City Manager and then he passes it on to staff, so that the City Manager is advised of all things going on.

Councilmember Crow asked Councilmember Glickert if he was okay with asking MSD to communicate directly with Mr. Adams. Councilmember Glickert stated he agreed and that it was pretty much in line with what he had said earlier. He asked Councilmember Crow to make sure everyone has a chance to voice their thoughts before the motion comes before the floor.

Councilmember Carr stated that Roberts Rules of Order states that normally a motion is made and then discussed, so she doesn't think anybody is being cut off.

Councilmember Smotherson said he agreed and wanted to emphasize that the City Manager must be made aware of any contact or information between staff and MSD. He understands its typical business but he thinks the City Managers needs to be aware of what's happening and the interactions between MSD and staff.

Councilmember McMahon stated that he agrees the Interim City Manager should be the contact person (outgoing/ingoing). He asked the question; if MSD on their own decides to contact one or more Councilmembers; should we include that there's a duty upon Councilmembers to direct that message to Mr. Adams so that everyone is sharing and receiving the same information? So that all are aware of what the obligation is; should someone on MSD's end does not follow what we've asked of them.

Councilmember Jennings stated he agreed that Councilmember McMahan's suggestion should be included in the motion. Councilmember Crow ask that could be done in a separate motion. He believes Mr. Adams would like to be able to show MSD a clean motion that makes him the point person for communications and clearly asks MSD to direct their communications back to him.

Councilmember Carr made a motion to amend the motion to say we will be directing MSD to direct all communications to the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jennings.

Voice vote to approve the amendment carried unanimously.

Councilmember Carr stated that originally she had a second portion to the motion that asked the City Manager provide weekly status updates to Council. She asked if anyone objected or should it be a separate motion? She said at some point because of the water that has gone under the bridge, Council needs to know what is going on instead of sitting back for several months with no updates. Mr. Adams has been excellent about sending communications and having staff communicate what's going on. But it's important for Council to have confidence that they will know what's going on and not have any other surprises.

Councilmember Crow ask the City Manager if he was comfortable with weekly updates or would he rather have regular updates? Mr. Adams said yes he was fine with that; either there's something to report or there's not, it's simple to regiment ourselves to get it done in a timely manner.

Hearing no further discussion, Councilmember Crow called for the vote on the motion as amended by Councilmember Carr and it was seconded by Councilmember Jennings.

Voice vote to approve the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember McMahan made the motion that should MSD not follow the directions set out by Council, that they will direct all communications through the Interim City Manager; and should any member of Council receive communication from MSD that they have an affirmative duty to direct MSD back to the Interim City Manager who will share the information with all of Council so everyone can stay on the same page.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jennings.

Voice vote on the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Crow stated he believed a study (work) session should be scheduled with MSD, to clearly ask them to layout each of the alternatives that they have considered up this point in time. Have them list the pros and cons for each of the alternatives. The intent would be to have both questions and answers and discussion regarding those alternatives. We need to be able to balance MSD's engineering needs with our needs as an elected body to the communities needs for how this should best be done with the least amount of upheaval to the citizens.

Councilmember Crow asked if a formalized directive was needed? Councilmember Carr state that she believes it needs to be formalized to give MSD something to go by. Council may feel comfortable operating on the consensus.

Councilmember Carr asked the City Manager if this decision should be conveyed to MSD prior to the meeting that MSD said they would hold sometime after Labor day? Mr. Adams stated that we should let MSD know sooner than later what Council's request is regarding the upcoming meeting. He would work with the Public Works and Parks director to identify a couple of dates that might be conducive for them as well as Council.

Councilmember Carr stated again that she believe this should be formalized, so that MSD is clear about how Council feels about upcoming meetings. We would like to have a discussion rather than just a presentation, where options are just given.

Councilmember Jennings said we want let MSD know exactly what the next step should be. Also updates to the items requested during the Mandarin House meeting should be included in the request; questions about the sewer lateral line and computer modeling and maps of the different options that have been proposed.

Councilmember Carr said she wanted to make sure this meeting is not a one off; that going forward we will set timelines and parameters for continuing these discussions. If Council does not engage and sits back, MSD may default to the kind of presentation that was given at the Mandarin House. Which will not be a discussion or negotiation, but a rather check in the box for public engagement. It is incumbent upon Council to establish or at least propose the ground rules.

Councilmember Crow asked if Council would be comfortable taking a vote to direct the Interim City Manager to communicate with MSD to schedule a study/work session between City Council, City Staff and MSD Staff to discuss the alternatives and how they got to the alternatives that were presented at the Mandarin House; including maps and modelings. The pros and cons of each alternative in a question and answer discussion format, which would include a balanced discussion of engineering needs verses community needs and at the end of the discussion, develop a timeline for further meetings and topics of discussions in both work and public sessions with citizens.

Councilmember Crow said Ms. Beth Martin (a resident commented from the audience) suggested that MSD should include all alternatives not just the ones presented at the Mandarin House meeting and he agreed they should discuss all of the alternatives considered to date. He then asked Mr. Adams if he thought the statement gives him the direction needed to move forward. Mr. Adams agreed and said he would share information with Council before it is presented to MSD to make sure everybody has a chance to weigh in.

Councilmember Glickert agreed with the recommendation and suggested the Mr. Adams discuss with Mr. Alpaslan to ensure everything is included in the letter to MSD. As we know MSD said they wanted to get together with Council in late August or early September and that time is here.

Councilmember Crow asked if there was a motion that the tenor of the subject that was provided be given to the City Manager to then communicate to MSD all of the items listed earlier?

Councilmember Jennings moved to accept the motion as stated by Councilmember Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr.

Voice vote to approve the motion carried unanimously.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no other comments or request to speak, Councilmember Crow called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilmember Smotherson moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Councilmember Carr.

Voice vote to approve the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Crow adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

LaRette Reese  
Interim City Clerk

