

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
APRIL 22, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ebersohl called the Committee of the Whole committee 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: Committee Members - Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Alderman Huch.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Administrator James Morani, Accounting Manager and Acting City Treasurer Linda Sharp, Director of Community Development Scott Dunakey, EMS Chief Kim Lamprecht, Chief of Police Jerry Paul, and Deputy Clerk Kelly Mathews.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the April 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of the Executive Session Minutes from the April 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (3) Budnick Converting Bond Issue; (4) Songs4Soldiers; (5) Agreement with Historic Main Street Columbia Association; (6) City Treasurer Position; (7) Vacation Accrual for Non-Management New Hires Not Covered by Collective Bargaining Agreements; (8) Other Items to be Considered; (9) Public Comments; and (10) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 8, 2019 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, April 8, 2019. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens voted yea.

MOTION CARRIED.

III. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 8, 2019 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to approve the Executive Session minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council

of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, April 8, 2019. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. BUDNICK CONVERTING BOND ISSUE

Sean Flynn with Gilmore & Bell addressed the Committee regarding the Budnick Converting bond issue. Mr. Flynn is serving as the City's bond counsel on this transaction. The City is being asked to approve a resolution for a \$6.5 million bond for Budnick Converting. The bond will be a 15-year loan at 4.5% interest. Regions Bank will purchase the bond and Budnick Converting will be the only party liable. There will be a public approval process in order for the bond to be tax exempt, which is why the City is being asked to adopt the resolution issuing the bond. There is a public hearing scheduled for May 6 before the City Council meeting.

V. SONGS4SOLDIERS

Dustin Row updated the Committee on the 2019 Songs4Soldiers benefit concert held September 6 and 7 at Bolm-Schuhkraft Park. Mr. Row explained there will be a few changes made this year. The changes include KSHE Radio asking for the rock show to be on Friday, there will be a rock music headliner for Friday, and the Saturday show will feature a country music headliner.

Both Chairman Ebersohl and Alderman Niemietz stated they would like the baseball field be put back in original condition within 30 days including the re-installation of any fences. Alderman Niemietz also asked Mr. Row if the concert will be over at 11:00 p.m. and stated she's in favor of the concert being over closer to 10:30 p.m. Mr. Row explained last call for alcohol and the music cut off is 10:45 p.m.

VI. AGREEMENT WITH HISTORIC MAIN STREET COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

City Administrator James Morani reported on the City's agreement with Historic Main Street Columbia Association. Mr. Morani stated changes made to the agreement include removing the section that required the City to designate a certain amount of hours per week to help manage HMSCA, the City will give HMSCA a \$10,000 contribution, and HMSCA will initiate a façade improvement program with one-time funding provided by the City. Mr. Morani also stated the City is still required to provide HMSCA office space and they are working on finding them a permanent location.

VII. CITY TREASURER POSITION

Accounting Manager and Acting City Treasurer Linda Sharp and City Administrator James Morani updated the Committee on the status of the City Treasurer position. Ms. Sharp presented the Committee a memo outlining what to expect with her role with the City. Ms. Sharp plans to retire as the Accounting Manager at the end of 2019 and would like to transition into the role of City Treasurer. Mr. Morani explained the City could start the hiring process in the fall and the new accounting manager could start November 1 to provide some overlap. Ms. Sharp stated she could add duties to the Treasurer's position that were being done by the Accounting Manager, which includes the statement of funds,

police pension reporting, ACA reporting, and IDES reporting. Ms. Sharp stated she would be available to be a back up for the Accounting Manager and Accounting Specialist. Ms. Sharp, Mr. Morani, and the auditors agree that having a separate individual serving as City Treasurer adds a level of internal control.

VIII. VACATION ACCRUAL FOR NON-MANAGEMENT NEW HIRES NOT COVERED BY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

City Administrator James Morani recommended to the Committee that new employees start accruing vacation time as they work starting after their first paycheck. He specifically is requesting this for non-management employees who are not covered by collective bargaining agreements. Currently, these employees who are hired must wait a full year before they earn one week of vacation. He proposes to allow these new hires to start accruing one week during the first year of employment. This is one way to help with recruitment of open positions.

Mr. Morani asked the Committee if there were any objections to have these type of employees start accruing vacation immediately. There was none.

IX. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

Chief of Police Jerry Paul addressed the Committee regarding the Sheriff of St. Clair County, Richard Watson, receiving a grant for the auto theft task force. Sheriff Watson asked the police department to participate. The grant fully covers the officer's salary, benefits, pension, vehicle, and operating costs. Chief Paul will present the Committee an MOU to move forward with this program.

Alderman Niemietz stated she received a call from a resident in Ward 4. The resident was upset because they received a high grass notice. Alderman Niemietz stated the City needs to be considerate of the weather and elderly residents before the notice gets posted.

Alderman Martens questioned where the City is on bidding out materials and services. Mr. Morani explained he talked to the Mayor and department heads regarding this matter. Mr. Morani will distribute a list prior to his departure.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)

Chairman Ebersohl inquired if there was a need to go into Executive Session. There was none.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Reis to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, April 22, 2019 at 7:38 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl

and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens voted yea.
MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by:



Chairman Gene Ebersohl
Committee of the Whole



Kelly Mathews, Deputy Clerk