

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
MARCH 9, 2015 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 Committee Members – Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Alderman Roessler.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Building Inspector and Interim Zoning Administrator Justin Osterhage, Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Chief of Police & EMS Director Joseph Edwards and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: Attorney Mark Rohr with Crowder & Scoggins, Ltd. Representing the Columbia Athletic Association, Jessica Whaley of the Columbia Khoury League, Dave Bernhard and Dan Voelkel of the Columbia Athletic Association. (Left at 7:58 P.M.)

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting – Executive Session; (3) Agreement with Columbia Athletic Association, Columbia Khoury League, and Columbia CUSD #4; (4) Fox Run Estates Preliminary Plat (5) Re-zoning of Admiral Parkway, Inc. Properties; (6) Employee Health Insurance Plan; (7) FY 2015-2016 Budget Update; (8) Amendment to Penalties in the Columbia Municipal Code; (9) Non-Home Rule Sales Tax Public Information Meeting; and (10) Other items to be considered or discussed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The minutes of the February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hutch and seconded by Alderman Agne, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Hutch, Mathews, Reis, and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Executive Session minutes of the February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Hutch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBIA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, COLUMBIA KHOURY LEAGUE, AND COLUMBIA CUSD #4

Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis addressed the Mayor and committee on his memorandum regarding the ball field scheduling agreement with the City of Columbia and the Columbia Athletic Association, Columbia Khoury League, and Columbia CUSD #4. Mr. Ellis stated that the first item, "Adhering sponsorship signage to fences at American Legion Park" will amend the City's sign code and will be reflected in the agreement. The second item, "Maintenance of Fence" ; there is a problem with this item. The third item, "Additional Fees to help offset the cost of installing lights" was discussed. Ms. Jessica Whaley, President of the Columbia Khoury League reviewed the \$80,000.00 fund raising goal with the Mayor and committee. Mr. Dan Voelkel of the Columbia Athletic Association reviewed the total project costs. It was noted that the \$180,000.00 cost to light the ball fields listed in the memorandum was incorrect. It should be \$118,000.00. Mr. Ellis apologized for the incorrect information. Mr. Voelkel said that \$18,000.00 is still needed and will be able to raise the funds with ball tournaments. Mayor Hutchinson concurred that phase 1 of the project cost \$129,000.00 for the lights - \$89,000.00 for Reinhold Electric; \$11,000.00 for Ameren Illinois; \$11,000.00 for Bright Ideas plus \$18,000.00 is still needed. There was a discussion on how the groups would make up the \$18,000.00 difference. City Administrator James Morani distributed a copy of the Bolm-Schuhkraft Park Baseball Diamond/Field/Court Reservation fees. There was also a discussion on whether the City of Columbia should be collecting the fees for all reservations at Legion park and Bolm-Schuhkraft park ball fields. Right now, the City collects \$25.00 per reservation date (City residents) for the Bolm-Schuhkraft park baseball diamond and \$100.00 per reservation date (non City residents). Alderman Niemietz expressed concern that a City resident reserves the BS park baseball field and all the other ball players are non-residents. Alderman Hutch asked City Attorney Terry Bruckert which

is the correct way to collect the fees and Mr. Bruckert responded that the City should be collecting the fees. Mayor Hutchinson stated the CAA and CKL need to review the proposed fees with the City Council at a committee meeting. These fees could possibly be put into the City's fee ordinance and the language for the fees in the fee ordinance added to the proposed agreement.

Alderman Agne stated he is strictly against the commercial signage at the Legion Park. Mr. Voelkel explained the signage at the park is more of a temporary signage than permanent. Mr. Voelkel added the signs are vinyl, not metal. If it is the council's desire to permit these signs, Mr. Morani suggested amending the City's sign code. City Attorney Terry Bruckert said the sign code could be amended for the parks. Mayor Hutchinson added that you expect to see signage, it is a great way to raise money, there is signage at the school's gym and football field, and the sign code needs to be amended. Alderman Niemietz added that the park is still a park.

Mayor Hutchinson also suggested that a link be placed on the City's website to the CKL website to view their calendar for reservations. Another suggestion was to reserve the Bolm-Schuhkraft baseball diamond by the hour and not the date. Mayor Hutchinson stated the City should be collecting the fees and Mr. Voelkel said the CKL & CAA have already set up the schedule and fees for payments on-line. Alderman Niemietz said it is simpler if the CKL & CAA do the scheduling. Mayor Hutchinson also suggested that the City will need a list of expenditures from the CKL & CAA so if anyone would ever question the organizations, the City would have a document. Mr. Morani stated the fee schedule needs to be standardized and simple.

Mr. Ellis reported that he could get the agreement ready with the signage amended, fees amended, and fees to be approved by the City Council. It was the consensus of the Mayor and committee for Mr. Ellis to finalize the document and share it with Mr. Morani, Mr. Bruckert and the organizations - CKL, CAA and CCUSD#4 and bring back to the City Council on Monday, March 16. Mr. Ellis will also work on proposed language for the sign code amendment.

V. EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

City Administrator James Morani gave the Mayor and committee an update on the employee health insurance plan. Mr. Morani added that there has been resistance from some of the employees to complete the health insurance questions for MRCT. Therefore, Mr. Morani has scheduled a meeting for tomorrow, March 10, in the Council Chambers for the employees to better explain the proposed insurance plans.

VI. FY 2015-2016 BUDGET UPDATE

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp updated the Mayor and committee on the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget. Mrs. Sharp stated that she and City Administrator James Morani have met with all the Department Heads. Mrs. Sharp went over the Capital Equipment and Capital Projects Budget for Fiscal Year May 1, 2015 Through April 30, 2016. She added

that the proposed budget exceeds \$280,000.00 over last year's budget and needs to be reduced. The purchase of a new street sweeper and dump truck was discussed as to the different funds they are paid from. Mr. Morani will look into the language and feasibility of how the water and sewer funds could be used to temporarily pay (e.g. loan) for other purchases besides only for water and sewer funds. Mrs. Sharp stated at the next Committee of the Whole meeting, she will be reviewing all of the City's fees for the fiscal year 2015-2016 fee ordinance. Mayor Hutchinson noted that the IDOT billing for Rueck Road came in late and this caught the City by surprise. Mayor Hutchinson reported these types of items need to be earmarked. Mr. Morani suggested including an appendix to the budget so they are always accounted for. Mrs. Sharp stated the City is still carrying Kunz Street, the South Main Street intersection, Streetscape and Palmer Road on the budget; is marked as a budget item; is obligated and is noted on the budget to carry forward. Alderman Reis suggested that it also needs to be noted elsewhere besides the budget. Mrs. Sharp also reviewed the carry over items and noted that this is the last year for radio reads purchase. She also reviewed all budget items for the departments. Lastly, Mrs. Sharp stated she will have a worksheet for the next Committee of the Whole meeting for the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Fund.

VII. FOX RUN ESTATES PRELIMINARY PLAT

Building Inspector and Interim Zoning Administrator Justin Osterhage updated the Mayor and committee on the preliminary plat for Fox Run Estates. Mr. Osterhage stated that it is satisfactory for approval, but there are some items to be addressed namely inlets and utility easements. Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens added that Fox Run Estates has the approval for water and sewer permits, but there is no timeline for completion.

VIII. RE-ZONING OF ADMIRAL PARKWAY, INC. PROPERTIES

Building Inspector and Interim Zoning Administrator Justin Osterhage reviewed the Admiral Parkway, Inc. properties Request for Zoning Amendments for informational purposes. The five (5) Zoning Amendments are as follows: (1) R-7 Multiple-Family Dwelling District to R-5 One-Family Dwelling District; (2) R-7 Multiple-Family Dwelling District to R-5 One-Family Dwelling District; (3) R-5 One-Family Dwelling District to R-7 Multiple-Family Dwelling District; (4) C-3 Highway Business District to R-7 Multiple-Family Dwelling District; and (5) C-3 Highway Business District to R-6 One-Family Dwelling District. Alderman Huch asked about the proposed apartments and Mr. Osterhage said that a CUP (Community Unit Plan) will be completed for the senior housing first, the apartments next, and then the condominiums.

IX. AMENDMENT TO PENALTIES IN THE COLUMBIA MUNICIPAL CODE

Police Chief Joseph Edwards addressed the Mayor and committee regarding proposed changes for the City's current truancy ordinance. Attorney Myron Hanna (who processes all of the City's ordinance violations) noticed that the only penalty in the truancy ordinance was for the child and not the parent. Chief Edwards recommended the ordinance be changed for the penalty to be for the parent. Mr. Hanna also informed Chief Edwards that

the City's fines were low relative to other area communities. City Administrator James Morani stated the fines in the City's Municipal Code range from \$50.00 to \$75.00. City Attorney Terry Bruckert said that the normal fine is \$125.00 for surrounding municipalities. It was the consensus of the committee to increase the fines to \$100.00 uniformly and to also move forward with the recommended change to the truancy ordinance.

X. NON-HOME RULE SALES TAX PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

City Administrator James Morani reminded the City Council that the Public Information Meeting for the proposed Non-Home Rules Sales Tax Referendum would be tomorrow, March 10, 2015 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mr. Morani will provide maps and information materials to the public. It will also be an open house format. Mr. Morani also said that letters were sent out to residents in targeted areas where the proposed capital improvements would take place. The Republic-Times newspaper is expected to publish an article about the proposed Non-Home Rule Sales Tax to help educate citizens about the ballot issue.

XI. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

1. Mayor Hutchinson gave an update on the proposed transportation area hub.
2. Mayor Hutchinson also reported that if anyone was interested in helping with the Monroe County Bicentennial Celebration, they should contact Alderman James Agne, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis or himself.
3. Aldermen Niemietz questioned the Lakeview Trail Project that Monroe County is developing. Alderman Niemietz stated that it is a huge project and the City needs to be active and on top of the project due to the problems with D Road. The re-alignment of the D Road hill was discussed. Mr. Morani reported that he will follow up with Monroe County on the Lakeview Trail Project.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, March 9, 2015 at 8:58 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Gene Ebersohl
GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes Taken By:
Donna L. Meaffey
DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk