

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 28, 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 7:04 P.M.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Committee Members - Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Reis, and Martens.

Absent: Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Roessler, Huch and Holtkamp.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Building Inspector Justin Osterhage, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, City Engineer Christopher Smith, Chief of Police and EMS Director Joseph Edwards and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: Mr. Tim Scheibe of Reliable Sanitation Service, Inc. (Left the meeting at 7:25 P.M.)

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of Minutes from the September 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting; (2) Refuse and Recycling Contract; (3) Water Meters and Service Connections for Multiple Unit Housing; (4) Water/Sewer Recoulement Procedures; (5) Route 3 Traffic Safety; (6) Citizen Comments; (7) Other items to be considered; and (8) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The minutes of the September 14, 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 September 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Reis, and Martens voted yea.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **III. REFUSE AND RECYCLING CONTRACT**

City Administrator James Morani updated the committee on the refuse and recycling contract. Mr. Morani added that he was originally going in the direction of an RFP (Request for Proposals), but now since Mr. Tim Scheibe with Reliable Sanitation Service, Inc. provided such a fair proposal, (\$0.15 lower than our current rate of \$13.57 per month for the first year of the contract), the RFP process may not be a good use of the City's time and resources. Since Mr. Scheibe presented his proposal at a public meeting, Mr. Morani discussed their price with another vendor and that vendor said Reliable's price was very good. Mr. Morani then reviewed with the committee two (2) different options for landscape/leaf waste collection proposed by Mr. Scheibe. The first option was for Reliable Sanitation collecting unlimited brown recyclable landscape bags from each resident on a weekly basis for the months of March through October for an additional cost to the residents of \$0.88 per month. The second option was for Reliable Sanitation collecting unlimited brown recyclable landscape bags of leaves for approximately six (6) weeks (Last week of October through the first week of December) at a rate of \$126.00 per hour. It was noted that removing the leaf bags from the residents' property would be completed much faster than vacuuming the leaves thus saving the City money. However, there was no consensus to move forward with the leaf bag proposal.

All were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Alderman Niemietz mentioned her ward is for the vacuuming of the leaves as previously done. Alderman Niemietz added that information on the mulching of leaves should be placed in the quarterly newsletter.

Mr. Morani said no decision would be made tonight. Mr. Morani also said for the committee to review the proposal for the optional landscape/leaf waste collection, but he would have a final proposal for the next committee meeting.

### **IV. WATER METERS AND SERVICE CONNECTIONS FOR MULTIPLE UNIT HOUSING**

Building Inspector Justin Osterhage addressed the committee on the water meters and service connections for multiple unit housing. Mr. Osterhage reviewed other city's charges for water meters and service connections for multiple units housing which included the City of Columbia, City of Waterloo and the Village of Glen Carbon. Mr. Osterhage informed the committee that the fee code needs to be changed in order to have water meters at each individual building. Mr. Morani added that the City is not so concerned about large apartment complexes like the Columbia Lakes Apartment Complex as they have a management company that takes care of paying for the rental property inspections for the complex. Mr. Morani said this would be more for new duplexes, triplexes, etc.; the current duplexes, triplexes, etc. cannot be forced into compliance. Alderman Agne stated that it would be much easier to collect one water bill versus many individual water bills. Mr. Morani also said that for aesthetic purposes, you would not want eight (8) water meter pits outside an apartment building. Mr. Morani said that they are looking for a margin number

for the number of meters for an apartment building. Mr. Osterhage said it should be between four (4) units but not more than eight (8) units per multiple units housing.

Staff will be bringing this item back to one more committee meeting. It was the consensus of the committee to go with eight (8) units for one (1) building with one (1) water meter. City Attorney Terry Bruckert said the only way current duplexes, triplexes, etc. could have the number of the water meters changed is if there is a major renovation to the building or a change in the use of the building.

#### **V. WATER/SEWER RECOUPMENT PROCEDURES**

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp addressed the committee on the Water and Sewer Recouptment History and Analysis paper and added that Alderman Roessler had asked her to compile the information for the water/sewer recouptment. Mrs. Sharp reviewed the water and sewer recouptment history and analysis pointing out each ordinance and date approved for the water/sewer recouptment. She stated the agreement is with D.R.D. Eckert and Company, Inc. She added that the recouptment is for the subdivisions of Briar Lakes, Gedern Estates, Franke Farms, and the Village of Wernings. Lastly, Mrs. Sharp reviewed how the water and sewer recouptment had been calculated including a calculation error that was discovered. (Thirty-one (31) developers or individual builders were paid back a total of \$22,453.68. Then the City collected \$22,453.68 in recouptment fees and kept those fees rather than remitting them to D.R.D. Eckert.) Mrs. Sharp said that the recouptment will end in four (4) more years. Alderman Niemietz mentioned that Mrs. Sharp provided a great explanation of the water and sewer recouptment history and analysis.

#### **VI. ROUTE 3 TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Mr. Morani turned the meeting over to Chief of Police Joe Edwards regarding an update on Route 3 Traffic Safety due to citizens' concerns regarding the number of traffic crashes on Route 3 with fatalities. Mr. Morani distributed a Columbia Police Department Traffic Safety power point from 2009 to the members.

Chief Edwards reviewed with the committee the number of studies completed at Main Street and Route 3, plus other intersections with the number of vehicles passing thru the City of Columbia each day. Traffic crashes for the year average 236. He added that the traffic signals at Bottom Avenue were changed from a yield left turn to an arrow left turn only due to visibility problems. He added that the signal at Eagle Drive at Route 3 was also changed. Chief Edwards also said the drivers of the two (2) fatal crashes at Eagle Drive and at South Main Street were charged with reckless homicide and that the latest one at Veterans Parkway and Route 3 is still ongoing. He stated that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) changed traffic "accidents" to "crashes" since they are not considered accidental and are the vehicle operators doing something incorrect. Chief Edwards stated he encourages his officers to write warning tickets. The Chief has also looked into the red light cameras, but said that state statutes have prohibited them in Monroe County. City Attorney Terry Bruckert added that Home Rule cities can have the red light cameras, but that is likely going

away. Mr. Morani will get more research from City Attorney Bruckert on the red light cameras. Mr. Morani also said that the City has to find other ways to lower the vehicle speed on Route 3 as IDOT controls the speed limits on state highways. (It is currently 45 MPH.)

Alderman Martens mentioned the large trucks running red lights at the South Main and Route 3 intersection. Alderman Ebersohl pointed out the short timing of the stop light at Route 3 and Veterans Parkway traveling to the Columbia Centre strip mall. He noted the light is very short and if there are more than three (3) vehicles in line, he moves to the left hand turn lane and travels on Route 3 to Valmeyer Road to get into the Columbia Centre strip mall.

Mr. Morani informed the committee to encourage residents to contact Chief Edwards regarding Route 3 Traffic Safety. Chief Edwards will update the 2009 presentation with more current traffic numbers.

## **VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

## **VIII. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED**

### **A. Meeting Agenda Packets**

Mr. Morani updated the committee on the meeting agenda packets. He spoke to REJIS regarding the meeting agenda packets and it was suggested that since Windows XP is no longer supported by Microsoft on the Elected Officials' laptops, it would be cheaper to replace the laptops with tablets. Mr. Morani added that tablets are compatible with key boards and he will be getting costs together for these devices.

### **B. Monroe County Coalition For Drug-Free Communities Meeting**

Alderman Niemietz reminded the committee of the Monroe County Coalition for Drug-Free Communities meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. this Thursday, October 1 at Hope Christian Church. The speaker will be Monroe County Sheriff Neal Rolfing.

### **C. Columbia Festifall**

Alderman Martens commented on the great turnout for Columbia Festifall held at Metter Park.

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

Chairman Ebersohl informed the committee there was no need to go into Executive Session.

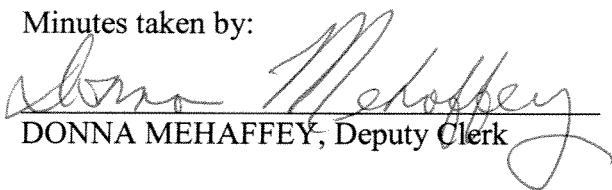
**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Agne to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, September 28, 2015 at 8:38 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Reis, and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DONNA MEHAFFEY, Deputy Clerk