

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13, 2018 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 7:00 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Committee Members - Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Alderman Huch.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, City Clerk and Director of EMA Wes Hoeffken, City Engineer Chris Smith, Director of Community Development Scott Dunakey, Deputy Chief of Police Jason Donjon, EMS Chief Kim Lamprecht, and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests: Mr. James Mitchell, InterDev Systems Engineer II, Mr. Josh Barcus of Mercy Healthcare/Pitt Development Group, Mr. Pete Shemetulskis of OneDigital, Mr. Paul Galeski, Ms. Cindy Huseman, Mr. Bruce Freeland, and Mr. Tim DeWald regarding Sunset Overlook.

**II. CITY OF COLUMBIA INTERNET TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. James Mitchell, Systems Engineer II with InterDev, the City's IT provider, presented the Committee with a brief statement of the current virus attack on Microsoft Word documents through the City's e-mail system. Mr. Mitchell said this was isolated and didn't affect any work stations.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 8, 2018 COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE MEETING**

The minutes from the October 8, 2018 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2018 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon

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

**IV. MERCY CLINIC - ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW**

Director of Community Development, Mr. Scott Dunakey, reported to the Committee that Mercy Healthcare is requesting to use E.F.I.S. (Exterior Finish Insulation System) materials on their new clinic building located at 1019 Valmeyer Road - C-2 (General Business) Zoning District. An Architectural Review Board meeting was held on October 25, 2018 and the members voted three to zero to recommend. The board is requesting City Council approval.

Mr. Josh Barcus distributed copies of one of their similar structures built with E.F.I.S. materials on the building. Alderman Agne stated he has an issue that the building is not brick and said he will probably be the only one voting against the E.F.I.S. materials.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the City Council for consideration at their next meeting the new clinic building to be located at 1019 Valmeyer Road with the use of E.F.I.S. materials as recommended by the Architectural Review Board.

**V. HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN/HSA**

Mr. Pete Shemetulskis of OneDigital addressed the Committee on the different health insurance plans and Health Savings Accounts (HSA). (In addition to the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) which some employees now utilize, the City would like to offer a Health Savings Account (HSA) with a high deductible plan as a voluntary option for employees.) He referenced a handout showing the different insurance plans with its features.

He explained that right now the City's insurance renewal is July 1 and is looking to renew the insurance on January 1, 2019. He added most companies renew on the calendar year so it coincides with the deductible year and FSA plan year. He said the City has a \$38,000 credit surplus left on our insurance because the City is having a good year, but the rates will be increasing 5.9 percent over the current plan, but with the credit surplus, the increase will be lower. The City doesn't need to offer an HSA, but it is a good idea with a surplus to consider it. The HSA is pre-tax, the employee gets to keep the money placed in it and it does not have to be paid back. If the employee would leave the City of Columbia, the HSA goes with them. Mr. Shemetulskis said a vast majority of municipalities offer the HSA and some may offer an incentive that adds money to the employee's HSA. Mr. Morani reminded the Committee that an employee can only have one or the other (FSA or HSA), but not both. The employee can have a limited FSA (dental and vision) with an HSA.

The insurance renewal rates for January 1, 2019 were reviewed as well as the new HSA with the higher deductible insurance plan. The out of pocket maximum for the current plan is \$1,000 versus the higher deductible plan at \$2,700.

After discussion and with no objections, it was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with offering the HSA to the City employees. Mr. Morani will be meeting with the employees next week and Mr. Shemetulskis will be in attendance to help explain the HSA with the high deductible plan as a voluntary option for employees.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Columbia residents, Mr. Paul Galeski, Ms. Cindy Huseman, Mr. Bruce Freeland, and Mr. Tim DeWald addressed the Committee regarding the noise problem at Sunset Overlook located at 11604 Bluff Road.

Items discussed by the residents were: Since summer ended, thought noise would go away; now there is a permanent tent in front of the business; is an ongoing problem; have a bar in their backyard with a band five nights a week; feel like they are not getting help, has asked the City Council to look into the matter; something needs to get done; very frustrating to have it happen; need a logical solution; crowd noise as loud as band even if inside your home; possibly a historical home violation with the new tent located in front of the building; need to go stricter on the proposed noise ordinance; don't understand the hands-off approach of the police officers; noise comes up the hill; music is playing until 11:30 p.m.; had to spend a night in a hotel because of the noise; noise goes down when the police officer drives by the establishment and goes back up when they are gone; asked about other music noise in the middle of Columbia; and concern if Sunset Overlook knows they are coming out to check the decimeters, there will be a different outcome.

Deputy Police Chief Jason Donjon said complaints have been signed by the residents and he is not aware of any hands-off approach with the police officers. He added if the responding officer hears that the noise is loud, the resident can sign a complaint, but if the officer does not hear the noise or is not that loud, the officer uses his/her own judgment on the call.

Alderman Niemietz said she documented all calls she received on the situation and Mr. Morani sent an e-mail to all the Aldermen so they are aware. The City will be getting the information back from the company that measured the noise and will have a new ordinance prepared. Mr. Morani added the City is working on a permitting process for temporary tents. Mayor Hutchinson clarified that any music on a business property does not have to have a special event permit from the City since the event is taking place on their property. He also said the City is not being subjective, will have an ordinance soon, have received texts, e-mails, phone calls, and all have been forwarded on. Alderman Roessler added that other areas of noise in Columbia need to be checked by the company measuring the noise.

The Committee thanked the residents for their input.

**VII. EMA UPDATE**

Mr. Wes Hoeffken, Director of EMA, presented an update on the Emergency Management Agency.

Final implementation of the remaining fire and tornado alarms to the new five-siren outdoor warning system will take place on Tuesday, November 20. The fire alarm will have a 20-second "wail" tone and the tornado alarm will have a 60-second "alert" tone. Prior to the installation, an audio message will be transmitted over the system and to ensure the system is fully functional, several "test" alarms may be required. Upon completion of the final implementation process, all alarms will sound via the new five-alarm system. The older system will no longer operate. He noted that the chimes only sound at Noon and 6:00 p.m. from the Department of Public Works at 110 West Sand Bank Road. He is also working on a user guide for the warning system for the Police Communications Department and for the future Director of EMA.

Mr. Hoeffken reviewed all of the EMA duties including storm spotting, search and rescue, NIMS - National Incident Management System, etc. Mr. Hoeffken added that the used vehicle from the Police Department he uses for EMA is in disrepair and is interested the City purchases a Ford F150 four-wheel drive truck with a short bed through the State Contract. He reviewed finance options with the current EMA budget plus funding sources. He said he will be able to re-use the lights and radios from the current vehicle. The proposed truck would also be able to tow the EMA trailer that was recently renovated and the trailer can also be used as a command center. Also, with a four-wheel drive truck, it will be able to serve as another emergency vehicle.

It was the consensus of the Committee for Mr. Hoeffken to work with Mr. Morani and Mrs. Sharp on funding options for the proposed EMA truck purchase.

**VIII. MONROE-RANDOLPH COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Mr. Scott Dunakey, Director of Community Development, presented the proposed Ordinance establishing an Enterprise Zone within the City of Columbia. The Enterprise Zone is within Randolph and Monroe Counties encompassing contiguous portions of the City of Red Bud, the City of Chester, the City of Sparta, the Village of Evansville, the City of Columbia, the City of Waterloo, and the Village of Valmeyer. Mr. Dunakey said the requirement to apply for the enterprise zone with the State of Illinois is to first adopt the ordinance. He said the public hearing was already held which is shown in the proposed ordinance. He is also waiting on the legal description for the ordinance.

It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward to recommend to the City Council for consideration at their next meeting the ordinance for the Monroe-Randolph County Enterprise Zone.

## **IX. GATEWAY / POP-UP SHOP MONUMENT SIGN**

Mr. Dunakey said 12 sign companies in the St. Louis area were solicited for the Pop-Up Shop Sign and only received two proposals with four design concepts. Mr. Dunakey said their committee recommended the company, Summit Signs & Graphics, and they were also the lowest cost. The selection of the company will be considered at the next City Council meeting.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the City Council for consideration at their next City Council meeting, Summit Signs & Graphics, for the Gateway / POP-UP SHOP Monument Sign.

### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Martens, to recommend to the City Council Summit Sign and Graphics as the sign company for the Gateway / POP-UP SHOP Monument Sign at the Shoemaker Schoolhouse. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Dunakey said the advisory committee will work out the final details of the sign and make a choice of the signage provided by Summit Signs & Graphics. Alderman Agne noted that Summit Signs & Graphics is a local company in Columbia.

## **X. MOBILE HOME REMOVAL**

Mr. Morani reported to the Committee on the mobile home removal. Mr. Morani said the individual he contacted to disassemble the trailer asked if it could be re-located to his property to disassemble. Mr. Morani said he is trying to find a company to transport, but has been difficult as there are not many companies that do this any longer. Mr. Morani will ask for a waiver to be signed for liability and is now waiting for a transport company to return his phone call.

## **XI. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES**

Mr. Dunakey stated to the Committee that he would like to make an educational presentation on the processes for a residential building permit, a commercial building permit, etc. for his department. He asked for feedback on how the information should be presented to the Committee. Mayor Hutchinson suggested a flow chart, timeline, and a diagram. Alderman Niemietz said to avoid paper handouts and do a presentation. Mr. Dunakey would prefer doing one step at a time instead of all at once, and the first one will be ready for the December 10<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting. It was also discussed to possibly do joint committee meetings with the Plan Commission on other matters.

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

### **A. Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust Insurance Renewal**

Mr. Morani said the City's ICRMT - Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust insurance renewal will be approximately three percent. The renewal will be brought to the next City Council meeting for consideration.

B. Code Compliance Officer

Mr. Morani provided an update on the Code Compliance Officer search and said the City will have someone in place by the first of the year.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5 ILCS 120/2(c)**

Chairman Ebersohl inquired if there was a need to go into Executive Session. There was none.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Holtkamp 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 Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 8:50 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