

**UNIVERSITY CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION**

5th Floor of City Hall

6801 Delmar

November 26, 2018

5:30 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The City Council Study Session was held in Council Chambers on the fifth floor of City Hall, on Monday, November 26, 2018. Mayor Crow called the Study Session to order at 5:30 p.m. In addition to the Mayor, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember Paulette Carr
Councilmember Steven McMahon (*arrived 5:32*)
Councilmember Jeff Hales
Councilmember Tim Cusick
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr.

Hearing no requests to amend the Agenda, Mayor Crow proceeded to turn the meeting over to Mr. Rose for discussion around the Legislative Platform.

AGENDA

(Requested by City Manager)

1. Legislative Platform

Mr. Rose stated he would highlight the 2019 Legislative Platform for Councils consideration. The document being reviewed tonight is in draft form, once the review is completing, it will be placed on the consent agenda for your final consideration.

The purpose for the legislative platform is to ensure that both the State and Federal delegation are clear as to our interest for legislation going forward. Specifically the State legislation will go into session in January; so if there are bills that you would like to see advanced, those items should be included in this legislative platform.

2019 State Legislative Highlights:

I. Revenue and Finance:

The recommendation would be to support any legislation that maintains or enhances our revenues.

II. Governance:

The recommendation would to retain local control over all issues where possible; while resisting any unfunded mandates.

III. Quality Services:

The recommendation is to support legislation that enhances our services or in our ability in the area of economic development.

IV. Infrastructure:

Mr. Rose stated that he is recommending support of transportation projects; specifically those that would improve the traffic flow within University City.

V. 2019 Federal Legislative Platform

The City would seek federal funding for transportation infrastructure projects.

The City would advocate at the Federal level for transportation improvement grants.

The City would advocate with the Environmental Protection Agency on making improvements; such as the River Des Peres project for which we have received a grant.

We would also be an advocate for continuation of the COPS Grants; which would allow us to seek funding to expand the number of police officers that we have.

In addition we would look for legislation that would improve health, wellness, and literacy. We would also support legislation to combat violent crimes and look at supporting legislation that reforms and reduces unnecessary incarceration.

Mr. Rose opened the floor for questions from the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember McMahon stated he wanted the record to reflect that he was present at the meeting. He reminded everyone of his 45 minute commute from work and that he make every effort to arrive to this meetings on time.

Councilmember Cusick agreed with Mr. McMahon and said the he commutes from downtown and the traffic is terrible. Mr. Cusick then asked Mr. Rose if we monitored the legislation that is introduced at the state level on a regular basis; to avoid surprises?

Mr. Rose stated that was correct and the he works very closely with the Missouri Municipal League on legislative issues. He believes it's important for the City to have its independent positions. We have not conflicted with the positions of MML, but that could occur as some point; so he wants to ensure that he has a clear understanding Councils position is on legislative issues.

Councilmember Clay asked what is the interaction with elected official today i.e. is it meetings with you, or roundtable discussion etc.?

Mr. Rose stated that the relation is still in the infancy stages as it relates to the improvement of our relation with the elected officials. Individual Councilmembers may have individuals that they speak with on an ongoing basis. In the future a stronger legislative platform is needed; that would give all of the delegation a sense of where the Council is on various positions.

Mr. Clay suggested as a possible best practice; something that the school district dose is hosts a legislative breakfast or lunch and brings in state representatives and even sometimes federal officials. It might be something we could consider doing.

Mr. Rose stated that would be something to consider as the program evolves. He would like to have a joint meeting with the delegation and City Council to ensure clear understanding of your position and for the elected officials to have an opportunity to ask questions about why our position is the way it is regarding legislative issues.

Councilmember Hales asked if the City has ever had a legislative platform in the past?

Mr. Rose responded that last year was the first time for having a legislative platform.

Councilmember Clay recommended that it might be good to partner with similar municipalities as there are likely some common issues.

Councilmember Carr stated that she understood this platform to be the general outline and asked if issues come up, will Council be notified?

Mr. Rose stated the intention is not to reply totally on this document. Things can move very quickly especially at the state level, this is just a guidance. He would still look for specific direction on issues that might impact the City.

(Requested by the City Manager)

Roll-Call vote to go into a Closed Council Session according to RSMo 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys.

Councilmember Carr moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Councilmember McMahon, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Cusick, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember Clay, Councilmember Carr and Mayor Crow.

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Terry Crow closed the study session meeting at 5:40 p.m. to go into a Closed Session on the second floor. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 6:23 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk

City of University City 2019 Legislative Platform

This 2019 Legislative Platform reflects Council's legislative positions and priorities on current or anticipated legislative action at both State and Federal levels. Guided by this legislative platform, staff will take action to influence legislative efforts based on the best interests of the City of University City. Staff will update Council throughout the legislative session while seeking specific feedback on issues of major importance to the City.

2019 State Legislative Platform

I. REVENUE AND FINANCE

- A. The City will oppose legislation that results in the reduction of revenues collected by the City and support legislation that enhances revenue collections.
 - Oppose legislation that reduces shared revenues, State Gas Tax, licensing or franchise fees, or any other source of current revenue for the City.
- B. The City will protect its ability to collect and use property taxes in order to properly manage the operations of the City and to manage growth.

II. GOVERNANCE

- A. The City will oppose legislation that reduces the City's local authority and support legislation that strengthens or increases local control.
 - Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates and burdensome regulations.
 - Oppose legislation that imposes personal liability on Council members for actions taken as part of their official duty, and oppose legislation that increases City liability or requires the City to take on additional indemnity.

III. QUALITY SERVICES

- A. The City will support legislation that enhances or incentivizes economic development within the City and oppose legislation that weakens economic development tools.
 - Support legislation that provides alternative financing tools in order to bring economic investments to the City.
 - Support legislation that leverages tax laws in order to bring economic investments to the City.

- B. The City will support legislation that enhances public safety and protection from criminal activity, and oppose any legislation that needlessly reduces public safety or compromises the City's ability to provide public safety and to protect property utilizing its own local authority.
- C. The City will support efforts to increase the ability to provide additional quality parks, recreation and library services and oppose efforts to limit the ability to fund community services.
- Support legislation that allows additional options to participate in cost sharing and to finance municipal recreational infrastructure.
 - Support all aspects of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).
- D. The City will support legislation that advances responsive and high quality health and human service practices and delivery to people living in and around University City, and oppose legislation that negatively impacts these services.
- Support legislation that brings additional services and cost effective resources to our senior and veteran population.
 - Support legislation that increases health care access to the City's residents.

IV. INFRASTRUCTURE

- A. The City will support legislation that advances the planning, design, maintenance, and completion of transportation infrastructure and oppose legislation that will hinder completion of transportation infrastructure.
- Support legislation that creates additional funding options or revenue sources for transportation infrastructure including private-public partnerships and new revenue streams.
 - Support legislation that reduces or repeals unnecessary or redundant regulatory requirements.
- B. The City will support legislation that enhances the City's ability to provide or oversee safe and affordable utility services while protecting the health, safety, and public welfare of the people within the City, and oppose any legislation that needlessly reduces the safety and affordability of utilities or compromises the City's oversight authority.

V. 2019 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

- A. The City will seek federal funding for transportation infrastructure projects.

- B. The City will advocate for continued federal support of the transportation infrastructure grant programs.
- C. The City will advocate with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency on issues negatively impacting the City of University City.
- D. The City will advocate for Federal Funding of COPS Grants.

VI. STAFF REQUESTED LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Activity	Requesting Department
Support legislation that improves health, wellness, literacy and information access.	City Manager's Office
Support legislation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement, while protecting taxpayers and maintaining local authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize resources to combat Violent Crime • Federal Sentencing Reform and Reducing Unnecessary Incarceration 	Police