

## ORDINANCE NO. 3040

JUN - 3 2013

  
City Clerk

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NAME 'AMERICAN LEGION  
MEMORIAL PARK' FOR RECREATIONAL & PARK PROPERTY  
LOCATED AT 375 EAST LOCUST STREET IN COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS  
UPON PURCHASE FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST 581**

WHEREAS, Columbia Post No. 581, American Legion (hereinafter "the Legion") was organized on March 23, 1920 as one of the first chartered posts in the nation, with twenty-four charter members being enrolled at its first meeting in Columbia's Turner Hall;

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the Legion was (and remains) "[t]o inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state and nation" and to welcome veterans from all branches of America's armed forces;

WHEREAS, American Legion Memorial Park (hereinafter "the Park") was dedicated on Memorial Day 1958, and in subsequent years the Legion developed ball fields and other recreational improvements at members' expense to the benefit of all residents of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the Legion's goal for owning and operating the Park was that Columbia youth could have a well-equipped recreational center where they could gather and take part in competitive sports under supervision, and this goal has been supported over the years in cooperation with and with funding and labor provided by various community sporting and civic groups/organizations;

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, Illinois, (hereinafter "the City"), a municipal corporation and body both corporate and politic created and existing in and by virtue of the laws of the State of Illinois located in Monroe and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, has determined that the American Legion Fields, Lot 2 of American Legion Memorial Park, ("the Property") should be acquired by the City in order to continue its ongoing public use as a recreational facility;

WHEREAS, the City has agreed to purchase the Property from the Legion and the Legion has agreed to sell the Property to the City, and the sale is pending;

WHEREAS, funding has been awarded to the City from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, through the Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) grant program, to assist with the purchase of the Property, under terms of which the Property must always remain in use as a public park; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is fitting and appropriate to continue the historical designation of the Park so as to declare to future generations the community's gratitude to the Legion and its members for their loyalty to country, service to community and generosity to past, present and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, as follows:

**Section 1.** The recitals contained above in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby incorporated herein by reference, the same as if set forth in this Section of this Ordinance verbatim, as findings of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois.

**Section 2.** Upon consummation of the City's purchase of the Property for use as a public park, the City of Columbia, Illinois, hereby establishes the name of the Park to be "American Legion Memorial Park" to commemorate the community service and generous contributions made by the Legion and its members to the City of Columbia, Illinois, its residents and visitors.

**Section 3.** This Ordinance shall take full force and effect upon closing of the sale of the aforementioned Property to the City of Columbia, Illinois.

Alderman Ebersohl moved the adoption of the above and foregoing Ordinance; the motion was seconded by Alderman Agne, and the roll call vote was as follows:

YEAS: Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Alderman Roessler.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2013.

  
KEVIN B. HUTCHINSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
J. RONALD COLYER, City Clerk

(SEAL)