

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the Public Hearing of the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 6:46 PM.

The following members were:

Present: Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf.
Alderman Row arrived at 6:50 PM.
Alderman Stumpf arrived at 6:56 PM.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Administrator Anthony Traxler, City Attorney Tom Adams, Building Inspector Alan Holden, Deputy Police Chief Jerry Paul, City Engineer Ron Williams, and Fire Marshall Mike Roediger.

II. STATED PURPOSE

Mayor Hutchinson stated the Public Hearing was scheduled to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$6,000,000.00 for the purpose of providing funds to pay the cost of Capital Projects consisting of the purchase of a platform fire truck (\$938,000.00), the purchase of two (2) buildings to be used for governmental uses and purposes (\$625,000.00), the purchase of CAD Software for the Columbia Police Department uses and purposes (\$225,000.00), to make a contribution to the cost of issuing the bonds (\$12,000.00), and further to refund \$1,830,000.00 outstanding (of \$3,100,000.00 authorized and issued) Public Improvement Bonds dated May 1, 2002, maturing on December 1, in each of the years 2008 through 2014, inclusive, and to refund \$2,370,000.00 outstanding (of \$2,650,000.00 authorized and issued) Public Improvement Revenue Bonds dated December 1, 2001, maturing on December 1 in each of the years 2008 through 2019, inclusive.

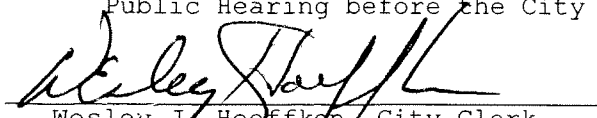
Mr. Adams explained the need to hold the public hearing. Mayor Hutchinson then inquired if the public had any comments or questions. Former Mayor Lester Schneider stated \$4,200,000.00 of the bond issue is to refinance two Regular Revenue Bonds and not Alternate Revenue Bonds. Mr. Adams stated he would have to verify Mr. Schneider's statement. Mr. Schneider then stated that a petition effort in 2002 resulted in having to issue two separate Regular Revenue Bonds versus a single Alternate Revenue Bond issue, costing the City an additional half percent interest rate. Mr. Schneider then inquired as to how much the new bond issue would be saving the City.

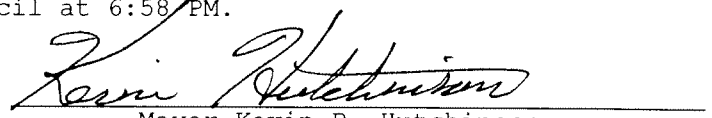
Mr. Adams explained there has not been an effort to require a back door referendum for this bond issue. Mr. Adams added the 2002 bond issue was very political and a back door referendum petition, which rarely happens, had been filed with the City, and resulted in costs for two separate bond issues. Mr. Adams stated the City will not know the actual cost savings until the bond bids are received and reviewed, which is scheduled for April 21, 2008. Mr. Adams then explained that if the interest rates for the bonds are not right, the City can reject the rates. Mr. Adams also explained the City has never been required to insure their bond issues, but until the bids are received, no one knows what might be required. Mr. Adams then added the current situation in the City, specifically the Columbia Crossing litigation, could impact the bond bids.

Mayor Hutchinson inquired if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Hutchinson closed the Public Hearing before the City Council at 6:58 PM.


Wesley J. Hoeffken, City Clerk


Mayor Kevin B. Hutchinson