

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 22, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

---

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ebersohl called the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:00 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Committee Members - Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Alderman Huch.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, City Engineer Chris Smith, Director of Community Development Scott Dunakey, Building Official Justin Osterhage, Police Chief Jerry Paul, EMS Chief Kim Lamprecht, and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests: Monroe County Sheriff Neal Rohlfing.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the September 24, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Task Force Police Officer; (3) Amendment to Refuse Collection Agreement with Reliable Sanitation Service, Inc. (Temporary Recycling Surcharge); (4) Health Insurance Plan/FSA; (5) Other Items to be Considered; (6) Public Comments; and (7) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Martens to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, September 24, 2018. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **III. TASK FORCE POLICE OFFICER**

Police Chief Jerry Paul reported to the Committee regarding a proposed DEA Task Force Police Officer. Chief Paul explained the DEA asked if the Police Department would like to have an officer serve on the Task Force. He referenced the presentation handouts on the officials' desks and also a Columbia Police Department Assignment of Task Force Officer to Drug Enforcement Administration document.

The presentation handout showed the total seizure funds received (two-year window) by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department (MCSD) of \$237,720.29, all of the participating police department agencies (Glen Carbon, Pontoon Beach, O'Fallon, Shiloh, Belleville, Collinsville, Fairview Heights, Cahokia, Granite City, and the MCSD), Equitable Sharing (Salaries) - funds may not be used to pay the salaries and benefits of sworn or non-sworn law enforcement personnel, Equitable Sharing Funds (Salary Exceptions) may be used to pay the salaries and benefits of current law enforcement officers and personnel in the following limited situations - Matching Federal Grants (No matching federal grants right now so the City would not have one), Overtime (Which could be used for special patrols on the interstate), Specialized Programs (School Resource Officer would qualify for this or the a specialized program could be created), Federal Task Force Replacement Salary (Seizure money may be used for the officer hired to replace or supplement for the new hire for the Task Force Officer), Federal Task Force Replacement Salary, Transfer of Forfeited Property (An example of the transfer of forfeited property was the GMC Denali the Columbia Police Department received and utilized from a drug bust and a BMW which was not used, but eventually sold.), and Letters of Interest for the position from Columbia Police Officers Michael Barnett, Steve Patton, and Jake Degener.

Chief Paul added that the Equitable Sharing is considered to be a DEA term and is seizure money. The seizure money can be divided amongst the agencies; a percentage would go to the DEA, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the MCSD. There are federal statutes on how funds can be used. The seized money can't be used to pay for salaries, which would be a conflict of interest.

Chief Paul reviewed the bullet points made for getting the DEA Task Force Officer for the City of Columbia which included: 1) Recruitment tool for the agency, 2) Knowledge/experience learned at the federal level, leadership skills learned on the task force, 3) Networking at federal level with U.S. Attorney's Office, 4) DEA and other federal agencies, 5) Strategic planning to have knowledge/skills on staff to address present and future problems, 6) Possibly obtain additional equipment, and 7) Possibly provide funding for the SRO (School Resource Officer) and other specialized units. It could also be used for Columbia's K-9 and D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs. Chief Paul said the current unit is performing very well and is hoping when the City adds their Task Force Officer, it will perform even better.

Monroe County Sheriff Neal Rohlfing addressed the Committee on the proposed DEA Task Police Officer. He explained he learned about the program when he worked at the City of Fairview Heights and was their DEA Task Force Police Officer. He said it was a

huge success. He has the program now with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. He posed a question if the City of Columbia can afford to do this; but can they afford not to? Sheriff Rohlfing explained how the money has helped his department, public safety takes money, the program will pay for itself, and one traffic stop could get a lot of money. He estimates that 75% of the drugs coming into Monroe County come down Route 3 through Columbia. Sheriff Rohlfing said the program could pay for a broad range of items including drug enforcement and training, patrol vehicles, updated interview room, surveillance cameras for the parks, overtime pay, training for gun enforcement, K-9 program, SRO, Aggressive Criminal Enforcement Unit (Target areas of County for example the Route 3 corridor), the D.A.R.E. program at the schools, and the Beck Area Career Center school security. Sheriff Rohlfing said since they joined the DEA Task Force in the spring of 2016, they have received \$292,223.84. There is also a pending amount of \$3,488,607 which they will be receiving 10% to 20% of that amount. Sheriff Rohlfing also pointed out that the drugs coming into Monroe County are part of large narcotics operations since we are part of the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

Alderman Holtkamp questioned the length of the commitment. Sheriff Rohlfing said there is no contract, it is really up to Chief Paul's decision and if he has an officer for the program. There really is no end point, but Sheriff Rohlfing recommends four to five years. Within two years, the City will see a benefit. Chief Paul said Officer Mike Conrad's agreement with MEGSI- Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois, is through the Illinois State Police, is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force, is for five years, and could be used to pay for his salary.

No action was taken at this point. The cost of the program was not mentioned. Any questions or information should be directed to City Administrator James Morani.

#### **IV. AMENDMENT TO REFUSE COLLECTION AGREEMENT WITH RELIABLE SANITATION SERVICE, INC. (TEMPORARY RECYCLING SURCHARGE)**

The draft ordinance to amend the Refuse Collection Agreement with Reliable Sanitation Service, Inc. of Waterloo, Illinois, by adding a Temporary Recycling Surcharge, was presented to the Committee by Mr. Morani.

Mr. Morani said he worked with City Attorney Terry Bruckert to draft the ordinance for the temporary recycling surcharge. The surcharge will be \$0.60 per month (not to exceed \$1.00) plus there will be a CPI (Consumer Price Index) increase per the regular contract with Reliable Sanitation effective December 1, 2018. The temporary recycling surcharge will go into effect December 1, 2018 and will last one year until November 30, 2019.

Alderman Holtkamp questioned if a line item could be added to the City's water, sewer and trash bill to reflect the temporary recycling surcharge. Mr. Morani will work with Accounting Manager Linda Sharp to see if this is a possibility.

Alderman Agne noted under Section 2, "resident" should be changed to "residence". (The surcharge would not be charged to each resident.) Mr. Morani said the verbiage was taken from the Reliable Sanitation contract and will make that change on the contract renewal.

It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the proposed temporary recycling surcharge ordinance. Mr. Morani said the ordinance will be ready for consideration at the next City Council meeting.

**V. HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN / FSA**

Mr. Morani referenced the Health Insurance Plan / FSA spreadsheet effective July 1, 2018. He said he has received some quotes for a high deductible insurance plan to offer as an option for employees. He doesn't want to place any numbers on it as the numbers from July of this year are obsolete. He wanted to show the Committee some of the plans he is considering proposing. He said the challenge now is he still wants to transition the plan year to the same as the deductible year (January 1) but is still waiting for information from the insurance broker. He may have to go to a January 1 renewal plan year. He added the health insurance industry is crazy right now and will have to re-visit this issue at a future Committee meeting. This will not happen on January 1 so there is still time.

**VI. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED**

**A. Tower Hill Drive Curbing**

Alderman Roessler brought a concern to the Committee regarding a resident's curbing on Tower Hill Drive that possibly needed to be replaced. He asked what was the procedure was on these types of requests. It was discussed that this could fall under the 50/50 sidewalk replacement program. Discussion also included whether to make a list of all areas in Columbia that needed repair and then have an outside company complete the work or have the Department of Public Works complete the work. City Engineer Chris Smith does not want the DOPW to complete the work. Mr. Smith said the whole Tower Hill street and cul-de-sac are falling apart. It was also discussed if the curb was the homeowner's responsibility or something the City is responsible for repairing. Mr. Smith said there is a need for a policy for these types of scenarios. Alderman Roessler said the problem can't just be a crack in the concrete or looks wrong aesthetically; it has to be a functional problem.

Mayor Hutchinson felt that the curb is part of the road and the City should fix it where it is needed. He suggested the City could do the work when the DOPW schedule allows, or if the resident would like the work completed sooner, do the 50/50 program with the City.

Mr. Morani likes the idea of Mr. Smith getting a list of all areas that need repairs, do all of the repairs at one time, and contract it out when the budget permits. Alderman

Niemietz proposed the City check with comparable communities and see what they do. She added that possibly more teeth is needed in the City's 50/50 program.

Mr. Morani suggested for Alderman Roessler to inform the Tower Hill resident that the City is considering the repair, but nothing may not occur until next year.

It was the consensus of the Committee for Mr. Smith to get more information from what other similar communities are doing with this type issue and bring it back to Committee.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)**

Chairman Ebersohl informed the Committee of the Whole that he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and collective bargaining as permitted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and (2).

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Roessler, to direct Chairman Ebersohl to go into Executive Session at 8:04 P.M. to discuss personnel and collective bargaining as permitted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and (2). Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Roessler, to return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole at 8:34 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to Regular Session, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, Martens, and Mayor Hutchinson were present.

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

**IX. ZONING HEARING OFFICER**

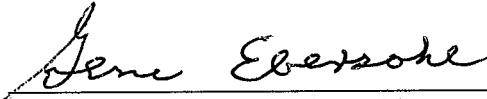
Mr. Morani provided a brief update for the process of the proposed Zoning Hearing Officer. There will be an amendment to the Zoning Code presented to the Plan Commission and then a public hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals prior to council action. The earliest this may be considered by the council will be the first meeting in December.

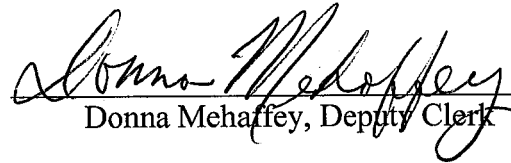
X. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, October 22, 2018 at 8:35 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Gene Ebersohl  
Committee of the Whole

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Mehafeey, Deputy Clerk