Carol, I would like to include in the public record the following personal statement.

I am concerned about the inclusion of $45 k in the 2021 fiscal budget earmarked for police body cameras. I believe body cameras now are certainly a want and to some extent a need. What they are not is an immediate need or an emergency. In my opinion this should be deferred to the 2022 budget discussions. My concerns at the present time are:

1. We are relying on revenue from the local use tax. The forecasts in the 2021 budget are based on only 3 months of actual data, meaning actual collections. Our forecast may or may not be accurate unlike the forecasts for general sales tax revenue for which we have a much longer history

2. We may in the next few years see the State of Missouri broaden the application of the use tax to all online purchases. Currently only those online retailers with a physical presence in Missouri collect the use tax. State action could give our General Fund some much needed breathing room and put these kinds of ongoing expenditure within reach.

3. Our projected deficits in the General Fund are real and significant and all councilpersons know that. A projected deficit of $200k in as soon as 2022 growing to nearly $450 k in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. To date we have not yet addressed how to balance the general fund which will not be easy

4. Public safety represents approximately 72% of the General Fund with labor costs being the majority of that segment

5. Allowed expenditures of the use tax are all aspects of public safety including equipment, training and compensation. I do believe however that the public's view of the initial emphasis of the use tax collections are to be used for getting us fully staffed, retaining employees for these positions and fair compensation.

6. Large, ongoing expenses like the body cameras right now put pressure on those areas we wanted to concentrate on initially.

7. With what we know and what we do not know right now I think a review in 2022 would be a more prudent course of action.