MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ebersohl called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:02 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp and Mayor Hutchinson.

Absent: Alderman Agne.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Engineer Ron Williams (left at 8:08 p.m.), Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandra Garmer.

Guests Present: None.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of (1) receiving an update on vacating an undeveloped portion of Thomas Street; (2) discussing a Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) application; (3) discussing a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) project application; and (4) any other items to be considered or discussed.

II. UPDATE ON VACATING AN UNDEVELOPED PORTION OF THOMAS STREET

Chairman Ebersohl opened the meeting and called upon City Engineer Ron Williams to address the Committee Members on this issue. Williams reviewed his Memo of January 24th (Subject: Vacation of Thomas Street), which had previously been distributed to the Committee Members, referencing the September 23, 2013 committee meeting (when this issue was initially discussed) – he indicated that attorney Tom Adams (i) had the proposed vacated parcel surveyed; (ii) submitted a proposed ordinance for the property to be vacated; and (iii) submitted a copy of a plat of "Columbia Hills Subdivision" (Env. 85-A) showing the portion of Thomas Street to be vacated pursuant to the proposed ordinance described in (ii). Ron stated the ordinance (and Illinois law) require that a public hearing be conducted to allow the proposed Thomas Street property to be vacated, and that a fifteen (15) day notice of such hearing be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city (to notify the general public of the hearing and its purpose) – he suggested that the public hearing be set at the February 3rd council meeting and (in order to meet any publication deadlines) that it be held immediately prior to the March 3rd

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council meeting. During Ron's presentation, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions – it was the consensus of the Committee Members that the necessary steps be taken for the city council to consider vacating a portion of Thomas Street as discussed at this meeting (reserving a permanent easement for utility purposes), and as described in the proposed ordinance submitted by attorney Tom Adams (see (ii) above).

III.   **TRANSPORATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (TIP) APPLICATION – SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM – SUBALLOCATED (STP-S) PROJECT AND CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CMAQ) PROJECT DISCUSSION**

City Engineer Ron Williams reviewed his Memo of January 24th (Subject: Possible STP-S and CMAQ Projects), which had previously been distributed to the Committee Members, informing the Committee of the availability of funds through the STP-S and CMAQ programs. His review consisted of a history of past funding, as well as the city's required match and other expenses to be paid (i.e., project engineering expenses) if one or more projects are awarded to the city.

STP-S Projects Recommended for Consideration
In his Memo, Ron presented two (2) STP-S projects for consideration: (1) the grinding, repair and overlay of South Main St. from Madison to IL Route 3 – total project cost estimated to be $600,000 with the city's portion approximating $150,000 - $200,000; and (2) completion of another section of the Main Street Streetscape project – total project cost also estimated to be $600,000 with the city's portion approximating $150,000 - $200,000.

A brief discussion was then held wherein all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions – City Administrator Hudzik reminded the Committee Members that neither the city's MFT Fund nor its Capital Development Fund were projected to have funds available to be used as the city's match on the STP-S projects presented – since the funding would not be needed for several years, he indicated the city would have to identify a source of funding if an application is to be submitted and it is awarded to the city. A discussion then took place wherein possible sources of funding were discussed – it was the consensus of the Committee Members that an STP-S application be submitted for the Main Street Streetscape project (prior to the March 13th deadline).

CMAQ Projects Recommended for Consideration
Williams then recommended that the Committee consider applying for CMAQ funding for one or more projects pertaining to the city's Off-Road Bicycling/Walking Trails – he then distributed a document containing estimated costs for building a bicycle/walking trail (a) from Main Street to the New Middle School & Bolm-Schuhkraft Park via Monroe Street (total estimated cost = $144,275); and (b) from Eagleview Elementary School to the New Middle School & Bolm-Schuhkraft Park via St. Paul Street (total estimated cost = $189,500) – he indicated the city's match would be 20% of the total CMAQ Project costs. Ron informed the Committee Members that Community and

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Economic Development Director Paul Ellis is currently in the process of submitting a Safe Routes to Schools grant application for the Main Street via Monroe Street trail (described in (a)) and suggested the city consider submitting a CMAQ application for the St. Paul Street trail. During Ron's presentation, a brief discussion was held pertaining to possible CMAQ projects (during which Hudzik again reminded the Committee Members that a source of funding would need to be identified to fund any of the trail projects) – during the discussion of possible CMAQ projects and funding sources, it was the consensus of the Committee Members that CMAQ applications be submitted for two projects: (1) the St. Paul Street trail (described in (b)); and (2) the old railroad Right-of-Way trail from Cherry Street to Ferkel (total cost estimated to be $50,000) prior to the March 13th deadline.

IV.   EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to receive an update on and discuss collective bargaining negotiations and employee wages.

MOTION – EXECUTIVE SESSION
It was moved by Alderman Roessler and seconded by Alderman Reis to go into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. to receive an update on and discuss collective bargaining negotiations and employee wages. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION – REGULAR SESSION
It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:29 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, Mayor Hutchinson and the following Committee Members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp.

Chairman Ebersohl asked if there was any action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting. There was none.

V.   OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED
None.

VI.   ADJOURNMENT
MOTION:
It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, January 27, 2014 at 8:30 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl

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and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Gene Ebersohl

GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes taken by:

Sandra Garmer

SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

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