

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
JUNE 22, 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, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Chief of Police & EMS Director Joseph Edwards, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis (left at 8:15 P.M.), Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: Columbia Residents - Mr. James Fletcher, Mr. Dwayne Upson and Mr. Justin Vaughn. (All left at 7:45 P.M.)

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the June 8, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of Executive Session Minutes from the June 8, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (3) Tennis Courts; (4) Façade Grant Application – 102 S. Main Street (Obregon & Associates); (5) Façade Grant Application – 128 S. Main Street (Fashion Attic); (6) Oak Street Building Renovations (7) Electric Supply at City Facilities; (8) Columbia High School Parking at Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park; (9) Noise Ordinance Review Update; (10) Citizen Comments; (11) Other items to be considered; and (12) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The minutes of the June 8, 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 June 8, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, and Holtkamp voted yea. Aldermen Huch and Martens abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Executive Session minutes of the June 8, 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 Executive Session minutes of the June 8, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, and Holtkamp voted yea. Aldermen Huch and Martens abstained.

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. TENNIS COURTS

City Administrator James Morani introduced a discussion about the City's two (2) tennis courts (closest to the basketball court) in Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park. Mr. Morani turned the meeting over to City residents to explain the tennis courts situation.

Mr. James Fletcher addressed the committee. He reported that there are some dead spots that throw the game off, some spots are worse than others; the problems are close to the net, and sponginess on the new surface of the tennis courts at the Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park. (Two of the four tennis courts have been re-surfaced in the past few years.) Mr. Fletcher added that some players are not coming to Columbia to play because of the court situation. Mr. Fletcher referenced an email from Alan Lesko of Columbia that was distributed to the Committee also outlining the tennis court problems. Mr. Fletcher also said residents are using the old courts, not the newer surfaced ones and that the new courts are no good for competitive play. Mr. Fletcher added that the tennis courts by the Library are okay, but are always being used.

Mr. Dwayne Upson of Columbia agreed with Mr. Fletcher on the courts issue and asked that the City not do anything to the remaining two courts. He added that he goes to South County or Waterloo to play tennis.

Mr. Justin Vaughn of Columbia installed the first new court surface for the City. It was noted that Mr. Vaughn just installed the tennis court surface and he does not work for

Premier Court. Mr. Vaughn said the surface is designed to be a cushion system. He also said that it could be a surface problem underneath the court surface.

Alderman Roessler gave a brief history of the new tennis courts; that the City made the decision for longevity (25 years) and cost benefit. Alderman Reis expressed his concerns. He has walked on the courts and he agreed there are some dead spots, believes the surface is defective and the 25 year warranty for the courts needs to be researched. He added that the City needs to contact the company, Premier Court. Alderman Niemietz added that City Engineer Ron Williams checked all items on the new surface after work was completed last year and never heard anything different. She said there has not been any feedback received. Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens mentioned that the contract for the remaining two courts to be re-surfaced was completed on March 2, 2015 and the work is scheduled for the second week of July. Mr. Ahrens added that the supplies have not been ordered.

Mayor Hutchinson added that the new surface was a fix for the sub-surface issues and was told the surface would play similar. He added that a factor in making the decision was due to a recommendation from the City's insurance company, IMLRMA, to avoid injuries. Mayor Hutchinson also said that this was the first the City has heard anything about the surface in the last four years and the City needs to look at what is best for the entire City. There also needs to be more research, the City needs to hear from Premier Court, and it is either a sub-surface or a surface problem.

It was the consensus of the committee that Mr. Morani meet with Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens and Mr. Justin Vaughn as well as research the warranty before the next two courts are re-surfaced and bring the information back to the committee.

V. FACADE GRANT APPLICATION – 102 S. MAIN STREET (OBREGON & ASSOCIATES)

Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis addressed the committee on the two (2) Columbia Main Street Façade applications for 102 and 128 S. Main Street. Mr. Ellis reported that the Civic Progress committee used to review the applications, but that group has disbanded and it was decided to have the Committee of the Whole review them for recommendation. Mr. Ellis also said the Main Street group also reviewed the applications. Mr. Ellis added that the grant is a dollar for dollar match up to \$3,000.00 that comes out of the General Fund. Mr. Ellis said that the program is a very effective program and is very seldom received. City Council action will be taken on the applications at the July 6, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Ellis distributed samples for the building at 102 S. Main Street and added this particular building is a historic landmark building. A Certificate of Appropriateness has

been completed for 102 S. Main Street by the Columbia Heritage and Preservation Commission. There will be approximately \$19,000.00 worth of improvements.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Huch and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to recommend to the City Council approval of the Columbia Main Street Façade application for Brian and Suzanne Obregon of Obregon & Associates, LLC at 102 S. Main Street. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VI. FACADE GRANT APPLICATION – 128 S. MAIN STREET (FASHION ATTIC)

Mr. Ellis explained that 128 S. Main Street is not a historic building. However, they are requesting the painting of the roof which is considered a façade grant application since the roof can be seen from the street.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Roessler, to recommend to the City Council approval of the Columbia Main Street Façade application for Lori Prior of Fashion Attic at 128 S. Main Street. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea.

MOTION CARRIED.

VII. OAK STREET BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis updated the committee on the proposed Columbia Community Center building renovations at W. Oak St. and S. Rapp Avenue. Mr. Ellis added that right now, they have a design that is workable and is within budget which includes two or three different spaces for different purposes. A local bank has donated cubicle dividers to divide the areas. Mr. Ellis stated the next step is to get the contract (Quadrant Design) ready for approval at the next Council meeting on July 6. Alderman Holtkamp questioned one of the walls in the design which Mr. Ellis explained and Alderman Agne concurred that the wall may be a weight bearing wall that cannot be removed. Alderman Holtkamp also questioned the electrical contractor and Mr. Ellis will be checking into the electric, etc., if all will fall under the architect contract. Alderman Ebersohl asked if the mansard roof replacement would be included as part of the renovation and it will not. However, everyone was in agreement that it needs to be replaced. There was a discussion on what will be included in the contract for the renovation.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp, to recommend to the City Council to move forward on the Oak Street building renovations

with the Quadrant Design Professional Services Agreement ready for the next City Council meeting of July 6, 2015 pending answers on the design and work to be completed. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MILLER-FIEGE HOME

Mr. Ellis distributed a drawing completed by Alderman Agne on the Miller-Fiege Home southwest cellar. Mr. Ellis explained the drawing and indicated that Alderman Agne removed six and one half inches of water from the cellar due to recent heavy rains. The drawing shows a sump pump that will be installed to keep water out of the cellar. Mr. Ellis added that he wanted to make the committee aware of this situation.

VIII. ELECTRIC SUPPLY AT CITY FACILITIES

City Administrator James Morani updated the committee on the search for electric supply for the City facilities. Mr. Morani provided a handout to the members with information from Illinois Gas and Electric. Mr. Morani stated the third quote he received was the best rate. Mr. Morani recommended the City accept Term 4 for 24 months at \$0.0517 per kWh. According to his chart, the City is estimated to save between \$16,000.00 and \$17,000.00 annually. He added that legal counsel has reviewed the purchase agreement. Mr. Morani recommended the Committee of the Whole authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement this evening due to time restrictions on the quote and then it can be ratified at the July 6 City Council meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Holtkamp and seconded by Alderman Martens, to recommend to the City Council to authorize Mayor Hutchinson to sign the 24 month purchase agreement with Illinois Gas and Electric for electric supply at City facilities at the price of \$0.0517 per kWh. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL PARKING AT BOLM-SCHUHKRAFT MEMORIAL PARK

Chief of Police Joe Edwards reported to the committee City Attorney Terry Bruckert has prepared the lease of parking area from the City to the Columbia CUSD 4. Mr. Morani said that Assistant Supt. Beth Horner, Chief Edwards and he had a meeting and Mrs. Horner said there will be 16 or 17 students that will have driver's licenses for the new parking lot area for this upcoming school year. Chief Edwards stated that the ordinance for the parking area will have to be amended and that the sign will be changed to "Parking

by Permit Only” which the school will provide. The school district will also change their policy as well. It was also mentioned the lease will be a year-to-year term.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to recommend to the City Council the approval of the one year lease of the parking area between the City of Columbia and the Columbia Community Unit School District 4 for Columbia High School parking at the Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea.

MOTION CARRIED.

X. NOISE ORDINANCE REVIEW UPDATE

City Administrator James Morani referenced the noise control ordinance from the City of Glen Carbon, Illinois, which was provided to him by City Attorney Terry Bruckert. Mr. Bruckert stated that the ordinance is simple, practical, and can be easily enforced; it has been working well in Glen Carbon for years. It was the consensus of the committee to move forward to amend the noise ordinance.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to recommend to the City Council to revise the Noise Control Ordinance of the Columbia Municipal Code as recommended by City Attorney Terry Bruckert. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

XI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

XII. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

MONROE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

Alderman Niemietz gave the committee an update that the Monroe County Bicentennial committee will be asking for donations from local businesses and cities in the county. Alderman Niemietz added that Mayor Hutchinson will be receiving the information soon.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(C)

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) Collective Bargaining.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Huch and seconded by Alderman Martens to go into Executive Session at 8:37 P.M. to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) Collective Bargaining. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

XIV. REGULAR SESSION

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Huch to return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:58 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**


Upon return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, the following Committee Members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp, Martens and Mayor Hutchinson.

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.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

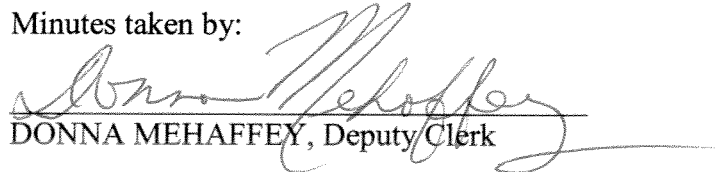
MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Holtkamp and seconded by Alderman Reis to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, June 22, 2015 at 8:59 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes taken by:



DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk