

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
AUGUST 14, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ebersohl called the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:02 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Committee Members - Chairman Ebersohl and 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, City Engineer Chris Smith, Director of EMA Wesley J. Hoeffken, Community Relations and Tourism Coordinator Sue Spargo (left meeting at 7:30 P.M.), Chief of Police and Director of EMS Jerry Paul, Head Librarian Annette Bland and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests: None.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the July 10, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of Minutes from the July 24, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (3) Bernhard Auto Works / Kiwanis Club Car Show; (4) Total Eclipse in the Park; (5) Songs4Soldiers Event Parking; (6) Addendum to Ameren Electric Franchise Agreement; (7) IMRF for Elected Officials; (8) Procurement of Goods and Services Less than \$10,000; (9) Other Items to be Considered; (10) Citizen Comments and (11) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), (6) and (11).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 10, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The minutes from the July 10, 2017 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2017 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 24, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The minutes from the July 24, 2017 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Huch and seconded by Alderman Reis to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2017 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. BERNHARD AUTO WORKS / KIWANIS CLUB CAR SHOW

Community Relations and Tourism Coordinator Sue Spargo informed the committee of a Special Event Permit Application received from Dave Bernhard requesting approval of a car show organized by Bernhard Auto Works on behalf of the Kiwanis Club at the American Legion property on Sunday, October 1, 2017 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Alderman Huch explained in the past he was involved with the Kiwanis Club which had hosted successful car shows on Main Street and at Bolm-Schuhkraft Park. He said it has been several years since the last one and basically the only issue was the amount of manpower required to host the event. It was the consensus of the committee to recommend for approval at the next City Council meeting.

V. TOTAL ECLIPSE IN THE PARK

Mrs. Spargo opened the discussion by explaining the Total Eclipse in the Park event may draw a larger crowd than originally expected since she has received many calls from various groups planning to attend. Mrs. Spargo went on to explain the weather may impact the size of the crowd and city staff has been meeting regularly to discuss and organize the event. Mrs. Spargo referred to the following maps distributed in the Committee packet: (1) Solar Eclipse Event – DOPW Park Detail Map; (2) Solar Eclipse Event – DOPW Overview Map; (3) Solar Eclipse Event Layout and (4) City of Columbia Shuttle Bus Route. She said there will be message boards on the north and south entrances of the city, overflow parking designated at Faith Church and First Baptist Church (for approximately 500 cars), signage directing to overflow parking lots and shuttle buses running from the overflow parking lots to North Evergreen Lane with a police officer at the intersection to safely cross Veterans Parkway. Mrs. Spargo explained parking will be allowed in the park in designated spaces and once they are full the park will be blocked off and the Columbia Bath and Tennis Club is allowing their parking lot to be used. All Columbia Schools will be open with the Columbia Middle School and High School students viewing the eclipse from school property. McDannold

Drive will be closed with the Parkview Elementary students viewing from school property (or possibly the Bluejay football field). Mrs. Spargo said the event is scheduled from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., with the totality at 1:17 P.M. There was a brief discussion on: (a) what will happen when the overflow parking lots are full?; (b) should parking be allowed in the park for safety reasons?; (c) the ability for emergency vehicles to access the park; and (d) the possibility of closing the park off the evening before to enforce no parking. Chief of Police Jerry Paul assured the committee that police officers will be at the park at both entrances early that morning to assist city staff with managing traffic and parking. Mrs. Spargo said the shuttle bus map is posted on the city's website under the news flash and calendar. City Administrator James Morani said that city staff would discuss and decide which additional event maps will be beneficial to be posted on the website.

VI. SONGS4SOLDIERS EVENT PARKING

Chief of Police Jerry Paul addressed the committee concerning the upcoming Songs4Soldiers event parking and began by explaining no parking will be allowed in the Bolm-Schuhkraft Park during the Songs4Soldiers event on Friday, September 22 and Saturday, September 23. He stated the following: (a) the Evergreen entrance to the park would be blocked for band bus access; (b) police officers would be located at the entrance near the Columbia Bath and Tennis Club; (c) parking will not be allowed on Temple Street to Main Street; (d) more foot traffic is anticipated for this event than in the past; (e) IDOT is assisting by bringing in signage and automated controllers for the police officers to control the traffic signals on Route 3; (f) the fire department will be available to assist with traffic issues and (g) the schools and Budnick Converting will allow event parking on their property.

Chief Paul stated the reason for bringing this issue to the committee meeting is to request the use of the Admiral Trost Park for parking since there will be a definite need for designated parking areas. Chief Paul expressed his concern that without designated parking areas, event attendees will park in local business lots and subdivisions which will lead to numerous complaints directed at the police department while they are working the event. Chief Paul is planning to contact the local businesses to discuss the parking ordinance and their options on handling the event parking. Event organizer Dustin Row has hired staff to assist in parking and patrolling the parking lots. There will be a shuttle bus from the overflow parking lots to the event. There was a brief discussion which included the following concerns: (1) parking at the Admiral Trost Park grounds could be a problem if it rains; (2) whether the ground is level and safe to park on; and (3) question on any liability issues. Chief Paul said they drove and parked vehicles on the Admiral Trost Park grounds for the recent canine event and had no issues. There were questions on whether Faith Church, First Baptist Church, and Maverick Technologies would also allow parking on their property during the event.

Chief Paul said he is working closely with Mr. Row on the projected attendance for Friday, September 22. A few weeks ago, Mr. Row reported over one thousand (1,000) tickets were sold for the Friday night event. Mr. Row is planning to attend the next City Council meeting to update the committee at that time and answer any questions. Chief Paul asked if there

were any other suggestions. There were none. It was the consensus of the committee that if there were no major concerns, to allow parking at the Admiral Trost Park for the Songs4Soldiers event.

VII. ADDENDUM TO AMEREN ELECTRIC FRANCISE AGREEMENT

City Administrator James Morani referred to the draft agreement Ordinance No. 3340, An Ordinance Amending the Terms of an Electric Franchise Agreement with Ameren Illinois Company d/b/a Ameren Illinois. Mr. Morani also referred to the Electric Franchise Ordinance No. 345, stating there is approximately five (5) years remaining on the original agreement. Mr. Morani reviewed Section 1 of the draft agreement, stating a cash payment of \$11,000 per month (annual amount of \$132,000) has been negotiated in lieu of the stated discount terms on street lights, ten (10) free lights, and general city accounts referenced in Section 6 and 7 of the original agreement. A few years ago an agreement resulting in a lower cost than the Ameren base rate for street lighting with a third-party supplier was entered into, which prompted Mr. Morani to negotiate a cash discount from Ameren. The cash payment figures are not firm yet, since Mr. Morani said he is still working on negotiating a higher cash payment based on research from the past year's billing. City Attorney Terry Bruckert has reviewed the draft agreement. Mr. Morani said the city has received a \$3,000 payment from Ameren for the ten (10) additional lights and all future Ameren payments will go into the Capital Development Fund. There was a brief discussion following which included: (a) problems with Ameren not wanting to maintain decorative street light poles; (b) need to address and negotiate street light maintenance in next franchise agreement; and (c) probability there will be no discounts in future franchise agreements, only cash payments.

VII. IMRF FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

City Administrator James Morani opened the discussion by explaining the new rule from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund requires all governing bodies of units of government with elected positions participating in IMRF to pass new resolutions by September 1, 2017, reaffirming that the positions meet hourly standard of performance of duty for one thousand (1,000) hours or more per year. There was a brief discussion concerning: (a) the documentation of hours of performance to meet the one thousand (1,000) hours requirement; (b) in the past the elected officials worked more hours due to the limited number of city staff; (c) the resolution requires designated elected positions be identified; (d) the IMRF participants who are no longer eligible will not lose their contributions, but will not gain service credit or continue to have payroll deductions; and (e) the resolution requires recertification every two (2) years which will allow re-evaluation and amendments at that time. It was the consensus of the committee that the IMRF resolution be prepared identifying the Mayor as the only title of elected position participating and Mr. Morani will prepare the resolution to be passed at the next City Council meeting.

VIII. PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES LESS THAN \$10,000

City Administrator James Morani referred to the two (2) documents included in the committee packet: Chapter 2.17.040 General Duties (City Administrator) and Bidding and Contract Procedures (Goods and Services Less than \$20,000) and pointed out the highlighted areas that pertained to the discussion. Mr. Morani suggested to the committee the amendment of Chapter 2.17.040 General Duties of the City Administrator: (F) Act as purchasing agent for the City within the limitation and under conditions as established from time to time by the City Council. His request was to add specific language in the city's municipal code to provide authorization to cover expenditures between three thousand (3,000) dollars and ten thousand (10,000) dollars. This is current practice and has been so with previous city administrators but it was never adopted as part of the city's code. Mr. Morani discussed the proposed amendment with City Attorney Terry Bruckert and the committee and there were no objections. Mr. Morani concluded the discussion by stating he would have the ordinance prepared for the next City Council meeting.

IX. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

There were no other items to be considered for discussion.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120(c)(1), (6) and (11)

Chairman Ebersohl informed the Committee of the Whole that he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, sale or lease of real estate and probable litigation as permitted under 5 ILCS 120(c)(1), (6) and (11).

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Huch, to direct Chairman Ebersohl to go into Executive Session at 7:58 P.M. to discuss personnel, sale or lease of real estate, and probable litigation as permitted under 5 ILCS 120(c)(1), (6) and (11). Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp, to return to Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole at 8:20 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea.

Upon return to Regular Session, Chairman Ebersohl and Alderman Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp, Martens and Mayor Hutchinson were present.

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

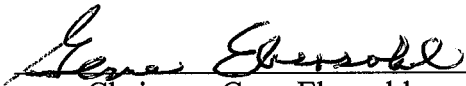
XII. ADJOURNMENT

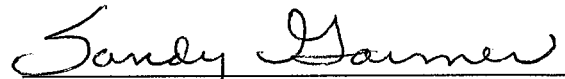
MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Martens to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, August 14, 2017 at 8:21 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea.

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by:


Chairman Gene Ebersohl
Committee of the Whole


Sandy Garmer, Accounting/Clerical Assistant