

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,  
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:02 PM.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf.  
Alderman Unnerstall arrived at 7:40 PM.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Administrator Anthony Traxler, City Attorney Tom Adams, Chief of Police Joe Edwards, Building Inspector Al Holden, City Engineer Ron Williams, and Fire Chief Mike Roediger.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, February 18, 2008 were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, February 18, 2008, as on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, February 18, 2008 were submitted for approval.

Corrections were forwarded to Mr. Hoeffken.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Row, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, February 18, 2008, as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

III. DELEGATIONS

A. Mr. Dan Weaver

Mr. Dan Weaver made a presentation to the Council regarding issues he has had with property he owns at 509 Breidecker.

IV. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Fire Department

The monthly report of the Fire Department was presented to the Council.

B. City Engineer

The report of the City Engineer was presented to the Council.

1. Refuse Collection Rate Increase

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Agne, to approve a \$0.25 per month increase in the monthly charge per residential customer for refuse collection, as permitted per the contract between the City of Columbia, Illinois and Reliable Sanitation Services, Inc., effective March 4, 2008. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

2. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Project  
Alderman Unnerstall arrived at 7:40 PM.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to accept the recommendation of the City Engineer and submit a formal application for improvements to the South Main and Route 3 intersection to the East West Gateway for funding through the CMAQ program. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Alderman Unnerstall abstained since he was not present for all of the discussion. Motion Carried.

3. Valmeyer Road Sidewalk Project

Mr. Williams informed the Council the escrow amount for the Valmeyer Road Sidewalk project was inadequate in comparison to the actual project cost. Mr. Traxler stated it is important to require 125% of escrow for future projects of this nature where the developer escrows funds, in lieu of completing the construction of infrastructure. Mr. Traxler also stated it is critical for staff to provide accurate estimates for these types of projects.

4. DOPW Building Construction Materials

Alderman Stumpf stated for the difference in price, he would like to stay with a local supplier. Alderman Oberkfell agreed. Alderman Unnerstall disagreed, but felt if the City did not accept the low bid; it could have repercussions for bids later on by sending a signal that local bids are accepted over low bids.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to accept the recommendation of the City Engineer and authorize the purchase of building materials for the new building at the Department of Public Works from Weinel Lumber Company in the total amount of \$12,782.45. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Alderman Unnerstall voted nay. Motion Carried.

5. Old Town Project - Employ Burns & McDonnell

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to accept the recommendation of the City Engineer and employ Burns & McDonnell to make engineering changes for the Old Town project plans reflecting changes as a result of easement negotiations and acquisitions. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Building and Zoning

The monthly report of the Zoning Administrator was presented to the Council.

D. Plan Commission

The report of the Plan Commission was presented to the Council.

1. Amend Section 17.02.050 of Municipal Code

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to recommend amending Section 17.02.050 of the City's Municipal Code regulating the timeline the Plan Commission has to review applications for preliminary subdivision plats, and to initiate the process to amend the code. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

E. City Attorney

1. Ordinance No. 2635 - Virginia Payne Trust

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to pass Ordinance No. 2635, an ordinance zoning land recently annexed to the City of Columbia, Illinois belonging to the Virginia Payne Trust at the time of the annexation and now belonging to Pangea Development, LLC, an Illinois Limited Liability Company, which has no assigned address and is located in Monroe County, Illinois, the eastern boundary of which is located on Rueck Road and the southern boundary of which is located north of Palmer Road and the Quarry Road, comprising 42.56 acres, more or less. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

2. Resolution No. 22-2007 - Weilbacher Building - Variance

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to pass Resolution No. 22-2007, a resolution authorizing the use of EIFS building materials for renovation of the formerly Weilbacher Department Store building located at 207 North Main Street in the City of Columbia, Illinois. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

3. Ordinance No. 2636 - Admiral Trost Development - Variance

Mr. Adams informed the Council the City can not grant a conditional variance and that a cooperation agreement between the City and the developer is required.

Alderman Oberkfell expressed concern the City might be setting precedence by allowing a larger sign than what is intended by the City's Street Graphics Control Ordinance.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to pass Ordinance No. 2636, as amended, being an ordinance granting a sign variance to Wegmann Group, Inc., an Illinois Corporation, to allow a freestanding monument identification sign for the Admiral Trost Development Subdivision in the City which exceeds the size and sign area allowance prescribed by the City's Sign Code. Said ordinance shall not take effect until such time as Wegmann Group, Inc., C & M Leasing, Brad Albrecht, Wegmann Properties, Inc., and Budnick Converting, Inc., as the Sub Dividers of the Admiral Trost Development Subdivision, (and such of the other lot owners in the subdivision who have purchased lots in the subdivision from a sub divider or sub dividers as shall agree), have made and entered into a Cooperation Agreement (approved by the City Council) which will prohibit pole signs on the individual lots in the subdivision in return for the sign

variances to be granted by this ordinance (which will allow an oversize monument identification sign for the subdivision). Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Stumpf, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Aldermen Unnerstall, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted nay. Motion Carried.

4. Ordinance No. 2637 - Old Town Storm Sewer Easements

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to pass Ordinance No. 2637, an ordinance approving the deeds for Municipal Storm Sewer easements for the City of Columbia Old Town Renovation Project from (1) Justin D. Kuykendall and Rachel J. Munro; (2) Lawrence G. Davis and Laura J. Davis; (3) Leslie Sunderman; (4) Dorman G. Lough and Donna Lough; (5) Florence Kathryn Raglin; and (6) Jay C. Lancaster and Maria Lancaster of Columbia, Illinois which are all located in the City of Columbia, Illinois and to authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Attorney to record the same for and on behalf of the City. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

F. Administration Department

The report of the City Administrator was presented to the Council.

1. Newsletter Printing Bids

Alderman Hejna stated she did not think it is necessary to spend that much money on a newsletter, especially since information is already available via the City's website. Alderman Hejna also stated the Council is looking at ways to reduce expenses in order to eliminate the need for City Stickers. Alderman Niemietz stated the City Sticker Program should not be eliminated until a substitute program is identified. Alderman Hejna also suggested the City wait until Mr. Ellis is on-board and has an opportunity to review the situation. Alderman Niemietz stated this issue had been discussed by the previous Council and was included in the current year's budget. Alderman Niemietz also stated members of the new Council had campaigned on a platform of transparent and open government and a quarterly newsletter is a tool to accomplish this.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to table the printing of a quarterly newsletter until June 2, 2008. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Hejna and Oberkfell voted yea. Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, and Stumpf voted nay. Motion Failed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to accept the recommendation of the City Administrator and accept the bid of \$1,056.25 submitted by K&D Printing for the printing of a quarterly newsletter. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, and Stumpf voted yea. Aldermen Hejna and Oberkfell voted nay. Motion Carried.

2. Zachary Fite - Part-time EMT-B

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Stumpf, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the recommendation of the part-time Assistant EMS Director, Ken Buss, and employ Zachary Fite as a part-time EMT-B. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

3. Employment Contract Renewal - Maria Todd  
Alderman Unnerstall expressed concern about an open-ended employment contract. Mr. Traxler stated it was always the intention to make Ms. Todd a full-time employee. Mr. Traxler added Ms. Todd is also declining healthcare benefits since she is covered by her husband.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to accept the recommendation of the City Administrator and approve the contract renewal for Maria Todd, at a biweekly salary of \$1,461.54. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Alderman Unnerstall voted nay.  
Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to accept the report of all Departments and Officers as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

V. CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS

A. Vouchers

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to authorize the payment of vouchers received through February 28, 2008; the total amount of the vouchers to be paid is one hundred twenty-seven thousand, six hundred thirty dollars, and sixty-three cents (\$127,630.63). Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business brought before the Council.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Knights of Columbus Mentally Handicapped Drive Request

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Row, to approve the request of the Knights of Columbus to hold their annual Knights of Columbus Mentally Handicapped Drive on Friday, September 19, 2008 and Saturday, September 20, 2008. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

VIII. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Finance, Claims, Bonds and Interest Committee

Minutes of the Finance, Claims, Bonds and Interest Committee meeting held Monday, January 28, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

Mayor Hutchinson stated he has not yet had an opportunity to review the minutes and asked approval be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

B. Committee Of The Whole

Minutes of the Committee Of The Whole Committee meeting held Monday, February 25, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

Corrections were forwarded to the City Administrator.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to approve the minutes of the Committee Of The Whole Committee meeting held

Monday, February 25, 2008 as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Finance, Claims, Bonds and Interest Committee

Minutes of the Finance, Claims, Bonds and Interest Committee meeting held Monday, February 25, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to approve the minutes of the Finance, Claims, Bonds and Interest Committee meeting held Monday, February 25, 2008 as on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

IX. CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, March 10, 2008

7:00 PM - Committee of the Whole

7:10 PM - Ordinance, Planning, and Zoning

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

7:00 PM - Fire Department (At the Fire Department)

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hutchinson informed the Council he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Row, to direct the Mayor to go into Executive Session at 8:41 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Agne, to return to Regular Session of the City Council at 9:26 PM. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

Upon return to Regular Session, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf and Mayor Hutchinson were present.

Mayor Hutchinson inquired if there was any business to be brought before the Council as a result of the Executive Session.

A. EMS - Temporary Rate Increase

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Stumpf, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Police and the part-time Assistant Director of EMS and approve a temporary increase for any EMT-P who fills a shift of a full-time EMT-P until the vacated positions can be filled. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

B. EMS - Restructured Pay Rates

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Stumpf, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Police and the part-time Assistant Director of EMS and approve the restructured pay rates approved as part of the 2007-2008 budget and to begin compensating EMS personnel under that plan. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Illinois Department Of Transportation - Project Letter

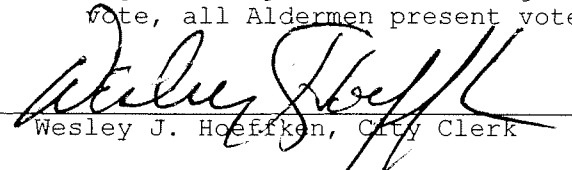
MOTION:

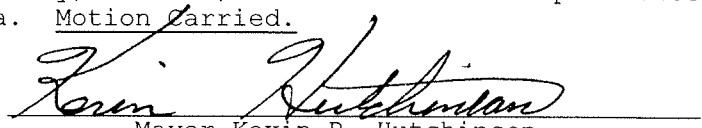
It was moved by Alderman Unnerstall, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to accept the recommended changes by Mr. Skigen and forward the letter regarding the Fish Lake Interchange project status letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, March 3, 2008 at 9:29 PM. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

  
Wesley J. Hoeffken, City Clerk

  
Mayor Kevin B. Hutchinson