

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
APRIL 7, 2014 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ebersohl called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:40 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp and Mayor Hutchinson.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Engineer Ron Williams, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Chief of Police and EMS Director Joe Edwards, Deputy Chief of Police Jerry Paul and Interim EMS Chief Shannon Bound.

Guests Present: City EMA Coordinator Wes Hoeffken.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss (1) budgetary and financial information; and (2) any other items to be considered.

II. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

(Note: A copy of a "Draft Budget" for the year ending April 30, 2015 (63 pages) was placed on the council members' desks on April 7, 2014 prior to the start of this meeting – this document had also been sent to the council members via e-mail on 04/06/14).

Chairman Ebersohl called upon City Administrator Al Hudzik to address the Committee on budgetary matters. Hudzik began his presentation by reviewing the Memo (and its enclosures) that had previously been distributed to the Committee Members pertaining to budget information to be reviewed at this meeting. He reviewed the two (2) page e-mail from City Engineer Ron Williams to Accounting Manager Linda Sharp listing additional items that needed to be addressed in the budgetary process – Hudzik reviewed each of the items listed and indicated whether or not they had been placed in the "Draft Budget" distributed prior to this meeting; during his review, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions. Hudzik

then reviewed the Trash Collections Receipts worksheets (one previously distributed and one distributed at this meeting) and summarized the current fees being charged for refuse and leaf and limb pick-up services – he then reviewed the percentage increase in fees for refuse and leaf and limb pick-up services based upon various increases; he also asked the Committee Members to consider increasing the monthly leaf and limb pick-up fees to reduce the deficit currently being experienced by the city for those services. The next document reviewed was the “Capital Equipment and Capital Projects” worksheet (4 pages), which contained an additional column entitled “Increased/Decreased” showing changes made pursuant to the review and discussion that occurred (when said worksheet documentation was reviewed) at the March 31st meeting – it also reflected the dollar amount of the items carried over from the FY 13/14 budget. The final document reviewed was the “Draft Budget” distributed (today) prior to the start of this meeting – Hudzik reviewed the projected receipts vs. expenses of the General Fund, which showed a deficit approximating \$518,000, and indicated that additional work needs to be done to reduce that projected deficit prior to posting the Draft Budget later this week – he suggested that financing options could be considered as a way to fund all items (affecting the General Fund) shown on the Capital Equipment and Capital Projects Worksheets, since he deemed all of them to be worthwhile – if some of the items were financed, the General Fund’s projected deficit would decrease. Hudzik then reviewed various options for funding many of those items by financing them through (i) a refunding of the city’s bond issue callable in December of this year; or (ii) utilizing bank/leasing company financing – this review reduced the projected General Fund deficit to approximately \$260,000; Hudzik continued his presentation by reviewing figures in several of the other funds’ budgets. During Hudzik’s reviews, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions – Hudzik stated the Draft Budget would be posted reflecting the General Fund’s projected deficit reduction pursuant to the financing options discussed at this meeting, and that budgetary work would continue. A discussion was then held again (see December 9, 2013 Committee Meeting minutes) pertaining to possibly increasing the city’s sales tax rate with the revenue generated to be used for public safety purposes (i.e., Police Department and EMS Department operations). City Administrator Hudzik stated he would have City Attorney Bruckert make a presentation on this topic at a future committee meeting

Hudzik then made concluding remarks and indicated that (1) as required by state law, the Draft Budget (with changes discussed at this meeting) would be posted for public viewing on Wednesday (April 9th) or Thursday (April 10th) thru the adoption of the FY 14-15 budget (anticipated to occur on April 21st); and (2) city staff would continue working on the budget and would update the Committee Members on any changes made to the Draft Budget document (reviewed at this meeting).

III. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, April 7, 2013 at 9:15 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes taken by:



ALBERT G. HUDZIK, City Administrator