

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
JULY 13, 2015 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 7:00 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Committee Members - Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Alderman Hutch.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: Mr. Pete Shemetulskis, SPHR of MRCT.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the June 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (2) Approval of Executive Session Minutes from the June 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (3) Health Reimbursement Arrangement; (4) Cafeteria Plan/Flexible Spending Account; (5) Noise Ordinance; (6) Citizen Comments (7) Other items to be considered; and (8) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 22, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING**

The minutes of the June 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES – JUNE 22, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Executive Session minutes of the June 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Martens, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the June 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT

City Administrator James Morani turned the meeting over to Mr. Pete Shemetulskis of MRCT to explain the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). Mr. Shemetulskis reviewed with the committee the costs and monthly fees associated with the company, Quality Benefits, which would be the third-party administrator for the city's HRA. Mr. Morani added that the HRA will be addressing a deficiency in the new Blue Cross/Blue Shield employee health insurance plan regarding urgent care visits. Mr. Morani also said that the most an employee may be reimbursed will be \$350.00 and Alderman Roessler stated the number of employees that will probably use this will be fractional. Mr. Morani added that there may not be too many employees that will have a need for the HRA. It was noted that there may not be a need for the HRA in the future if the City's carrier offers a different plan design with an urgent care co-pay. Mayor Hutchinson suggested that the \$6.50 employee participant fee be passed on to the employee each month. Mr. Morani responded that he believes the small administration fee is money well spent since it will deter employees from using emergency room services, which in turn would result in higher plan costs for the City.

It was the consensus of the committee that Mr. Morani moves forward with implementing the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), which will be retroactive to July 1, 2015.

V. CAFETERIA PLAN/FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT

City Administrator James Morani discussed with the committee the possibility of establishing a Cafeteria Plan/Flexible Spending Account for employees effective January 1, 2016. Mr. Morani said that an undesirable consequence of health insurance premiums decreasing is that employees' taxable income increases. Mr. Morani would like to explore a cafeteria plan/flexible spending account for the employees to help offset this affect as well as further enhance the plan. Mr. Shemetulskis added that the cafeteria plan/flexible spending account is best implemented on January 1 and not in the middle of the year. He also said that whatever the employee saves and does not use, the employee loses it. But that also works both ways since the City can lose money if the employee

were to separate from the City and he/she had already met his/her annual allotment. Mr. Morani noted the high cost of child care and said it is an eligible expense under an FSA plan.

The committee was in agreement that Mr. Morani move ahead with the proposed Cafeteria Plan/Flexible Spending Account.

VI. NOISE ORDINANCE

City Administrator James Morani addressed the committee on the proposed noise ordinance. He reviewed the proposed noise ordinance and the current noise nuisance ordinance which shows a noise time limit from 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. There seemed to be confusion among the committee members on the proposed ordinance, the current nuisance ordinance with the time limit and how they would work together. Alderman Agne asked about listing each noise item and City Attorney Terry Bruckert stated the proposed noise ordinance should be made simple; you do not want to list each and every type of noise. There was also a discussion about whether or not to keep the time limit in the proposed ordinance. All in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments and offer opinions.

Per the recommendation of City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Mr. Bruckert will revise the proposed noise ordinance including the time limit and will have it ready for review at the next committee meeting.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

There were no other items to be considered.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(C)

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) collective bargaining and personnel.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Holtkamp to go into Executive Session at 7:40 P.M. to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) collective bargaining and personnel. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

X. REGULAR SESSION

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Martens to return to the regular session of the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:54 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the regular session of the Committee of the Whole meeting, the following committee members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp, Martens and Mayor Hutchinson.

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.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Martens to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, July 13, 2015 at 8:55 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:

Gene Ebersohl
GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Donna Mehaffey
DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk