

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:01 PM.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Administrator Anthony Traxler, City Attorney Tom Adams, and Deputy Chief of Police Jerry Paul.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, November 5, 2007 were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Unnerstall, and seconded by Alderman Hejna, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, November 5, 2007, as submitted and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, November 5, 2007 were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, November 5, 2007, as submitted and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

III. DELEGATIONS

A. Rebel Kustoms - Thomas Adams

Mr. Thomas Adams of Rebel Kustoms dedicated a mural to the City of Columbia he had created during the Festifall celebration.

B. Gibault Girls Tennis Team

Mr. Alan Lesko and the Gibault Girls Tennis Team presented an autographed tennis ball to the Council in appreciation for their support and use of the Bolm-Schuhkraft tennis courts for the past season.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to approve the request of the Gibault Girls Tennis Team to reserve the tennis courts in the Bolm-Schuhkraft Park as requested and on file at City Hall, and contingent upon park rules. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

- C. Progress For Columbia
Progress For Columbia did not have a spokesperson present.

IV. REPORT OF OFFICERS

- A. Library Board
The monthly report of the Library Board was presented to the Council.
- B. Police Department
The report of the Chief of Police was presented to the Council
- C. EMS Department
The monthly report of the Director of the Columbia Emergency Medical Service was presented to the Council.
- D. Plan Commission
The report of the Plan Commission was presented to the Council.
- E. City Attorney
1. Ordinance No. 2608 - Library Tax
MOTION:
It was moved by Alderman Unnerstall, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to pass Ordinance No. 2608, an ordinance providing for the levy of a tax of .02% of the value of the taxable property in the City of Columbia, Monroe and St. Clair Counties, Illinois for library purposes pursuant to section 5/3-1 of the Illinois Local Library Act for the Fiscal Year of the City commencing May 1, 2007 and ending April 30, 2008. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.
 2. Resolution No. 16-2007 - Release Maintenance Bond
MOTION:
It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to pass Resolution No. 16-2007, a resolution releasing Maintenance Guarantee Bond for infrastructure improvements in the Franke Farms Subdivision 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. Resolution No. 17-2007 - Release Maintenance Bond
MOTION:
It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to pass Resolution No. 17-2007, a resolution releasing Maintenance Guarantee Bond for infrastructure improvements in the Milestone Manor Subdivision 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.
- F. Administration Department
The report of the City Administrator was represented to the Council.
1. Grant Close Out
Mr. Traxler provided an update on the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant for the St. Elizabeth's Critical Care Center.

2. Library - Part-time Employee
Mr. Traxler informed the council Pam Steppig has completed all of the necessary background checks, drug, physical testing and he recommends her employment.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to employ Pam Steppig as a part-time employee for the Library. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

3. Immaculate Conception Sign Variance Fee Waiver

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to waive the filing fee for the Immaculate Conception Church sign variance request. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

4. RFP For Banking Services
Mr. Traxler informed the Council about a plan to consolidate checking accounts within the City and stated he would be preparing a Request for Proposal for all banks to bid on providing banking services to the City.
5. September Month-End Financial Report
Mr. Traxler informed the council he would like to sync up the Statement of Funds with the Month-End Financial Reports. The Council agreed this would make it easier to reconcile the two reports.
6. TIF Administration
Mr. Traxler informed the Council the TIF Joint Review Board meeting has been scheduled at 11:00 AM on Thursday, November 29, 2007. Mr. Traxler also stated the City goes above the required statutes on notification about the meeting. Alderman Oberkfell inquired if all eligible expenses had been verified including the school district for a TIF Redevelopment Area. Mr. Traxler stated he would confirm the amounts.
7. G. J. Grewe Letter
Mr. Traxler informed the Council the letter received from G. J. Grewe regarding Exhibit H, the PMOA, and the Horner Shifrin invoice will be discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, 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. Statement of Funds
The report of the City Auditor was presented to the Council.

MOTION:

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

B. Vouchers

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to authorize the payment of vouchers received through November 15, 2007; the total amount of the vouchers to be paid is two hundred seventeen thousand, five hundred ten dollars, and ninety-one cents (\$217,510.91). 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.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Celebration 2009 Committee

Mayor Hutchinson informed the Council former Mayor Lester Schneider has prepared a list of various members for the Celebrate 2009 Committee as well as some tentative plans. Mayor Hutchinson requested a motion to establish and approve the Committee.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to draft an ordinance to establish the 150-year anniversary Celebration 2009 Committee as a sub-committee of the City Council. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

B. Piggott Fort

Alderman Niemietz stated she would like the City to move forward on the Piggott Fort property. Mr. Adams explained the Piggott Fort property is lot 11A of the Bluff View Estates Subdivision in the City and is zoned R-3 (One Family Dwelling District) under the City's zoning code. Due to the zoning and the subdivision restrictions, the property cannot be used for the intended historic preservation and park uses and purposes intended by the Columbia Historical Society and the City. Mr. Adams explained there are two ways for the City to deal with this: (i) the City can seek to have the other property owners in the subdivision release the subdivision restrictions that apply to lot 11A and the City can rezone the property to a zoning classification that will allow the intended use before the City would enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the Columbia Historical Society (to accept ownership of the property and assume the maintenance and restoration responsibility intended) or (ii) the City can go ahead and enter into the Cooperation Agreement with the Historical Society and make the agreement contingent on and subject to the restrictions being removed and the property being rezoned. Mr. Adams reported that Mr. Traxler has suggested at a City Staff meeting that the City should amend its zoning ordinance to create a "public activity" zoning classification and then rezone the subject lot to have that zoning classification. Mr. Adams thought that was a good idea.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to approve the Piggott Fort Cooperative Agreement contingent upon securing release of the subdivision restrictions for the other 3 property owners within the subdivision and rezoning the property to an agricultural or public activity zoning district. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Aveda Pure Natur Salon 5k Run

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to approve the request of the Aveda Pure Natur Salon to hold a 5k run fundraiser for Earth Month as requested and on file at City Hall contingent upon the coordination of the event with the City Clerk's Office, Columbia Police Department, and Department of Public Works. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, and Stumpf voted yea. Alderman Oberkfell abstained because of his relationship to the Salon. Motion Carried.

VIII. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Personnel

Minutes of the Personnel Committee and the Executive Session of the Personnel Committee meeting held Wednesday, November 14, 2007 were presented to the Council for approval.

Alderman Niemietz stated the minutes would be approved after a discussion in Executive Session.

B. Ordinance, Planning, and Zoning Committee

Minutes of the Ordinance, Planning, and Zoning Committee meeting held Wednesday, November 14, 2007 were presented to the Council for approval.

Alderman Agne requested approval of the minutes be deferred until the next meeting of the City Council in order to allow everyone to review the minutes.

IX. CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, November 26, 2007

7:00 PM - Ordinance, Planning, and Zoning

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 the Columbia Crossing litigation.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to direct the Mayor to go into Executive Session at 7:42 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel and the Columbia Crossing 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 Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to return to Regular Session of the City Council at 10:16 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. Library Back Pay

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Unnerstall, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to direct Mr. Traxler to proceed with his investigation of back pay due Sarah Patrick and to pay the amount accordingly. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

B. James McDaniel

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to proceed with the termination of Mr. James McDaniel's employment as warranted for possessing alcoholic beverages on City property and threatening another City employee. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. G. J. Grewe Letter

Mayor Hutchinson informed the Council Mr. Skigan, attorney for the Columbia Crossing litigation, will review the PMOA, Mixed Use Development (Exhibit H), and the Horner Shifrin invoice with the appropriate parties and report back to the Council as a result of the letter received from G. J. Grewe dated November 9, 2007.

D. Personnel

Minutes of the Personnel Committee and the Executive Session of the Personnel Committee meeting held Wednesday, November 14, 2007 were presented to the Council for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Personnel Committee meeting held Wednesday, November 14, 2007 as on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Alderman Unnerstall abstained because he was not present for the meeting. Motion Carried.

Corrections were forwarded to the City Administrator.

MOTION:

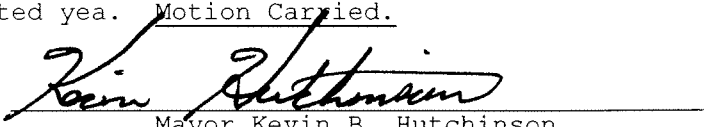
It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Stumpf, to approve the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held Wednesday, November 14, 2007 as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Alderman Unnerstall abstained because he was not present for the meeting. Motion Carried.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, November 19, 2007 at 10:22 PM. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.


Wesley J. Hoeffken, City Clerk


Mayor Kevin B. Hutchinson