

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
MARCH 24, 2014 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ebersohl called the Committee of the Whole 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: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp and Mayor Hutchinson.

Absent: Alderman Agne.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Clerk Ron Colyer (arrived at 7:10 p.m. and left at 8:39 p.m.), City Engineer Ron Williams, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis (left at 7:19 p.m.), Chief of Police and EMS Director Joe Edwards, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandra Garmer.

Guests Present: Executive Director for the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council (WEEOC) Paulette Hamlin and Columbia Senior Center Site Director Pat Stumpf (both left at 7:19 p.m.).

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of (1) receiving a request for funding for Senior Services Program(s) from Paulette Hamlin (WEEOC); (2) receiving a presentation on financial information and discussing the city's FY 2014 – 2015 Budget; (3) discussing the purchase of replacement water meters; and (4) any other items to be considered or discussed.

**II. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR SENIOR SERVICES PROGRAM(S) –
PAULETTE HAMLIN (WEEOC)**

Chairman Ebersohl opened the meeting and called upon Community and Economic Development Director Paul Ellis – Paul made opening remarks and introduced Paulette Hamlin, Executive Director for the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council (WEEOC). Paulette began her presentation by distributing a document entitled Columbia Senior Site – March 24, 2014 (containing sections titled “Services Provided”, “Donation

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for Services" and "Issues"), as well as a brochure entitled "Columbia Senior Site", to the Committee Members. She reviewed the Columbia Senior Site document, which (i) detailed the services offered/provided to seniors by WEEOC; (ii) presented the suggested donations requested (but not required) of seniors for those services; and (iii) contained information on the reduction of receipts/increases in expenses experienced in recent years. Paulette then reviewed a document entitled "Columbia Projected Budget – October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015" (which had previously been distributed to the Committee Members) estimating the Receipts and Expenses of the Columbia Senior Site for the site's upcoming fiscal year – the Projected Budget document showed a deficit of \$11,651. Paulette then asked the Committee Members to give consideration to an increase in the city's annual contribution (i.e., \$17,000 for the past few years) to WEEOC to help support the operation of the Columbia Senior Site. During Paulette's presentation, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions, which included: (a) WEEOC feels it has cut its budget as much as possible while still providing the services it deems necessary to the seniors of Columbia; (b) federal and state funding have stagnated or been reduced in recent years and no increases are projected for the foreseeable future; additionally, most seniors are on fixed incomes and their personal expenses have increased more than the increase in their incomes – this has affected their ability to donate for services received; (c) past year's deficits have been funded by WEEOC reserves, but those reserves are nearly depleted; (d) consideration should be given to requesting an increased contribution from Monroe County, as well as a contribution from St. Clair County, since the Columbia Senior Site provides services to some residents living in St. Clair County; and (e) the Columbia Rotary Club has recently indicated a willingness to provide assistance to Columbia's seniors. Ellis and City Accounting Manager Linda Sharp: (1) recommended that the city increase its annual contribution to WEEOC by \$5,000 - \$7,000 in the city's upcoming fiscal year's budget; (2) advised WEEOC to approach Monroe County to increase its annual contribution (for senior services) to help support the projected deficit; and (3) recommended that an agreement be entered into with WEEOC pertaining to the Columbia Senior Site. The Committee Members were generally in agreement with staff recommendations and indicated consideration would be given to WEEOC's increased funding request in this year's budget.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION PRESENTATION AND FY 2014 – 2015 BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Administrator Hudzik updated the Committee Members on the budget process and reviewed his Memo pertaining to the Jim Edward Weinel Trust Agreement, including its attachment (both of which had previously been distributed to the Committee Members). In his review, Hudzik informed the Committee that the city had been named as a residuary trust beneficiary by Mr. Weinel (who passed away on March 17, 2013) and that the city's share (i.e., 5% of remaining trust assets) was restricted "to be used for the purpose of maintaining, remodeling and/or expanding the Scout Hut in Columbia".

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Hudzik informed the Committee the trust funds should be received later this year and indicated he felt this year's budget could include \$125,000 (from trust proceeds) for Scout Hut expenses. Hudzik also reviewed (previously distributed) documentation detailing the increase in Medical Insurance and Prescription Drug premiums, effective July 1, 2014, recently received from the Steelworkers Health and Welfare Fund – the new premiums represented increases of slightly more than 4% over current health insurance premium rates. During his documentation reviews, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions. Hudzik indicated work continues on the budget and that a Committee Meeting is planned for March 31st (the fifth Monday of March) for the Committee to continue its review of budgetary information.

IV. DISCUSSION ON PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT WATER METERS

(Note: this item was originally scheduled to be discussed by the Water and Sewer Committee, but it was moved to the Committee of the Whole.)

City Engineer Ron Williams addressed the Committee Members on this issue – his presentation included a review of the HD Supply Waterworks, LTD. – IPERL Water Meter Pricing document (previously distributed to the Committee Members). Ron indicated that HD Supply is the only dealer in the area supplying IPERL meters (i.e., the brand of meters used by the city); he further stated that the water meters shown on the documentation were replacements for current meters that may no longer accurately measure water usage (normally those with meter readings in excess of 1 million gallons) and that replacements occur as needed (normally every year); additionally, he informed the Committee Members that the cost of the replacement meters exceeded \$20,000 and it was his recommendation that the water meters shown on the documentation reviewed be purchased from HD Supply Waterworks, LTD. It was the consensus of the Committee Members that Ron's recommendation be followed and that the invoice for the purchase of the meters be placed on the vouchers list (for approval) when received.

A discussion was then held pertaining to the purchase of radio reads for water meters, which allow for drive-by reads, thereby reducing the manpower hours for water meter reading – Williams stated that radio reads have been purchased in the past few years and indicated he originally planned to request funding for radio reads in the FY 2014 – 2015 budget in an amount to almost complete two (2) of the city's (3) routes – he also informed the Committee that (i) once all three (3) routes are completed (with radio reads) the meter reading manpower hours would be reduced by approximately 50% (he estimated it currently takes three workers three full days to read the meters); and (ii) at the request of City Administrator Hudzik, he planned to provide the council with the cost to complete two (2) full routes for their consideration when discussing the FY 2014 – 2015 budget.

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V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to (i) review Executive Session minutes for publication; and (ii) discuss employee wages and benefits for one or more classes of employees/specific employees.

MOTION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Holtkamp and seconded by Alderman Reis to go into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to (i) review Executive Session minutes for publication; and (ii) discuss employee wages and benefits for one or more classes of employees/specific employees. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION – REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, Mayor Hutchinson and the following Committee Members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp.

Chairman Ebersohl asked if there was any action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting. There was none.

VI. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

Mayor Hutchinson informed the Committee Members that he has been in touch with local artists/the Columbia schools about displaying local art in the City Hall – he indicated many of the pictures in the City Hall have been up for quite some time and he felt displaying local art would be beneficial to the artists and bring a new look to City Hall – it may even encourage citizens to visit City Hall more frequently; he further stated the city may incur minor expenses (e.g., the cost of frames for the art work) for the art work to be displayed. A brief discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Committee Members that (i) the Mayor and city staff continue to work on the art work display project; and (ii) consideration be given to other needed improvements to City Hall.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois

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held Monday, March 24, 2014 at 9:04 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Gene Ebersohl

GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes taken by:

Sandra Farmer

SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

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