

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,  
MARCH 11, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

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**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, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Engineer Chris Smith, Assistant City Engineer Tim Ahrens, City Clerk and Director of EMA Wes Hoeffken, EMS Chief Kim Lamprecht, Accounting Manager and Acting City Treasurer Linda Sharp, Chief of Police Jerry Paul, and Deputy Clerk Kelly Mathews.

Guests: None.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the February 25, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of the Executive Session Minutes from the February 25, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (3) FY 2019-2020 Budget: DOPW, Police, Dispatch, EMS, and Revolving Loan Fund; (4) EMA Update; (5) Architectural Requirements; (6) Other Items to be Considered (7) Public Comments; and(8) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 25, 2019 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Reis to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, February 25, 2019. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens voted yea. Alderman Huch abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**III. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 25, 2019 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Reis to approve the Executive Session minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, February 25, 2019. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens voted yea. Alderman Huch abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. FY 2019-2020 BUDGET: DOPW, POLICE, DISPATCH, EMS, AND REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

Accounting Manager and Acting City Treasurer Linda Sharp provided an update for the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget proposals regarding the following departments: DOPW, Police, Dispatch, EMS, and Revolving Loan Fund.

City Engineer Chris Smith addressed the Committee regarding the DOPW budget proposal. He stated the following:

- Garbage budget has increased 6%; majority of the increase is due to a temporary recycling surcharge
- Park budget will increase 0.67%; the increase includes replacing mowers, chip sealing Legion Park parking lot, general park improvements at Legion Park and Meadow Ridge Park, and replacing Lion Pavilion at Bolm-Schuhkraft Park
- Street budget will increase 2.3%; the increase includes replacing one dump truck and concrete replacement program
- Water budget will decrease 12%; the decrease is due to large water projects in fiscal year 2018-2019
- Sewer budget will increase 6.7%; the increase includes sewer repair in old town
- The fiscal year 2019-2020 DOPW budget is budgeted as if DOPW would hire four (4) employees

Police Chief Jerry Paul addressed the Committee regarding the Police and Dispatch budget proposals. He stated the following:

- Dispatch budget is similar to fiscal year 2018-2019 budget with a 3.69% increase; the increase includes salary increases, health insurance changes, and equipment upgrades
- Mr. Paul wants to add another telecommunicator for fiscal year 2020-2021 but it was determined that funding was not available at this time
- Police budget will increase 15.23%; the increase includes salary increases, equipment upgrades, resurfacing the Police Department parking lot, and re-filling the part-time park patrol officer position

EMS Chief Kim Lamprecht addressed the Committee regarding the EMS budget proposal. She stated the following:

- EMS budget will increase 9.62%
- There will be an decrease in salaries but an increase in overtime
- EMS is currently staffing two (2) trucks
- Ms. Lamprecht negotiated a cheaper rate with the billing company; the rate was reduced to 6% from 7.35%

- Increases in education and ambulance supplies
- Equipment upgrades includes a cardiac monitor, a new radio, exercise equipment, and Stryker stair chair
- Ms. Lamprecht plans on including one (1) new radio in each new fiscal year budget until all the radios are upgraded
- Ms. Lamprecht applied for a grant for exercise equipment and a grant through Illinois Finance Authority for a zero (0) percent interest loan for the new ambulance

City Administrator James Morani provided an update regarding the Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Morani stated there are issues with this program and it has become a difficult task for staff to manage. In order to evaluate the program, Mr. Morani compared the loan amounts to what the City generated in revenue (e.g. sales tax). There have been successes with the Revolving Loan Program, but the loans that have defaulted or consistently been paid late have outnumbered the good loans. It is staff's recommendation to discontinue the Revolving Loan Program. Staff also recommends using the money to fund capital improvements or comprehensive plan update. If the Committee does not want to dissolve the Revolving Loan Fund, Mr. Morani suggests putting tighter restrictions stating restaurants are not eligible to receive loans. Mr. Morani will put together a proposal for the next Committee meeting with a plan of what the City will do with these funds if the program is discontinued.

#### V. EMA UPDATE

Mr. Wes Hoeffken, Director of EMA, presented an update on Emergency Management Agency activities.

Mr. Hoeffken stated there was a breach in the levee along DD Road. City Engineer Chris Smith and Assistant City Engineer Tim Ahrens were aware of the issue and had DOPW repair the levee.

The EMA truck was delivered last week, Mr. Hoeffken will be working with Sander Electric to install radios and lights.

The City participated in a tornado drill last week as part of National Severe Weather Week. Police Chief Jerry Paul coordinated the tornado siren test with DOPW to ensure the sirens are audible. DOPW was stationed at the following areas and reported, on a scale of one (1) to five (5), what level it was heard at:

- City Hall: Level 3
- County Crossings: Level 3
- Columbia Lakes Subdivision: Level 3
- Bolm-Schuhkraft Park: Level 5
- The Pines Subdivision: Level 5
- Pioneer Ridge Subdivision: Level 5

Two residents called following the tornado siren test upset they couldn't hear the siren from inside their homes. Mr. Hoeffken stated the siren is not meant to be heard from

inside; the sirens intent is to warn you if you're outside. Mr. Hoeffken suggests residents register with CodeRED Weather Alert or purchase a weather radio.

Alderman Holtkamp questioned if CodeRED Weather Alert has fixed their issues regarding a time lag. Mr. Hoeffken explained they did an upgrade which fixed the issue. The time lag was also a result of phone lines not being fiber optic and HTC has since upgraded phone lines to fiber optic. Another issue for cell phones experiencing a time lag could be the result of the cell tower being at maximum capacity. Mr. Hoeffken also explained CodeRED Weather Alerts sends alerts only for warnings and will not send out an "all clear" alert.

Mayor Hutchinson questioned if the City or the County is the one who issues the alerts. Mr. Hoeffken explained it is usually the County, who has spotters placed throughout the County, but the City has the capability if needed.

Mr. Hoeffken assembled a warning user guide which a copy is kept at the police department as well as city hall. Included are simplified instructions on how to operate equipment, preprogrammed channels, easements that were acquired for siren locations, and DOPW siren test results.

Mr. Hoeffken informed the Committee National Incident Management System (NIMS) training will be scheduled after the April election and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) is planning a tabletop exercise to be held in Waterloo to simulate an active shooter.

**VI. ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

This item was tabled.

**VII. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED**

There were no other items to be considered.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)**

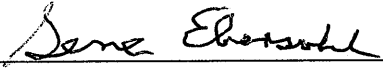
Chairman Ebersohl inquired if there was a need to go into Executive Session. There was none.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

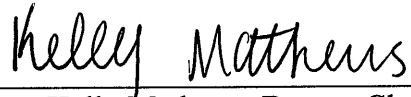
It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, March 11, 2019 at 8:15 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:



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Chairman Gene Ebersohl  
Committee of the Whole



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Kelly Mathews, Deputy Clerk