

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD TUESDAY,
MAY 26, 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 7:10 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Committee Members - Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, and Holtkamp.

Mayor Hutchinson arrived at 7:53 P.M.

Absent: Aldermen Huch and Martens.

Quorum Present:

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens, Building Inspector and Interim Zoning Administrator Justin Osterhage, and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guest Present: Mrs. Jessica Whaley, President of the Columbia Khoury League.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the May 11, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of Executive Session Minutes from the May 11, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (3) Sign Code Amendment (Park Athletic Fields); (4) Electric Supply at City Facilities; (5) Television and Monitor Recycling; (6) Employment of Family Members; (7) City Engineer/Director of Public Works Position; (8) Citizen Comments; and (9) Other items to be considered.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 11, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The minutes of the May 11, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll

Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES - MAY 11, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. SIGN CODE AMENDMENT (PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS)

City Administrator James Morani reviewed the Proposed Amendment to the Sign Code with the committee. Mrs. Jessica Whaley, President of the Columbia Khoury League, was also present at the meeting to discuss any problems or concerns. She added that she did not have a problem with not having pole banners at the Legion Park.

Mr. Morani noted the changes in red. Mr. Morani added the word “feet” after “two (2)” on item (1).

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

After discussion regarding the proposed amendment to the sign code including explanations on type of signs, temporary signs, semi-permanent signs, banners, temporary banners, signage on the dugouts, etc., it was the consensus of the committee that item (2) should be changed to: “Be limited to two (2) (signs) per playing field” and to scratch “(excluding dugouts and outfield fences)”. Mr. Morani also stated that the intent of the word “event” is for the season.

Mrs. Whaley will take the proposed sign code back to the Columbia Khoury League and the Columbia Athletic Association for their review. She also said they have had a lot of sponsorships for the proposed signage. Alderman Roessler added that if the City Council does not like the signage for this year, it could be changed for the next year. Mrs. Whaley also questioned the signage at the Bolm-Schuhkraft Park ball field and Mr. Morani stated they could get a temporary sign through the City for a weekend event.

For information purposes, Mrs. Whaley mentioned that since the Oerter Foundation donated the lighting for the ball fields at Legion Park, the Oerter Foundation would like to erect a permanent structure at the park stating the donation from their foundation. Mrs. Whaley also stated that the park rules signage at Legion Park was removed possibly by the American Legion due to graffiti on it. She also added that the sign for the field

reservations needs to be changed as it still shows a City Hall phone number. Aldermen Niemietz stated that the City use the standard Bolm-Schuhkraft Park rules signage for the Columbia American Legion Park as the rules need to be posted.

V. ELECTRIC SUPPLY AT CITY FACILITIES

City Administrator James Morani informed the committee that Ameren Illinois electric rates are increasing effective June 2015. Mr. Morani noted the City residents who did not opt out of the City's electricity aggregation will not see their rates increase. However, the City's electric aggregation does not cover the City's facilities. Mr. Morani has contacted Homefield Energy, the City's aggregation supplier, for pricing. However, they are not willing to remove confidentiality language in the services agreement that is in conflict with the Freedom of Information Act. Attorney Doug Gruenke advised that this should be removed. Therefore, Mr. Morani is in the process of soliciting other electric suppliers for quotes.

VI. TELEVISION AND MONITOR RECYCLING

City Administrator James Morani reviewed with the committee the ongoing problem of the television and monitor recycling at the DOPW parking lot on the third Saturday of the month. (The City of Columbia can no longer accept the tube/rear projection televisions and monitors per the recycling company, RNA World Wide. There is a sign at the DOPW stating tube/rear projection televisions and CRT monitors are not accepted.) The recycling event at the DOPW parking lot held on Saturday, May 16, 2015; several tube televisions and monitors were dropped off after hours in the parking lot. There was a discussion on how to handle the situation in the future and where residents may discard the tube/rear projection televisions and CRT monitors.

The committee was in agreement to place barricades at the DOPW parking lot before and after the recycling event so this problem does not occur again.

VII. EMPLOYMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS

City Administrator James Morani stated that an amendment to the City's Personnel Code has been brought to his attention during the last few weeks. Mr. Morani reviewed with the committee Section 2.68.120 of the Personnel Code regarding employment of family members with the proposed changes noted in red. Alderman Niemietz thought that "spouse" had been added in 2006. Mr. Morani stated he will research Alderman Niemietz's inquiry. Mr. Morani added that he will have the ordinance prepared for consideration at the next City Council meeting.

VIII. CITY ENGINEER/DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

City Administrator James Morani updated the committee on the proposed City Engineer/Director of Public Works position. Mr. Morani discussed changes to the ad and job description with the committee and that it will be posted tomorrow. All committee members were in agreement with the ad and job description for the proposed City Engineer/Director of Public Works after a few minor changes.

IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

X. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED


Columbia Hills Subdivision – Lot 25 – Plat of Survey

Mr. Morani reviewed with the committee for Building Inspector Justin Osterhage the request of lot 25, Columbia Hills Subdivision, Plat of Survey; the lot line needs to be straightened out. Mr. Morani distributed the plat of survey to show the committee. It was noted this will be a real estate exchange between property owners Mark and Tamara Kohlenberger and property owners Benjamine Knuysak and Brankyn Hunter. The request needs City Council approval. There were no objections by the committee and this item will be on the June 1, 2015 City Council agenda.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

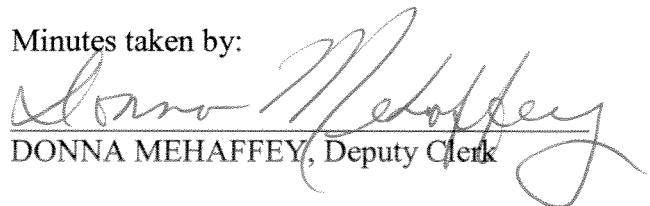
MOTION:

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 Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 8:15 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes taken by:



DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk