

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
AUGUST 10, 2015 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: Chairman Ebersohl and Committee Members - Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, City Labor Attorney Tom Berry, Chief of Police & EMS Director Joseph Edwards, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens, Building Inspector Justin Osterhage, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Labor Council Mark Rusillo, Police Officers John Simon, Zachary Hopkins, Jason Donjon, and Jared Reddick with family members, and DOPW employee Cole Dreher,

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1), (2), and (11); (2) Approval of Minutes from the July 27, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting; (3) Property Maintenance at City Facilities; (4) Senior Service Programs at City Hall; (5) Athletic Field Usage Fees; (6) Sign Code – Electronic Message Boards; (7) Refuse Collection and Recycling; (8) Citizen Comments; and (9) Other items to be considered.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(C) (11)

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11) for pending litigation.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Huch to go into Executive Session at 7:01 P.M. to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (11) for pending litigation. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea.

MOTION CARRIED.

III. REGULAR SESSION

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to return to the regular session of the Committee of the Whole committee meeting at 7:46 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the regular session of the Committee of the Whole committee meeting, the following committee members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, 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 committee meeting. There was none.

IV. RECESS

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Reis to recess the Committee of the Whole committee meeting at 7:47 P.M. to conduct the Ambulance, Radio Communication and Dispatch committee meeting and the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation committee meeting. Upon Roll Call Vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

V. RECONVENE

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Holtkamp and seconded by Alderman Agne to reconvene the Committee of the Whole committee meeting on August 10, 2015 at 8:48 P.M. Upon Roll Call Vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Reis voted yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 27, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The minutes of the July 27, 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 minutes of the July 27, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. Alderman Huch abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VII.**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AT CITY FACILITIES**

Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens reviewed with the Committee photos of City property behind the Public Safety Complex. Photos of the area showed areas of trees, but all open grass was mowed and maintained. It was noted there was a ditch problem in the area on one of the photos and the City will repair it. Chairman Ebersohl stated that the area used to be a pasture when Luhr Brothers owned the property and that he has received four or five complaints from residents along Crestview Drive. It was also added that it has been this way with the tree grove areas since 1993 when FEMA trailers were located there. City Attorney Terry Bruckert stated that the City is not obligated to do anything with the area and is legally not a nuisance. Mayor Hutchinson added that the Police Department uses the area.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the property is maintained by the City and that is should be left as is. Alderman Niemietz stated that the City needs to know the uses for the area and how it will be used in the future.

VIII.**SENIOR SERVICE PROGRAMS AT CITY HALL**

Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis provided an update to the Committee on the Senior Service Programs at City Hall. Mr. Ellis reported that Western Egyptian has not closed and has not fired any of the employees, but the employees are furloughed. Mr. Ellis also reported that the City was not notified by Western Egyptian about the closing of the Senior Service Programs at City Hall and added that the City needs a contract with them. Mr. Ellis also said that an organization, the House of Neighborly Service, with local volunteer, Ms. Katherine Campbell, has been obtaining food from all over the County for the meals for the seniors while Western Egyptian is closed. Mr. Ellis also reported that the House of Neighborly Service and Western Egyptian had a disagreement, but has since worked it out. Mr. Ellis also reported that the funding from the State of Illinois for Western Egyptian may resume at the end of this month. The House of Neighborly Service has also been collecting money for home delivery and pick up for a broader service as not all seniors were getting home delivery due to a waiting list with Western Egyptian. Mayor Hutchinson asked Accounting Manager Linda Sharp if the City has paid Western Egyptian yet for the money budgeted for the Senior Center and Mrs. Sharp said the City has not. Mr. Ellis also added that the City does not have to have Western Egyptian at City Hall or at the Oak Street building. It was noted that the House of Neighborly Service has not been in service very long and that they are volunteers with church groups from Columbia and Waterloo.

Mr. Ellis also reported that he will be getting a bid for the Oak Street building renovation in three (3) weeks.

IX.**ATHLETIC FIELD USAGE FEES**

City Administrator James Morani reviewed the proposed Athletic Field Usage Fees as recommended by the Columbia Khouri League (CKL) and Columbia Athletic Association

(CAA). Mr. Morani pointed out that the City assess the fees for the field usage and lights, but that the CKL and CAA are collecting the fees and they will be applied towards park and lighting expenses incurred by the organizations per the intergovernmental agreement. Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens reported that the City currently pays for the electricity of the lights but that we are supposed to be billing CAA. It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the recommended athletic field usage fees.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to recommend to the City Council the Athletic Field Usage Fees for the Columbia American Legion Memorial Park ball fields. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

X. SIGN CODE – ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS

City Administrator James Morani reported to the Committee that the Art on the Bluffs organization would like to rent an electronic message board sign for their upcoming event. Quality Rental at 1331 Frontage Road had an electronic sign displayed at their business and was told to remove it as it was not allowed. Mr. Morani stated that the organization, Art on the Bluffs, asked if the City's Sign Code could be changed to allow the electronic message board signs since they would like to use one for their upcoming event on September 19. Building Inspector Justin Osterhage distributed pictures of the Quality Rental electronic message board as well as other permanent electronic signage around the area. Mr. Morani asked the Committee if the City should allow it only at a special event and make it part of the special event application. Alderman James Agne explained to the Committee signage in other areas and that he is against electronic signs. He also reviewed with the Committee his handout entitled "Revitalizing Aggressively Ugly Commercial Corridors". Alderman Agne also quoted from the IML Review magazine that "Many cities do not realize they have ugly commercial areas until it is too late". It was also discussed by the Committee if electronic message boards should be allowed with the special event application; where will they be placed as they cannot be placed on State or City right-of-way; could possibly be placed on private property; limit one (1) electronic message board per year with the special event; need City Council approval; how long would the electronic message boards be up; some businesses have several special events per year; possibly charge \$250.00 for each electronic message board; be part of the special event process with one (1) sign per year and on site; and if made part of special event application, the City can control it. Building Inspector Justin Osterhage added that the Songs 4 Soldiers organization would also like to have electronic message boards as well for their upcoming event on September 12.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee for City Attorney Terry Bruckert, City Administrator James Morani and Building Inspector Justin Osterhage conduct a meeting to come up with some recommendations for electronic message boards to discuss at the next committee meeting.

Chairman Ebersohl commented on all of the yard sale signage at the north end of the City at the gas station and that some residents do not remove the signage when the sale is over. Alderman Agne also commented on all of the sandwich board signs on the City sidewalks in Columbia.

XI. REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

City Administrator James Morani made the Committee aware that the City's yard waste and trash collection contract is up at the end of this year. Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens added that the leaf and limb removal contracts will be up at the end of this year as well.

It was the consensus of the Committee for Mr. Morani to start the process to prepare RFPs for the City's yard waste and trash collection contract and the leaf and limb contracts.

XII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

XIII. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

Chairman Ebersohl asked Mr. Morani about the status of the City of Columbia proposed annexations. Mr. Morani stated that Mr. Jim Vogt, Engineer with Heneghan and Associates, has been working on several of the proposed annexations.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(C) (1) AND (2)

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) and (2) for Collective Bargaining and Personnel.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Roessler to go into Executive Session at 10:10 P.M. to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (1) and (2) for Collective Bargaining and Personnel. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

XV. 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 committee meeting at 10:38 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the regular session of the Committee of the Whole committee meeting, the following committee members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, 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 committee meeting. There was none.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Roessler 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, August 10, 2015 at 10:39 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:

Gene Ebersohl

GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Donna Meaffey

DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE AMBULANCE, RADIO COMMUNICATION AND
DISPATCH COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015 IN THE
COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Reis called the Ambulance, Radio Communication and Dispatch Committee Meeting of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:47 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Reis and Aldermen Niemietz, Huch and Martens.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Roessler, and Holtkamp.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Interim EMS Chief Shannon Bound, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens, Building Inspector Justin Osterhage, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: None.

Chairman Reis stated the meeting was called to discuss: 1) EMS Billing Program.

II. EMS BILLING PROGRAM

Chairman Reis turned the meeting over to Interim EMS Chief Shannon Bound. Ms. Bound presented to the committee a new billing system, Andres Medical Billing, Ltd. located in northern Illinois. City Administrator James Morani distributed a handout to the committee showing fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2015 fee receipts and ambulance calls. The proposed contract would be for one (1) year. Ms. Bound explained the reasons why the current ambulance billing can no longer be done in house. Ms. Bound stated she does not have the time to focus on the billing, doesn't have the time to do the coding and the diagnosis coding is changing on the billing from 14,000 diagnosis codes to 69,000 diagnosis codes (effective October 1). The diagnosis codes have to be more specific. Ms. Bound reviewed with the Committee all of the companies she contacted and that Adres Medical Billing, Ltd. only keeps 5% of what they collect. There is no start up fee and no postage fees with them as well. Ms. Bound stated that the City's previous billing

company, Medi-Claims, was charging 11% of all receivables. The Monroe County Ambulance Service just started using this company, the City of Troy has been using them for one year, and the City of Maryville has been using them for many years. Ms. Bound also explained the procedure beginning with an ambulance call to the billing for the ambulance call. She also explained the difference between calls and runs, when they bill and don't bill, reviewed Medicare and Medicaid calls and that the State of Illinois is behind 51 weeks for payments. It was noted that Medicare needs at least 45 days notice prior to the City outsourcing its billing/collection.

All present had the opportunity to ask questions, make comments and offer their opinions. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to recommend to the City Council the one (1) year agreement with Andres Medical Billing, Ltd.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Huch to recommend to the City Council to enter into an agreement with Andres Medical Billing, Ltd. for one (1) year for the Columbia EMS billing as recommended by Interim EMS Chief Shannon Bound. Upon roll call vote, Chairman Reis and Aldermen Niemietz, Huch and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Huch to adjourn the Ambulance, Radio Communication and Dispatch Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia held Monday, August 10, 2015 at 8:10 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Reis and Aldermen Niemietz, Huch and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**


STEVEN D. REIS, Chairman

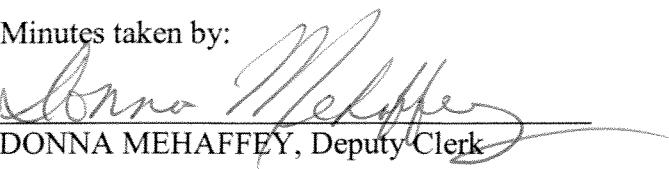
AMBULANCE, RADIO COMMUNICATION AND DISPATCH COMMITTEE


Committee Member


Committee Member


Committee Member

Minutes taken by:


DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015 IN THE COUNCIL
ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Niemietz called the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee Meeting of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 8:10 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne and Martens.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Roessler, Huch, Reis and Holtkamp.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: None.

Chairman Niemietz stated the meeting was called to discuss: 1) Bolm-Schuhkraft Tennis Courts.

II. BOLM-SCHUHKRAFT TENNIS COURTS

Interim Director of Public Works Tim Ahrens led the discussion for the Bolm-Schuhkraft Tennis Courts. Mr. Ahrens explained the proposal from McConnell & Associates for the work to be completed on the two tennis courts in the park that are in need of new surfacing. The proposal showed two different types of work for the courts.

Mr. Ahrens added that he has spoken to a representative of Premier Court. Premier Court is the company that installed the surface for the other two tennis courts which are in question. Several City residents that play competitive tennis dislike the Premier Court surface tennis courts because of the surface bounce. Mr. Ahrens provided a letter to the committee from the Premier Court representative. Mr. Ahrens said the company backs their playing surface and that the problem must be the City's underlying surface on the

courts. Also, it was noted that in order for the Premier Court warranty to be active, the courts have to be re-sealed every five (5) years.

The cost for the resurfacing the other two courts from McConnell and Associates is \$19,830.00 with no warranty. The option for the MAC Geotextile Fabric Repair System with a two (2) year warranty costs an additional \$10,710.00.

There was a discussion since the City had already contracted with McConnell and Associates earlier this year for \$76,000.00; that if the City could change the contract amount down to \$30,540.00. Mr. Ahrens stated the company said they would be completely satisfied to go with a new proposal even though it is a lesser amount. City Attorney Terry Bruckert and the Committee were in agreement with the new amount as long as the company, McConnell and Associates, are acceptable with it.

It was the consensus of the committee to move forward with the new proposal from McConnell and Associates for \$19,830.00 for the two (2) tennis courts resurfacing plus \$10,710.00 for the MAC Geotextile Fabric Repair System – two (2) year warranty - for a total price of \$30,540.00. There was also a discussion on whether or not to do the resurfacing now or to wait. The payment will be made from the bond issue (\$40,000.00 in bond issue for this project) and Accounting Manager Linda Sharp said the City would have time to complete the project as the City has three (3) years to complete from the bond issue. It was also the consensus of the committee to complete the work now and not wait. It was also mentioned that the other two (2) courts (Premier Court) will be left as is.

Alderman Niemietz added that there needs to be a separate entrance to the basketball courts at Bolm-Schuhkraft Park. Presently, there is only one entrance for the tennis courts and basketball courts and if using the basketball courts, you have to walk through the tennis courts area. Alderman Niemietz also said there should be a sign that indicates the tennis courts are for tennis playing only. Mr. Ahrens said he will install a separate gate for the basketball courts and that there should be enough funds for the work.

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl to adjourn the Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia held Monday, August 10, 2015 at 8:47 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



MARY ELLEN NIEMIETZ, Chairman
PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Sonya Eberle
Committee Member
James H. Agne
Committee Member
K. Mart
Committee Member

Minutes taken by:

Donna Meaffey
DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk