

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 8:30 PM. Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Ebersohl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Row	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Agne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Hejna	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Niemietz	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent	Oberkfell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Unnerstall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Stumpf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Clerk Wes Hoeffken	<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting Manager Linda Sharp
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Attorney Tom Adams	<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Police Joe Edwards
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Inspector Al Holden	<input type="checkbox"/> City Treasurer Bob Naumann
<input type="checkbox"/> City Engineer Ron Williams	<input type="checkbox"/> Director of Economic Development Paul Ellis
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Chief Mike Roediger	<input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Chief of Police Jerry Paul
<input type="checkbox"/> Deputy CEMS Director Ken Buss	

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CITY ATTORNEY

A. Ordinance No. 2695 - Salary of Elected Officers

Alderman Hejna inquired why this was considered an emergency meeting. Mr. Adams explained the state statute governing elected official salaries is an absolute and requires action to establish the salary of elected officials 180 days prior to the officers taking office. Mr. Adams then explained that unless the salaries are scheduled, a citizen could challenge the salary paid to an elected official. Alderman Unnerstall stated he has a big concern, and it is a bad idea to have elected officials conducting business for the City after losing an election, and then inquired if there was another approach available to the City. Alderman Unnerstall then stated the Council could pass the salary ordinance, but wants to delay approval of the date of taking office until additional research can be concluded. Alderman Ebersohl inquired if there has been any problem in the past with elected officials conducting business after an election. Alderman Agne stated this only adds two weeks to the term of office.

Alderman Unnerstall stated the salary of the City Clerk should be comparable to the Treasurer. Mr. Adams stated the current salary was the result of a consolidation of the roles of collector and clerk, and in essence, the pay was for two positions. Alderman Stumpf suggested the salary ordinance provide for a 4% increase in 2009 and 2010, but not 2011 and 2012. Alderman Unnerstall stated the proposed ordinance does not include an increase. Alderman Stumpf inquired if the Council should consider a 4% increase. Alderman Hejna stated no. Mr. Adams explained that once the salary is set, it can not be amended mid-term and the proposed ordinance does not impact the salary of officials elected in 2007. Alderman Hejna inquired if the salary could be amended in two years. Mr. Adams stated no. Alderman Agne stated he thought the Council was willing to forego an increase for the first year only. Alderman Unnerstall stated he is reluctant to set a 4% increase and suggested a 2% increase for 2010, 2011, and 2012. Alderman Oberkfell suggested a 4% increase in 2011 and 2012 and no increase for 2009 and 2010. Alderman Stumpf countered with a 2% increase in 2009, and a 4% increase each year for 2010, 2011, and 2012. Alderman Unnerstall suggested a 4% increase in 2010 and 2012 only. Alderman Row stated he thought everyone was previously in agreement for no increase for the next four years. Alderman Hejna stated she was surprised the positions paid anything, and not passing an increase is not going to affect the household of anyone holding office. Alderman Stumpf asked Mr. Hoeffken to explain the

history of past salary increases. Mr. Hoeffken explained the salary increase schedules created by then Alderman Willie Eckert and the staggered schedules that had aldermen making the same salaries at the end of a term for one group and at the beginning for the other group.

Alderman Ebersohl suggested a 2% increase each year. Alderman Row stated not following past practices would throw things out of sync. Alderman Stumpf stated the aldermen elected in 2007 will still get a 4% increase each of their remaining years in office. Alderman Agne stated this will also create disparity between the two groups of aldermen. Alderman Unnerstall stated there would be disparity, but it would be minor and no one on the Council is in it for the money. Alderman Unnerstall then suggested either a 2% increase each year over the four years, or a 4% increase in 2010 and 2012. Alderman Hejna inquired if there is any way the aldermen elected in 2007 can forego their increase over the next two years. Mr. Adams stated a salary cannot be increased or diminished during a term of office, but added that does not keep someone from making a donation back to the City. Alderman Stumpf stated it is not just about the current administration, but impacts future administrations. Alderman Stumpf also stated the salary of the Mayor does not reflect what it should, based on the time spent on the job, but is not in favor of decreasing the salary of the City Clerk, but would favor an increase for the Mayor. Alderman Row stated no increase or a 2% increase will not make a difference to anyone running for office.

MOTION:

It was moved and seconded to pass Ordinance No. 2695, an ordinance setting the salary of City of Columbia, Illinois Officers to be elected at the next Municipal Election to be held on April 7, 2009.

Moved by: Row Second: Hejna Vote: Roll Call

Ebersohl	Yea	Unnerstall	Nay	Oberkfell	Nay
Agne	Nay	Row	Yea	Stumpf	Nay
Niemietz	Absent	Hejna	Yea	Hutchinson	Yea

Motion Failed 4 To 4

Alderman Unnerstall suggested a 2% increase each year for each office and a base salary of \$13,626.00 for the City Clerk for 2009. Alderman Row asked Mr. Hoeffken for his opinion about reducing the salary of the City Clerk. Mr. Hoeffken explained the history of the salary for the City Clerk and how it combined the role of City Clerk and Collector, which were previously two separate positions. Mr. Hoeffken also explained this change was made during the administration of Mayor Schneider and he felt that while the Mayor spent more hours working, the City Clerk had more responsibility with insuring various documents were filed with the State. Mr. Hoeffken then stated he works on average 10 hours per week. Alderman Stumpf asked Mayor Hutchinson how many hours he worked, to which Mayor Hutchinson stated 20 - 30 hours per week. Alderman Stumpf stated the City of Columbia is one of the few cities where the Mayor and City Clerk are paid the same salary. Alderman Agne stated the City conducted a salary analysis a few years ago and the salary structure was fair.

Alderman Oberkfell suggested a 2% increase with the Clerk's salary being reduced to \$13,262, which represents the difference between the salaries of the Mayor and Treasurer. Alderman Stumpf suggested the Clerk's salary be reduced \$2,000.00 and the Mayor's salary increase \$2,000.00. Alderman Row suggested a 2% increase for 2010, 2011, and 2012, and recommended reducing the salary of the City Clerk \$2,000.00 annually and increasing the salary of the Mayor \$2,000.00 annually.

Alderman Ebersohl left the meeting at 9:38 PM.

Alderman Stumpf suggested a 4% increase for 2010, 2011, and 2012, and recommended reducing the salary of the City Clerk \$2,000.00 annually and increasing the salary of the Mayor \$2,000.00 annually.

B. Ordinance No. 2695 - Salary of Elected Officers

MOTION:

It was moved and seconded to pass Ordinance No. 2695, an ordinance setting the salary of City of Columbia, Illinois Officers to be elected at the next Municipal Election to be held on April 7, 2009 with a base salary of \$19,232 for Mayor, \$15,232 for City Clerk, \$10,020 for Treasurer, and \$4,800 for Alderman, and a 4% increase in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Moved by: Agne Second: Stumpf Vote: Roll Call

Ebersohl	Absent	Unnerstall	Nay	Oberkfell	Yea
Agne	Yea	Row	Yea	Stumpf	Yea
Niemietz	Absent	Hejna	Nay	Hutchinson	Yea

Motion Carried 5 To 2

III. ADJOURNMENT

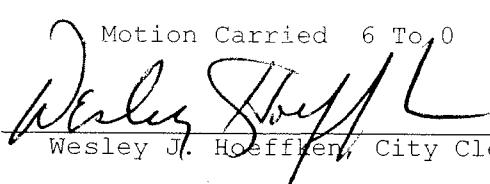
MOTION:

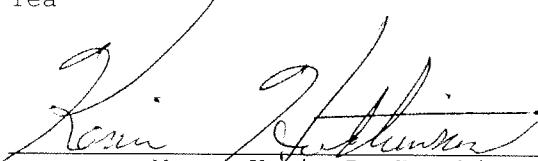
It was moved and seconded to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting held Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 9:46 PM.

Moved by: Row Second: Stumpf Vote: Roll Call

Ebersohl	Absent	Unnerstall	Yea	Oberkfell	Yea
Agne	Yea	Row	Yea	Stumpf	Yea
Niemietz	Absent	Hejna	Yea		

Motion Carried 6 To 0


Wesley J. Hoeffken, City Clerk


Kevin B. Hutchinson