

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,  
JULY 25, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

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**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 and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Alderman Holtkamp.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Engineer Chris Smith, Director of Community Development Emily Fultz, Building Official Justin Osterhage, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, Chief of Police Jerry Paul, Deputy Chief of Police Jason Donjon, and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: None.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of minutes from the July 11, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting; (2) Miller-Fiege Home Gutter Replacement Proposal; (3) Schneider Farmstead Property; (4) City Treasurer Position; (5) Bolm-Schuhkraft Park Signage; (6) Other items to be considered; (7) Citizen Comments; and (8) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 11, 2016 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The minutes of the July 11, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

Committee of the Whole Meeting – July 25, 2016  
Miller-Fiege Home Gutter Replacement Proposal - 2 pages  
Schneider Farmstead Property  
City Treasurer Appointed Position Proposed Ordinance - 2 pages  
Appointed City Treasurer Job Description  
Illinois State Statutes for Municipal Treasurer - 2 pages

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**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Agne, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, and Reis voted yea. Alderman Martens abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**III. MILLER-FIEGE HOME GUTTER REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL**

City Engineer Chris Smith updated the committee on the Miller-Fiege Home. The home will get a new HVAC system and new gutters and downspouts. Mr. Smith referenced the gutters and downspouts estimate from Gallagher Bros Construction. Mr. Smith and Building Official Justin Osterhage also explained how the gutters and downspouts would be installed. There was a discussion about what type of gutters and downspouts to install and other concerns. All in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions and present comments.

It was the consensus of the committee to move forward with the replacement of the gutters and downspouts for the front and rear of the Miller-Fiege home as discussed per the proposal from Gallagher Bros. Construction.

**IV. SCHNEIDER FARMSTEAD PROPERTY**

Mr. Osterhage reported the City owns a lot on the Schneider Farmstead property that does not have water or sewer utilities. Mr. Osterhage referenced the plat that was distributed for the meeting. Mr. Osterhage said developer Paul Friedich has contacted Monroe County about installing a private sewer system on the two lots he owns along Bluff Road next to the City's property. The County would like to see if there is a private sewer system at the location or maybe there would be a joint private sewer system between all four lots. Mr. Osterhage said another option by the County would possibly be to install a force main for all four lots and then come up to the Indian Hills subdivision, but Mr. Osterhage is not sure of the cost. Mr. Osterhage said he would like to get permission to test soil on the City's lot to see if it is feasible for a private

sewer system or for a joint system for all the other properties. Mr. Osterhage said that a soil test would cost approximately \$300.00. Mr. Osterhage pointed out that lot 11-A is the City's lot and that all four lots along Bluff Road are located inside the City. Mayor Hutchinson and Alderman Martens said all parties involved need to share the costs. Also, Mayor Hutchinson's opinion was why the City would put money into the lot if we are

likely to sell it; it doesn't make sense and does not want to use taxpayers' money to pay for it. Mr. Osterhage stated that knowing if the property is conducive to a private sewer may affect the sale price.

Alderman Niemietz inquired about the City possibly not keeping the lot and said the City spent a lot of money to do the foundation, etc. on this piece of property. Alderman Niemietz added it is a prime piece of property, a beautiful spot and is a great location. Mr. Smith said he has discussed the speed limit at that location with Monroe County Engineer Aaron Metzger and Mr. Metzger believes development at this location with more entrances would justify lowering the speed limit to 45 MPH before the bridge on Bluff Road.

Mayor Hutchinson said that no decision was needed right now and suggested to revisit the matter in a couple of weeks. The committee was in agreement with Mayor Hutchinson.

#### **V. CITY TREASURER POSITION**

Mr. Morani referenced to the committee the proposed ordinance for the Appointed City Treasurer position, the proposed job description and the Illinois State Statutes regarding the municipal treasurer. Mr. Morani noted that all duties are as required by the State Statutes, 65 ILCS 5/3.1-35-50. There was also a change on the job description under "Essential Functions". The fourth bullet point was revised to say: "Prepares monthly revenue expense reports and statement of funds". Mr. Morani added that the job description mirrors what the City currently requires of the treasurer. The proposed ordinance has to be approved by this September and the current City Treasurer will fulfill the current term which will end April 30, 2017.

It was the consensus of the committee to place the ordinance to establish the position of City Treasurer as an appointed position on the August 1 City Council agenda for consideration.

#### **VI. BOLM-SCHUHKRAFT PARK SIGNAGE**

Alderman Mary Ellen Niemietz, Chairman of the Parks Committee, reviewed with the committee the proposed historical bronze plaque for Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park. Alderman Niemietz has researched the language to place on the plaque. There was an example of the proposed language with a photo of the current Metter Park plaque.

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Alderman Niemietz wants to pursue but is not sure of the cost for the proposed plaque. She pointed out the wording listed "Columbia Middle School" in brackets because she was not sure how this should be on the plaque since the land the school is on was part of the bequeath, but not the actual school building. The location for the proposed plaque was also discussed. Mr. Morani reported the City should be able to find the money in the budget for this project. He also said he will have Community Relations and Tourism Coordinator Sue Spargo review the language for the plaque.

It was the consensus of the committee to move forward on the proposed Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial Park plaque.

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

### **A. Pay Advice for Elected Officials**

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp inquired how the elected officials would like to receive their pay advices since the City no longer delivers meeting packets to their homes. Mr. Morani said they can be distributed at the City Council or committee meetings. He also added the City may possibly go to electronic pay advices in the future.

### **B. Monroe County Economic Development Corporation Full-Time Position - 501(c)(3) Non Profit Corporation**

Alderman Ebersohl reported on the meeting he attended on July 18 at the Monroe County Court House on behalf of the City of Columbia. Alderman Ebersohl said Mr. Paul Ellis and Ms. Edie Koch were re-interviewed for the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation full-time position, this time by the EDC not the County. He explained when Ms. Koch was previously offered the position by the County, she did not want to be a County employee but an independent contractor. When it was determined that the best scenario would be for the individual to be an employee of the corporation instead of the County, the finalist candidates were re-interviewed and the corporation voted to hire Ms. Koch. Alderman Ebersohl said he voted to re-advertise the position, but that did not pass. Ms. Koch is scheduled to begin sometime this month. Ms. Koch is now an employee of the corporation for one year. Mr. Morani discussed some of the differences between being a county employee vs. a corporation employee and the transition period. Mr. Morani added that some County employees will pick up the administrative slack in the meantime and there will be some pro bono work done as well. It was also noted that Ms. Koch's performance would be reviewed after one year. It was inquired what this means

for the City of Columbia. Mr. Morani said he will be discussing this with the corporation since the City's donation was based on the initial projected cost of the program and now that has changed as well as there being a partial fiscal year left to fund. The City initially committed to \$20,000.00 for their portion of the corporation for this year. He added that other partners should be contributing and that Columbia's and Waterloo's contribution should be the same. Alderman Ebersohl said that Waterloo was only contributing \$10,000.00. Alderman Niemietz stated she does not support this since the terms have changed. Mr. Morani's opinion is that in the long run, the position being with the corporation should work better, but the corporation will need to ensure the job is functioning and the employee is accountable.

**VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

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

There was no call for Executive Session.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

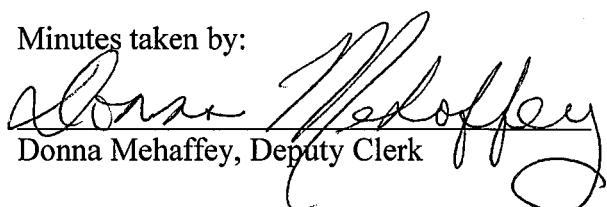
**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, July 25, 2016 at 7:57 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis, and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:



Alderman Gene Ebersohl  
Chairman  
Committee of the Whole



Donna Mehaffey, Deputy Clerk