

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF
CITY HALL**

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 8:24 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberfell, Stumpf and Roessler.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Mayor Hutchinson.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, Chief of Police & Ambulance Director Joseph Edwards and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests Present: None.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ebersohl stated the Executive Session was called to discuss employment of legal counsel to represent the city pertaining to employment discrimination allegations made against the city, and he asked City Administrator Hudzik to address the Committee on this issue.

Mr. Hudzik informed the Committee that the city had received correspondence (on August 20, 2010) from the Illinois Department of Human Rights wherein complainant Babatunde Owoseni alleged employment discrimination (based on his national origin, his race and his age) against the city for failure to be hired by the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners as a police officer. Said correspondence requires the city to file (i) a verified response to each allegation alleged by Mr. Owoseni; (ii) a response to all information requested in a three (3) page Questionnaire enclosed with said correspondence (copies of said Questionnaire were distributed to all Committee Members); and (iii) a position statement in response to the allegations made by Mr. Owoseni – all responses are due within sixty (60) days of receipt of said correspondence.

Chief of Police Edwards informed the Committee that Mr. Owoseni

– Mr. Owoseni then asked the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to reconsider his application to be hired as a police officer, and the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners decided not to reconsider Mr. Owoseni's application. Since attorney Mark Weisman has been advising the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners on Mr. Owoseni's employment reconsideration request, it was the recommendation of City Administrator Hudzik and Chief of Police Edwards the Mark Weisman be employed to represent the city concerning the employment discrimination allegations made by Mr. Owoseni.

During the employment discrimination allegations presentation all Committee Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Roessler and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to adjourn the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Monday, August 23, 2010 at 8:35 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Gene Ebersohl

GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes Taken By:

Sandra Garner

SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

Albert G. Hudzik

ALBERT G. HUDZIK, City Administrator