

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014 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 7:56 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 Engineer Ron Williams, City Attorney John Long, Chief of Police and EMS Director Joe Edwards, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandra Garmer.

Guests Present: Knute Metz.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ebersohl stated the Executive Session was called to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for use by the city, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

Discussion on the Purchase or Lease of Real Property for use by the City

Chairman Ebersohl opened the meeting and informed the Committee Members that Knute Metz (representing Upchurch Oil and Ready Mix Concrete Co., Inc. ("Upchurch")) contacted him to see if the city had any interest in purchasing the Upchurch property between E. Cherry St. and E. Locust St., which is located north of city-owned property (i.e., the library, scout hut and Metter Park properties) – an aerial photo of the properties at that site was distributed to the Committee Members at this meeting. He then introduced Knute Metz, who addressed the Committee Members and indicated that Upchurch planned to list its former batch plant property (closed since March 2013), consisting of approximately 4.33 acres, adjacent to Metter Park (and separated by the old railroad right-of-way containing the city's trail) with a realtor, but wanted to find out if the city had any interest in purchasing that property before listing it. All in attendance were given to opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions, including: (i) whether Upchurch planned to clear the land and if the company had determined the price they were willing to accept – Knute indicated (a)

the batch plant would be disassembled, but that the other buildings would remain; and (b) an appraisal of the property was made in 2009, but that appraisal would have to be updated before a price could be determined; (ii) Upchurch had an environmental study completed when the company purchased the property; (iii) the company was willing to sell the property as one combined unit or as two (2) separate parcels; and (iv) no timeline has currently been set by Upchurch on the sale of the property. The Committee Members decided to give additional consideration to this matter and informed Knute that he would be contacted in the future concerning the city's interest in purchasing the Upchurch property.

III. ADJOURNMENT


MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Monday, June 23, 2014 at 8:08 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. MOTION CARRIED.



GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes Taken By:



SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant


ALBERT G. HUDZIK, City Administrator