

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 23, 2015 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 7:00 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

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

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney John Long, Building Inspector and Interim Zoning Administrator Justin Osterhage, Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Chief of Police and EMS Director Joseph Edwards, Electrical Inspector Michael Sander, Department of Public Works Administrative Assistant Marion Chartrand and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: Mr. Gregg Aleman with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting – Executive Session; (3) Fox Run Estates Preliminary Plat; (4) Employee Health Insurance Plan (Presentation on the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative); (5) Non-Home Rules Sales Tax Public Information Materials (Capital Improvements); (6) New Testing Requirements for Electrical Licensing; (7) FY 2015-2016 Budget Update; (8) Agreement with Columbia Athletic Association, Columbia Khoury League, and Columbia CUSD #4; (9) Special Events at City Parks; (10) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1): Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; and (11) Other items to be considered or discussed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The minutes of the February 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Reis, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session minutes of the February 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Huch, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the February 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. FOX RUN ESTATES PRELIMINARY PLAT

Building Inspector and Interim Zoning Administrator Justin Osterhage gave a brief review of the status of the Fox Run Estates Preliminary Plat including the drainage easements and existing sidewalks.

V. EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (PRESENTATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL BENEFIT COOPERATIVE)

Mr. Greg Aleman with Arthur J. Gallagher & Company addressed the Mayor and committee for the Employee Health Insurance Plan (Presentation of the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative). Mr. Aleman went over the 11 page presentation page by page. Some of the highlights are the IPBC is an insurance pool; on page 5, the IPBC Average PPO Rate History for this year is zero or 1 and ½ %; and on page 6, the five year history of the IPBC is 4.28% after five years. Mr. Aleman stated that the City's quote is 7% less than what the City is paying for their current insurance plan. Alderman Roessler questioned how long the City would be required to stay with the IPBC and the City would have to stay three years. Mr. Aleman stated they are not losing cities; they had four that left and three of those are back with one possibly coming back. He also added there will be no need for employees to complete applications for the plan and they are flexible; the City can have a union plan and a non-union plan. Mayor Hutchinson stressed the use of a Wellness Program for the employees which could keep the insurance the same and share the savings. He also said that the City could have the same benefits and coverage, and reduce the premiums through a different vehicle of spending.

City Administrator James Morani stated that if the insurance we decide on has a \$1,250.00 deductible, the City could supplement the difference of our current lower deductible with a medical reimbursement account. He added that the City may have to change the benefits in order to avoid the "Cadillac tax" in 2018.

All in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments.

It was the consensus of the Mayor for the City to put a spreadsheet together with the City's current plan, this plan - the IPBC, and the other plan – MRCT (Private Exchange) and see what plan is best for the City of Columbia.

Mayor Hutchinson, Mr. Morani and the committee thanked Mr. Aleman for his presentation.

VI. NON-HOME RULES SALES TAX PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS (CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS)

City Administrator James Morani and Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens addressed the Mayor and committee on the Non-Home Rules Sales Tax Public Information Materials – Capital Improvements. They reviewed the four items: (i) Sidewalks along Veterans Parkway - \$172,631.00; (ii) Ghent Road Intersection reconstruction at North Main Street Roadway Improvement Project - \$484,626.00; (iii) Illinois Route 3 and Gall Road Intersection Improvements - \$515,000.00; and (iv) Centerville Street – Main Street to Riebeling Street Roadway Improvement Project - \$662,010.00. Mr. Morani said the projects were spread out all over Columbia and quite possibly could add water and sewer lines to the project. For the project, Mayor Hutchinson suggested installing curb and gutter around Columbia and added that it looks first-class. Alderman Ebersohl suggested adding a sidewalk on one side of the street in addition to the curb and gutter. Mr. Morani will add one more project to be located in Ward 3 so the projects are more spread out.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and committee that Mr. Morani make one revision and bring everything back to the next regular meeting. Mr. Morani also suggested informing the citizens that the City is exploring the idea of doing a bond issue to get all the projects done at once, so the projects won't be staggered for completion.

It was also noted that a Plan and Evaluation Project needs to be completed for all of the roads in Columbia. Mr. Ahrens said their department has already completed signs, sewers, waterlines, etc., but the Plan and Evaluation Project for the roads in Columbia has not been completed.

VII. NEW TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL LICENSING

Electrical Inspector Michael Sander addressed the Mayor and committee on the new testing requirements for electrical licensing. Mr. Sander stated that at the January 20, 2015 Electrical Commission meeting, the commission voted to change the testing procedures. Mr. Sander reported the commission has received numerous complaints that the questions are not fair, need a standardized test and the commission felt that the ICC (International Code Council) standardized test would be much better for the testing. Mr. Sander also reported that the commission is looking to update the current City of Columbia Electrical Code. Mr. Sander reviewed the proposed changes to the electrical licensing procedures including non-payment of the electrical licenses and using other city's electrical licenses to get a Columbia electrical license. Mr. Sander also noted that the Electrical Commission

plans to use the 2011 ICC code (with exceptions) and not the 2005 ICC code. Mr. Sander lastly said that changing to the 2011 ICC code will not offset the City's fire ratings. Mr. Morani clarified that if a current electrical contractor has been paying year to year, that contractor is okay since they have been paying each year, but if a contractor skips two years paying, they will have to pay for the previous two years of licensing (\$140.00 per year) plus take the new standardized test to get their license. Mr. Morani added that increasing the standards for the electrical licensing is good and protects residents and property owners.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and committee with the recommendation of the Electrical Commission to move forward with a new electrical licensing ordinance with the changes discussed.

VIII. FY 2015-2016 BUDGET UPDATE

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp addressed the Mayor and committee for the FY 2015-2016 budget update. Mrs. Sharp said that City Administrator James Morani and she met with all of the departments regarding the budget except for the Department of Public Works. Their meeting will be next Wednesday, March 4th. Mrs. Sharp added that by March 9th, a budget draft will be completed.

Mr. Morani stated that due to the possible loss of the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) to the City of Columbia, the City will be holding off the hiring of a new police officer and the proposed Director of Planning and Development Administration. Mr. Morani stated that the City needs to wait and see what the final state budget is going to be. Police Chief Edwards mentioned that the Governor has put a freeze on all grants which is how a majority of officer Michael Conrad's salary is paid; through the Metro-East Auto Theft Task Force.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and committee to keep the budget as is with the current LGDF with the hiring of a new police officer and a Director of Planning and Development Administration, but continue to watch the budget closely and only make expenditures if the revenue is collected.

Mayor Hutchinson gave a brief review of the Illinois income tax situation with regard to the City of Columbia (Governor Rauner's proposed cuts to the LGDF.) He added the Illinois Municipal League and communities are working hard to restore the 10% LGDF share.

IX. AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBIA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, COLUMBIA KHOURY LEAGUE, AND COLUMBIA CUSD #4

City Administrator James Morani updated the Mayor and committee (in the absence of Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis) on the agreement with the CAA, CKL and CCUSD #4 for the Bolm-Schuhkraft baseball field and the Legion Park ball fields. Mr. Morani reported that all parties have signed off on it but are still working

out a few minor details. Alderman Roessler expressed concern how a Columbia resident could go about reserving a ball field. It was noted that the agreement states that the CKL will provide one or more fields at all times for open play by the City's residents. It was also noted that the new proposed batting cage by the Bolm-Schuhkraft baseball field does not apply to this agreement. Mr. Morani reported that users could set self-imposed time limits for the batting cage so everyone can utilize it more fairly. Mr. Morani also said there should be a calendar that the City can review for all ball field reservations.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1): Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Huch to go into Executive Session at 8:25 P.M. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

XI. REGULAR SESSION

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Agne to return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:48 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole meeting, Mayor Hutchinson and the following committee members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp.

Chairman Ebersohl asked if there was any action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole meeting. There was none.

XII. AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBIA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, COLUMBIA KHOURY LEAGUE, AND COLUMBIA CUSD #4 (CONTINUED)

Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis added that the review of the agreement this evening was a courtesy for all to see and that it will be ready for approval at the next City Council meeting. Mr. Ellis added that the CAA will have the responsibility for the reservation of the fields in a few years, but right now it will be the CKL. Mr. Ellis added that you may have to leave a message with the CKL for the reservation, but they will get back to you.

XIII. SPECIAL EVENTS AT CITY PARKS

Alderman Jeffrey Huch stated that all of the Columbia parks need a policy for holding special events at those locations. He added that the policy needs a list of organizations that can use the parks for special events, what they can do, sales tax and vendor information, number of event days, time for event set up, time for event removal, and potential damages, etc. Alderman Huch also stated that the City Attorney be contacted regarding our insurance liability. Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis stated that some of the items Alderman Huch mentioned are already completed with the special events application, but there is not a policy for special events. Alderman Niemietz stated the City has a Special Events Ordinance and wanted to compare the ordinance with the items Alderman Huch is suggesting. Mayor Hutchinson added that the policy should distinguish between non-profit organizations and profit and he also said the current special event process takes one month. A discussion ensued about a question regarding sales tax and vendors for the events.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and committee that Alderman Huch’s policy list for special events at all the City’s parks be given to City Administrator James Morani for review with City Attorney Terry Bruckert.

XIV. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED


There were no other items to be considered or discussed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT


MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, February 23, 2015 at 9:25 P.M. Upon voice 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:


DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk