

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,  
AUGUST 28, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

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**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 7:30 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

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

Absent: Mayor Hutchinson and Alderman Huch.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Doug Gruenke, City Engineer Chris Smith, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, Director of Community Development Emily Fultz, Deputy Chief of Police Jason Donjon, and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests: Mr. Mike Brawn of 401 Terry Drive and Mr. David Holdener of 405 Terry Drive.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Application for Sidewalk Replacement at 401 Terry Drive; (2) Transportation and Parks Grant Programs; (3) Other Items to be Considered; (4) Citizen Comments; and (5) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)

**II. APPLICATION FOR SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT AT 401 TERRY DRIVE**

City Engineer Chris Smith explained the normal 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program Application. Mr. Smith said two residents from Terry Drive are in attendance to discuss a few items with the Committee about their situation and the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement which also includes the driveway. Mr. Smith referenced their bids and photos.

Mr. David Holdener of 405 Terry Drive is a structural engineer and is speaking on behalf of his neighbor, Mr. Mike Brawn of 401 Terry Drive. Mr. Holdener also e-mailed a report today to Mr. Smith and Mr. Morani placed it on the server in the Committee Meeting folder for the Committee to review.

Mr. Holdener said "street creep" is occurring in their cul-de-sac. He explained "street creep" is caused by thermal expansion and contraction of concrete streets. The concrete expands when heated and contracts when cooled. The longer the street, the potential for

more expansion and contraction movement. Concrete streets need adequate expansion joints at pertinent locations in order to reduce the damage caused by "street creep". Without these expansion joints, the street expands into the driveway, the driveway then pushes into the garage slab and the garage slab pushes into the basement wall causing foundation damage. Mr. Holdener said his neighbor, Mr. Mike Brawn, definitely has it. He has driveway and foundation problems and all the cracks are on the portion where the garage is located. He referenced a photo on page 7 of the most recent report. He said other governmental agencies and municipalities are dealing with this problem and said an expansion joint is needed at the head of the cul-de-sac.

Alderman Agne suggested an expansion joint requirement to be installed by the developer in the City's Code.

Mr. Smith said this will be addressed in the new Subdivision Code and there will be a cul-de-sac detail showing where there should be expansion joints. He added that we need to have some information where a cul-de-sac begins and ends with the length plus needs a driveway detail. Mr. Smith said they may go out and proactively put some additional expansion joints in these cul-de-sacs by doing a little bit every year. Mr. Smith said he has already started planning for this process and has spoken to Street Foreman Mike Sander about it.

Mr. Holdener said St. Louis County and the City of Wentzville, Missouri use the Type "A2" Expansion Joint. Mr. Smith said the City of Waterloo has a two-inch expansion requirement between the curb and driveway. Mr. Smith said the City has never had a standard on the improvement plans and may have shown a 3/4 inch expansion, but are considering requiring a driveway detail for the developers to put it in their plans. He then said you have to enforce it and have time to inspect as well.

Alderman Roessler said he has never heard of this issue in Columbia. Mr. Holdener indicated this type of issue can happen at cul-de-sacs and "T" type intersections in answer to Alderman Roessler's question. Mr. Holdener said he doesn't know if it is just confined to this subdivision and added it only happens on concrete streets.

#### Comments and discussions:

- The builder potentially did not install the driveway to code.
- Expansion joints were possibly installed at the sides of the driveway.
- Questioned the use of deadman (pavement lug) to keep a concrete street from moving.
- Mr. Holdener said his driveway is starting to rotate rather than being pushed.
- There are saw joints on Terry Drive and are not expansion joints.
- Alderman Roessler explained how the streets used to be poured in Columbia.
- Mr. Smith said since Building Official Justin Osterhage has been employed he has implemented a foundation detailed that has added more steel to be required in the foundation.
- The homes in question were built in 2004 and 2005.
- Creekside Subdivision was built very quickly.
- Mr. Holdener suggested using the expansion joint (D.S. Brown Company) on the last page of his report instead of filling the joint with material for this situation.

- Mr. Brawn said that he received bids for the repair, all scopes were different from the contractors, and the contractors said there were all different problems causing the driveway and foundation issues. Mr. Brawn said one of the contractors that placed a bid said to use foam to make the repair.
- Alderman Reis said this is more than just a sidewalk replacement.
- Mr. Brawn said that today another neighbor used a 4" expansion joint (D.S. Brown Company) from Helitech to make the same repair.
- Mr. Morani asked if the City could have a list of contractors to be used for the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program that are pre-qualified since City funds are being used.
- Noted that a regular homeowner would not know what is going on with this issue. Hard to find an engineer that could do this and if there are different bids, the homeowner may not know how to choose. Mr. Holdener said as an engineer, it would not be worth his time to do something like this.
- Mr. Holdener tells customers if you can't get an engineer to help, then get as many bids as you can and if they are all different, the companies probably don't know what they are doing.
- Mr. Smith said there are no specifications with the 50/50 sidewalk replacement program and is open ended. Mr. Smith said six years ago it was changed to allow the construction of new curb and gutter, sidewalk, and driveways. There are no guidelines of what should be removed or replaced. It is only governed by the available budget for that year and it must be in the city right-of-way.
- Alderman Reis said this is another example of something the City missed. It can't be a low bid project without any specifications.
- Alderman Roessler mentioned a subdivision that was poorly developed and the problems associated with it.

The Committee thanked Mr. Holdener and Mr. Brawn for their presentation. Action on the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program and the expansion joints will be considered at the next City Council meeting.

### **III. TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS GRANT PROGRAMS**

City Engineer Chris Smith referred to his spreadsheet with the listing of grant programs, general description, match ratio, eligible items and solicitation time. These are for grants from the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mr. Smith said he is looking for decisions by the Committee on what grants should be solicited in the near future. He said there are three upcoming grants that are pending and most of the IDNR programs are suspended due to budget issues. Mr. Smith pointed out the next round for the IDOT Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for streetscapes, bike trails, etc. will be October 2017. He said phase 3 of the Streetscape (Cherry Street to Madison Street) will be applied for, but there are other items such as bike trails, etc. Mr. Smith said there are national grants, but he just listed the grants for Illinois that the City commonly applies for.

Alderman Niemietz asked what Mr. Smith needed from the Committee in the coming days and weeks. Mr. Smith said he will need a decision on the ITEP grant which opens in October and closes in December. He said he knows that phase 3 of the Streetscape will be applied for which is the only grant to get the Streetscape funding. Mr. Smith said the City has a good chance of getting this grant because the City has received the other two Streetscapes and is a continuation of those grants plus you receive points for getting them. He also said the state likes to finish projects and phase 3 would finish it.

Mr. Smith commented the City tried for the safety improvement grant at Carl Street, but that grant is an annual one. He said the upcoming grants are going to be the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STP) and the Congestion Mitigation (CMAQ) Grant. Mr. Smith also said at some point, the City needs to discuss what will be solicited for the STU Urban Grant. He said this grant program has been completely changed, is the one that is alternated with the City of Waterloo, and every county gets a grant. Mr. Smith said there is going to be some additional discussion needed on this one, but at the next committee meeting he will go into more details. Mr. Smith stated Ghent Road Phase 2 would make the most sense since phase 1 has been started. He also said there are some things to consider about this one to discuss since he didn't have all of the exhibits.

Mr. Smith asked if the City wants to apply for a Congestion Mitigation Grant which are basically intersection reconstructions. He said he could also bring in some exhibits on this item.

Mr. Smith said that the three grants (STP, CMAQ and ITEP) are the upcoming grants that are pending and he will have more information on them. He said the Economic Development Program (EDP) and the Truck Access Route Program (TARP) grants can be done at almost any time. Mr. Smith said that the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant and the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant varies for solicitation. He added the IDNR Trails Program has opened back up and the solicitation will be in January. Mr. Smith said this grant has a limitation on maximum project size.

Mr. Smith said he will go into more detail about the potential ITEP projects at the next committee meeting and find out which ones the City will choose so he can have a resolution completed sometime in October. He said he will more details on phase 2 of Ghent Road and will go into more detail of how the grants have changed and get some ideas. Mr. Smith said it will be the same with the CMAQ grant. He said he has another possible intersection project and doesn't know if now is the right time or not with everything else that is going on with the Streetscape matches. Mr. Smith said the City has phases 2 and 3 to match because it is an 80/20 grant and the City will only get half of the money for the street lights.

Alderman Martens commented that Quarry Road is an area that should be looked at due to more traffic with the IC Church and the proposed IC School.

Mr. Smith said the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STP) has been changed. He said it was mostly roads and bridges and now it has been extended to eight or nine different categories. He said the City is now competing with Madison County Transit, who are

applying for new buses through the program. Mr. Smith said that it is all coming out of the same pot of money for roads, etc. and could negatively affect Columbia and Waterloo. Mr. Smith also said the State is looking for more resurfacing versus reconstruction projects. He added this grant can only be used on certain streets and he will give the Committee that map.

Alderman Reis and the Committee praised Mr. Smith for the Transportation and Parks Grant Programs chart and would like to see it updated and distributed every quarter.

Alderman Roessler suggested to add another column for the proposed projects to the spread sheet and Mr. Morani said he will coordinate with Mr. Smith with the addition. No action was taken.

#### **IV. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED**

##### **1. Proposed Annexations to the City of Columbia - Burning of Trash**

Mr. Morani informed the Committee for informational purposes, that in regard to the proposed annexations, the City's Municipal Code does prohibit trash being burned in the City. However, he added that the State of Illinois prohibits the burning of trash within one mile of a City, which means the property owners for the proposed annexations are prohibited by state law to burn their trash since they are located within one mile of the City limits. Alderman Niemietz noted that if they have been doing this and it has not been enforced, the property owners won't realize the benefit from it.

##### **2. GM&O (Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad) Heritage Trail**

Alderman Niemietz reported that the new website for the GM&O Heritage Trail is now online at [www.columbiatrail.net](http://www.columbiatrail.net).

#### **V. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

#### **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)**

Chairman Ebersohl informed the Committee of the Whole that he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the setting of a price for the sale or lease of property owned by the public body as permitted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).

##### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Reis, to direct Chairman Ebersohl to go into Executive Session at 8:30 P.M. to discuss the setting of a price for the sale or lease of property owned by the public body as permitted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6). Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, 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 8:34 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to Regular Session, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens were present.

No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

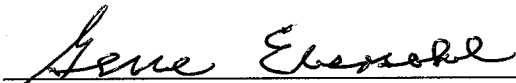
**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

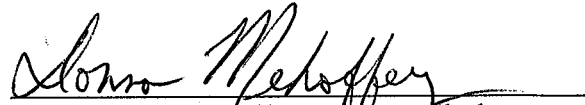
**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Reis to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, August 28, 2017 at 8:35 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION**

**CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:

  
Chairman Gene Ebersohl  
Committee of the Whole

  
Donna Mehaffey, Deputy Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD  
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ebersohl called the Executive and Rules Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 8:35 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz and Roessler.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Aldermen Reis, Holtkamp and Martens.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Doug Gruenke, Director of Community Development Emily Fultz, City Engineer Chris Smith, and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: None.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss City Council Standing Committees.

**II. CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES**

Mr. Morani presented the City Council Standing Committees for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Chairman Ebersohl asked the Committee and other aldermen present if they were satisfied with the proposed Committee assignments. After a brief discussion about two aldermen possibly switching Committees and what previous Committees are covered under the new ones, it was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the City Council the assigned Committees as presented.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Roessler and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to recommend to the City Council the new City Council Standing Committees for fiscal year 2017 - 2018. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**


It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Executive and Rules Committee Meeting held Monday, August 28, 2017 at 8:43 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

EXECUTIVE AND RULES COMMITTEE

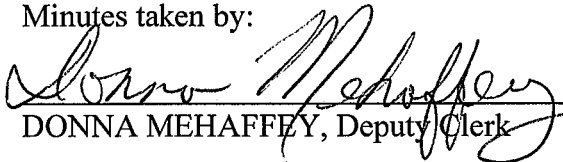
  
ALDERMAN GENE EBERSOHL, Committee Chairman

  
Alderman James Agne, Committee Member

  
Alderman Mary Ellen Niemietz, Committee Member

  
Alderman Mark Roessler, Committee Member

Minutes taken by:

  
DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk