

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,  
ILLINOIS HELD TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY  
HALL**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ebersohl called the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 9:06 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

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

Absent: Alderman Huch and Mathews.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Engineer Ron Williams (left at 9:23 p.m.), Chief of Police and EMS Director Joe Edwards, Interim EMS Chief Shannon Bound (left at 9:41 p.m.) and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandra Garmer.

Guests Present: None.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Ebersohl stated the Executive Session was called to review and discuss (i) Executive Session minutes for publication; and (ii) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.

**Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body**

### **EMS Training Employee Status Issue**

Police Chief and EMS Director Joe Edwards informed the Committee Members that Paid Volunteer Paramedic Gordon (Greg) Freeland, who has not worked at the Columbia EMS Department since November 2011 (due to a Worker's Compensation Claim) has contacted the EMS Department and requested that he be allowed to accompany EMS personnel on runs in order to meet the Regional policy of having various supervised runs to be re-certified. Joe indicated that in the past the EMS Department would allow students to go on various supervised runs, but he feels this issue should be addressed by the council since it creates liability issues for the city. He also indicated that when employees are hired, they are required to pass a physical (including drug/alcohol testing) and have background checks conducted by the FBI and IBI. Edwards feels that if student supervised runs are to continue, those students should be subjected to the same standards as those of a newly hired employee – he also would like the issue addressed as to Mr. Freeland's status with the city (i.e., is he still considered an employee (due to the length of time since his last run with the EMS Department and Paid Volunteer status) and, if so, should he be subjected to the same physical and background checks standards applicable to newly hired employees (due to the length of time he has not worked at the city's EMS Department). Joe recommended hiring labor attorney Mark Weisman to address these issues. During Joe's presentation, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions. It was the consensus of the Committee Members that labor attorney Mark Weisman be employed to address the issues raised by Edwards.

### **PD Telecommunicator Supervisor/Coordinator**

Police Chief Edwards also informed the Committee Members that he would like to create a supervisory position in the Telecommunicators' Department to coordinate many of the items that are currently being handled by Police Sgt. Josh Bayer – Edwards indicated that Sgt. Bayer's time is better spent on police work and he felt the Telecommunicators' work schedules could be adjusted so the creation of the supervisory position (being staffed with one of the current Telecommunicators) would not increase overall pay (this assumes the supervisor will have to perform Telecommunicator work occasionally). Joe then reviewed some of the administrative work that would be done by the supervisor. During Joe's presentation, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions – it was the consensus of the Committee Members that labor attorney Mark Weisman be employed to look at the creation of this position and how its duties may be affected by the provisions of the Telecommunicators' collective bargaining agreement.

**Review of Executive Session Minutes for Publication**

City Administrator Hudzik stated that the Executive Session minutes changes discussed at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting had been made and (previously) distributed to the Committee Members – he asked them to review the changes made, especially the redactions shown, and that another meeting would be held in two (2) weeks to discuss any additional changes.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 10:03 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



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GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes Taken By:



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SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

  
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ALBERT G. HUDZIK, City Administrator