

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 9, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

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**1. 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, Huch, and Holtkamp. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Aldermen Roessler, Martens, and Riddle.

Quorum present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Administrator Doug Brimm, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Accounting Manager/Treasurer Linda Sharp, City Engineer Chris Smith, Chief of Police Jerry Paul, Deputy Chief of Police Jason Donjon, EMS Chief Kim Lamprecht, and Community Relations and Tourism Coordinator Sue Spargo.

**2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. Approval of Minutes from the November 12, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**Motion:**

It was moved by Alderman Huch 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 Tuesday, November 12, 2019. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, and Holtkamp voted aye. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Approval of Minutes from the November 25, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**Motion:**

It was moved by Alderman Holtkamp 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, November 25, 2019. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, and Holtkamp vote aye. **Motion Carried.**

**5. Discussion of an Ordinance Amending the City Code Relating to the Use of Cannabis**

City Administrator Doug Brimm explained the Cannabis Regulation and Taxation Act (CRTA) allows Municipalities to impose civil, criminal, or other penalties for violations of provisions relating to the use and possession of cannabis.

Mr. Brimm presented the Committee a draft ordinance amending the City Code to allow City personnel to issue City ordinance violations for possession of cannabis exceeding the limits imposed by the CRTA. This ordinance prohibits the use of cannabis in any public place, around persons under the age of 21, while in or operating a motor vehicle, or in a private residence licensed as a day care.

This ordinance will be presented at the December 16, 2019 City Council meeting for consideration.

**6. Quarry Road – Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code**

City Engineer Chris Smith explained a resolution will be considered at the December 16, 2019 City Council meeting to pay for the preliminary engineering services for the Quarry Road – Phase 2 project. Mr. Smith explained the preliminary engineering services are \$65,000 and the City is able to use MFT funds due to having increased monthly increments.

**7. Discussion of an Ordinance Accepting Permanent Shared Use Path Easement from Community Unit District #4**

City Engineer Chris Smith explained part of the proposed shared use trail for the Bolm-Schuhkraft Connector project crossed property owned by Community Unit District #4. The district has granted a 30 foot wide Permanent Shared Use Path easement for the construction and use of the trail. Mr. Smith stated an ordinance is needed to accept the permanent easement the school donated to the City.

This ordinance will be presented at the December 16, 2019 City Council meeting for consideration.

**8. Discussion of an Ordinance Accepting Quit Claim Deed from Evangelical St. Paul Cemetery**

City Engineer Chris Smith reported part of the proposed Bolm-Schuhkraft Connector Trail crossed property owned by the Evangelical St. Paul Cemetery. Mr. Smith stated an ordinance is needed to accept the quit claim deed.

This ordinance will be presented at the December 16, 2019 City Council meeting for consideration.

**9. Discussion of an Ordinance Accepting Quit Claim Deed from David and Carolyn Ward**

City Engineer Chris Smith explained right-of-way is needed to construct the sidewalk at the intersection of Main Street and Monroe Street as part of the

proposed Bolm-Schuhkraft Connector Trail. Mr. Smith stated an ordinance is needed to accept the quit claim deed.

This ordinance will be presented at the December 16, 2019 City Council meeting for consideration.

**10. Discussion of Electronic Message Center/Special Event Policies**

City Administrator Doug Brimm started the discussion of electronic message center/special event policies. Mr. Brimm stated based on the comments made at the December 2, 2019 Council Meeting, he felt a review of the purpose of the City's sign located at the DOPW property was needed.

Mr. Brimm assured the Committee the intention of the sign located at the DOPW property is for City use only to provide information in a timely manner. Information allowed to be displayed on the sign includes City news, City community events, program services, public safety emergency preparedness, or anything with a direct tie to the City. Mr. Brimm explained that the City does not allow off premise signage, however the City allows the middle school's sign to display all Community Unit District #4 activities.

Alderman Huch said he thought the sign would eliminate banners being in the City and allow them to be displayed on the sign.

Community Relations & Tourism Coordinator Sue Spargo explained the idea for the sign came when the City wanted to advertise for the POP-Up shop and the original location for the sign was there. Ms. Spargo stated since it's "quite a job" to advertise for everyone, the Community Development Department decided to have guidelines established for the sign.

City Clerk Wes Hoeffken expressed his opinion on the sign. Clerk Hoeffken sees two flaws in the current guidelines, which are; not for profits not allowed advertising on the sign unless they have a special event permit and that a restaurant closes street multiple times a year and gets advertisement on the sign.

Mayor Hutchinson agreed with Alderman Huch and questioned if the City should come up with ways to expand the use of the sign to better serve the community but keep it clean and nice.

Ms. Spargo suggested the City put a limit on how many special events one applicant can have.

Alderman Niemietz stated on the City's website there are 44 business listings, and the City can't feasibly advertise for every business on the sign located at DOPW. Alderman Niemietz doesn't believe the sign is big enough to be a services, restaurant, and retail sign board since it doesn't have that many lines on it. Alderman Niemietz explained that if businesses purchased advertising, the

City wouldn't be able to post important announcements. Alderman Niemietz noted the City has business organizations and with City assistance there could be a sign for that purpose.

Mr. Brimm said the City has thought about offering advertising in the Columbia Quarterly, but doesn't quite think it would be appropriate.

Mayor Hutchinson suggested Mr. Dunakey integrate way to address community business information signage into the sign code. Mayor Hutchinson stated the sign would not look like a billboard and could be handled by the City or Chamber. Mayor Hutchinson explained there's enough City property along Route 3 that the City could most likely find a location for such a sign.

**11. Other Items to be Considered**

City Administrator Doug Brimm stated a resolution will be presented at the December 16, 2019 City Council meeting authorizing the Mayor to sign a Community Development Block Grant application for the expansion of the 11 South development.

**12. Closed Session**

a. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body

Chairman Ebersohl informed the Committee of the Whole that he would entertain a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp, to direct Chairman Ebersohl to go into Closed Session at 7:29 P.M. to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, and Holtkamp voted aye. **Motion Carried.**

**Motion:**

It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Huch, to return to Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole at 7:36 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, and Holtkamp voted aye. **Motion Carried.**

Upon return to Regular Session, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, Holtkamp, and Mayor Hutchinson were present.

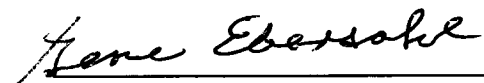
No action was taken as a result of the Closed Session.

13. **Adjournment**

**Motion:**

It was moved by Alderman Huch and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:36 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, and Holtkamp voted aye. **Motion Carried.**

Minutes written by:

  
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Chairman Gene Ebersohl  
Committee of the Whole

  
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Kelly Mathews, Deputy Clerk