

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,  
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2007 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:00 PM.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Koesterer, Row, and Huch.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Attorney Tom Adams, City Administrator Anthony Traxler, Chief of Police Joe Edwards, Deputy Chief of Police Jerry Paul, Fire Chief Mike Roediger, Director of Community and Economic Development Mike Hemmer, and City Auditor Gene Schorb.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Tuesday, January 2, 2007 were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Koesterer, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Tuesday, January 2, 2007, as on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Koesterer, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

III. DELEGATIONS

A. Swearing In Of Police Officers

City Clerk Wes Hoeffken swore in Police Officers Zachary Hopkins and Keith Jackson.

B. Portia Oberkfell - Columbia Crossing Discussion

Bill Hubble of 513 Wedgewood Lane, Portia Oberkfell of 11 Christina Court, Rhonda O'Farrel of 302 W. Washington St, and Denise Sueme of 310 W. Olympia St. addressed the Council regarding the Columbia Crossing Development.

IV. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Community and Economic Development

The report of the Director of Community and Economic Development was presented to the Council

1. Wardermann Cemetery

Mr. Hemmer stated that this was an informational item only.

2. Ordinance 2525 - Employ Oates Associates

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Koesterer, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to pass Ordinance No. 2525, an ordinance providing for the employment of Oates Associates, Inc. of Collinsville, Illinois to provide preliminary engineering services to the City of Columbia, Illinois in connection with the Mainstreet Streetscape Project and the Illinois

Transportation Enhancement Funding received for that project. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Koesterer, Row, Huch, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

3. Sewer Rate Efficiency Proposal

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Conrad, and seconded by Alderman Agne, to direct Alderman Conrad and Mr. Hemmer to proceed with negotiations with Crown Linen for the Sewer Rate Efficiency Proposal with emphasis on Option A. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Koesterer, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

4. Resolution No. 06-2006 Columbia Crossing RFP Submittal

Alderman Unnerstall expressed concern about the proposal received from G. J. Grewe, specifically, the proposed retail space along the I-255 corridor, proposed traffic via the Gateway Connector, the use of eminent domain, and the request for \$200,000.00 in incentives. Alderman Row expressed concern about the City placing all of their development "eggs" in the same basket. Alderman Row also requested an explanation of the "pay-as-you-go" referenced in the proposal. Mr. Grewe and Mr. Melon explained that nothing will be reimbursed to the developer until the development starts generating revenue to the City, but that qualified expenses will be presented to the City as they are incurred with anticipation of reimbursement from future revenues.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall to table any action on the Columbia Crossing RFP submittal. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Agne, Unnerstall, and Row voted yea. Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Niemietz, Koesterer, and Huch voted nay. Motion Failed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Conrad, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to pass Resolution No. 06-2006, a resolution designating Columbia Crossing, LLC as the Preferred Developer in connection with a proposed Redevelopment Project. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Koesterer, Huch, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Aldermen Unnerstall and Row voted nay. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Koesterer, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to accept the report of the Director of Community and Economic Development as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

B. Fire Department

The monthly report of the Fire Department was presented to the Council.

Chief Roediger suggested that a Committee to oversee the consolidation of the Rural and City Fire Department and Ambulance Service into a single fire district be created with Alderman Conrad, Alderman Ebersohl, City Administrator Anthony Traxler, Earl Doerr of the Columbia Rural Fire Protection District, Fire Chief Roediger, Police Chief Edwards and PT EMS Assistant Director Ken Buss as sitting members.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Koesterer, to accept the monthly and annual report of the Fire Marshall as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

- C. Plan Commission  
The report of the Plan Commission was presented to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to accept the report of the Plan Commission as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

- D. EMS Department  
The monthly report of the Columbia Emergency Medical Service was presented to the Council.

1. Employ Chris Frawley and Jennifer Trantham

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Koesterer, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the recommendation of the EMS Director, Joe Edwards, and employ Chris Frawley as a part-time EMT-P and employ Jennifer Trantham as a part-time EMT-B effective immediately. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Koesterer, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Koesterer, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to accept the report of the Ambulance Director as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

- E. Police Department  
The report of the Police Department was presented to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the report of the Police Department as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

- F. Administration Department  
Alderman Koesterer left the meeting at 8:27 PM.

1. Archaeological Research - Immaculate Conception Cemetery

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to employ Central Mississippi Valley Archaeological Research Institute to conduct a Phase I Archaeological Survey for the proposed widening of Cherry Street along the edge of the Immaculate Conception Cemetery. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Koesterer, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the report of the Administration Department as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

- G. City Attorney

1. Ordinance No. 2526 - Brellinger Subdivision Final Subdivision Plat

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Huch, to pass Ordinance No. 2526, an ordinance approving the Final Subdivision Plat for the Brellinger Second Addition Subdivision in the City of Columbia, Monroe County Illinois. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Huch, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

2. Winnifred Fiege Property

Mr. Adams informed the Council that prior to the Fiege property being sold, a guardianship would need to be established and that the attorney for Ms. Fiege does not want to proceed with the guardianship until the City expresses interest in the purchase of the property and can demonstrate that funds are available to finance the venture. Alderman Unnerstall stated that he would like to pursue the purchase. Alderman Niemietz stated that the City has already been pursuing this idea for several years. Alderman Conrad stated that the City should not proceed until the funds are budgeted. Mr. Traxler stated that he would secure an appraisal that can be used for budget purposes only.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to accept the report of the City Attorney as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

H. City Clerk

Mr. Hoeffken presented his report to the Council.

1. Report of Collections

The Report of Collections for the period commencing November 26, 2006 and ending December 25, 2006 was presented to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Conrad, to approve the Report of Collections for the period commencing November 26, 2006 and ending December 25, 2006, as submitted and on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

I. Mayor's Report

Mayor Hutchinson presented his report to the Council.

V. CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS

A. Vouchers

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Huch, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to authorize the payment of vouchers received through January 11, 2007; the total amount of the vouchers to be paid is one hundred fifty-five thousand, two hundred forty-five dollars, and seventy-three cents (\$155,245.73). Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

D. Statement of Funds

The report of the Statement of Funds was presented to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Conrad, and seconded by Alderman Huch, to accept the report of the Statement of Funds as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hutchinson informed the Council that he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to direct the Mayor to go into Executive Session at 8:58 PM for the purpose of discussing

potential litigation. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Row, to return to Regular Session of the City Council at 9:11 PM. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

Upon return to Regular Session, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Huch and Mayor Hutchinson were present.

Mayor Hutchinson inquired if there was any business to be brought before the Council as a result of the Executive Session.

A. Charter Communication Franchise Agreement

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Unnerstall, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to proceed with Option 2 regarding the Cable Franchise Agreement with Charter Communication. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Conrad, Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, and Huch voted yea. Motion Carried.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business brought before the Council.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business brought before the Council.

IX. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no Standing Committee reports.

X. CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, January 22, 2006

7:00 PM - Committee of the Whole

7:05 PM - Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation

7:10 PM - Personnel

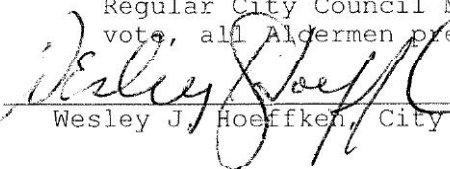
7:15 PM - Streets, Sidewalks, Drainage, and Public Utilities

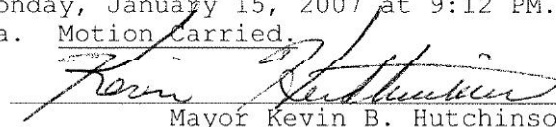
7:20 PM - Ordinances, Planning, and Zoning

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Row, to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, January 15, 2007 at 9:12 PM. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

  
Wesley J. Hoeffken, City Clerk

  
Mayor Kevin B. Hutchinson