

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
AUGUST 22, 2016 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, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Alderman Roessler.

Quorum Present.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Blake Roider.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, Deputy Chief of Police Jason Donjon, City Engineer Chris Smith, Director of Community Development Emily Fultz, Building Official Justin Osterhage, EMA Coordinator Wes Hoeffken and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests Present: Boy Scout Blake Roider, Mr. Steve Hancock representing the Food Trucks agenda item and Department of Public Works employees - Mr. Steven Mueller, Mr. Gary Krebel, Mr. Michael Sander, Mr. Cole Dreher and Mr. William Pretto.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of minutes from the August 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting; (2) Approval of Executive Session Minutes from the August 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole Committee Meeting; (3) Disc Golf Proposal for Meadow Ridge Park; (4) Food Trucks; (5) Emergency Warning Sirens; (6) Winter Average Sewer Billing; (7) Other items to be considered; (8) Citizen Comments; and (9) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

II. AL HOLDEN PROCLAMATION

Mayor Hutchinson acknowledged the passing of Mr. Al Holden on August 19 and read a proclamation for Mr. Holden regarding all of his accomplishments with the United States Marine Corps, Columbia Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief, Fire Department Medal of Honor for saving a person from a smoke-filled apartment, moving the fire house to its present location, first ladder truck for the Fire Department, establishing the relationship with the Columbia Volunteer Fire Department with the Gedern Volunteer Fire Department, and

Building Inspector for the City of Columbia. Mayor Hutchinson proclaimed Wednesday, August 24, 2016 to be "Al Holden Day". A moment of silence followed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 8, 2016 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the August 8, 2016 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 August 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. Alderman Niemietz abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 8, 2016 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Session minutes of the August 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Martens and seconded by Alderman Reis, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the August 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. Alderman Niemietz abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

V. DISC GOLF PROPOSAL FOR MEADOW RIDGE PARK

Boy Scout Blake Roider distributed the proposal for a Disc Golf Course in Meadow Ridge Park and is seeking approval from the City. Mr. Roider explained all of his accomplishments, credentials and explained disc golf. He added he will raise funds for the project with sponsors. Mayor Hutchinson and Alderman Agne praised Mr. Roider's presentation and layout. City Administrator James Morani said the proposal has already been presented to the Play Commission and was well received. Mayor Hutchinson added park rules are needed and annual renewal sponsorships should be considered. Ongoing sponsorship will help with the maintenance expenses. It was noted the name only of sponsorship would be under each hole on the tee signs. Installation of the disc golf course will be coordinated through City Engineer Chris Smith.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Huch, to move forward with the Disc Golf Proposal for Meadow Ridge Park as proposed by Boy Scout Blake Roider. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VI. FOOD TRUCKS

Director of Community Development Emily Fultz explained to the Committee they had received a request to operate a food truck in the City but food trucks were not covered in the City's Zoning Code. Ms. Fultz wanted to bring this to the attention of the committee as an open discussion. Ms. Fultz referenced the Food Truck Regulations which were distributed before the meeting. This covered the cities of Webster Groves, Creve Coeur and Clayton, Missouri and the cities of O'Fallon and Edwardsville, Illinois showing what they do and do not permit.

Mr. Steve Hancock addressed the Committee and is looking to operate a food truck out of the business "Top Shooters Sports Bar" using their kitchen as a commissary. He explained food trucks have small amounts of food in them and his main goal is to operate out of Columbia. Mr. Hancock feels it would be a good fit for the City. He stressed that he does not want to interfere with Columbia restaurants and his food truck would not be placed by brick and mortar establishments. Mr. Hancock explained how sales tax is tracked separate for the different areas per Alderman Huch's inquiry. Mayor Hutchinson liked the idea and said it could be located in a park. Mayor Hutchinson also said it may need a Special Use Permit or an annual license. It was also pointed out a food truck could be used for special events. City Clerk and EMA Coordinator Wes Hoeffken added there are food trucks at different parks in St. Louis County and it promotes the use of the parks. Alderman Agne said he does not want the food truck to encroach on restaurants in Columbia. Mr. Hancock's investment for the food truck is \$250,000.00. City Administrator James Morani asked for the number of customers on a given day that would make the operation financially feasible since Columbia doesn't have any large office buildings, hospitals, etc. Mr. Hancock said 40 to 50 plates is desired at one particular location, but it depends on the spot as the food truck may only be at one location for one to two hours and then will move. The location of the food truck is followed by social media. Alderman Martens asked where the truck would be set up and Mr. Hancock said at this time he suggests it would only be in the parks and at the new office building at the entrance of Columbia. Mr. Hancock said that he may be at the Budnick building, but that would be at their request and would not be placed on social media. Mr. Hancock also said Columbia locations will not be his only place for business; he wants to establish his business in Columbia but will travel to other locations.

Alderman Niemietz referenced the Food Truck Regulations of other cities. Alderman Niemietz wondered why it was not permitted in Edwardsville.

Mayor Hutchinson asked if the Committee was comfortable with the concept and wanted to put together a special use permit, etc. for the food truck with the assistance of Mr. Morani, Ms. Fultz and Building Official Justin Osterhage. Alderman Niemietz said that while interesting, she was not sure if she was comfortable with the concept and if it is a good fit for Columbia. Mr. Morani added with the size of Columbia, it is not likely that many of these types of operations will be successful and it will be driven by the market for the type of food that is served.

It was the consensus of the Committee to take the next step to move forward on this item as no one was opposed to the idea. Staff will initiate the preparation of a policy for food trucks to operate in the City.

VII. EMERGENCY WARNING SIRENS

EMA Coordinator Wes Hoeffken addressed the committee and gave an update on the proposed Emergency Warning Sirens for the City. Mr. Hoeffken distributed a handout on the cost and the manufacturer of the sirens - Whelen Engineering Company, Inc. Mr. Hoeffken stated he still needs to obtain reasonable pole prices for the sirens and it was suggested to solicit Monroe County Electric Co-operative in Waterloo. Mr. Hoeffken estimates it will cost \$135,000.00 for four (4) alarm systems for the City. He added messages can be placed on the system along with alerts, water boil orders, Amber alerts, and different tones for fire, tornado, etc. Currently, the siren tone is the same for all emergencies. Mr. Hoeffken also said the current siren tone testing at 12:00 Noon and 6:00 P.M. could be Westminster Chimes. Mr. Hoeffken noted he has spoken to Police Chief Jerry Paul and they would make a joint press release on the new system. There could also be some education sessions and emergency preparedness.

Alderman Holtkamp suggested to have Code 3 on the sirens. He also suggested adding cameras to the sirens. Mr. Hoeffken will check with the company on these items.

It was the consensus of the Committee for Mr. Hoeffken to continue work on the Emergency Warning Sirens.

VIII. WINTER AVERAGE SEWER BILLING

Mr. Morani referenced winter average sewer charges for residents per Ordinance No. 3041 that was approved on June 3, 2013. He explained new residents are currently being billed 2,000 gallons of water usage per month until they can establish a three month water usage average for their winter average which is different from what the ordinance states. Mr. Morani explained the utility software is either all or nothing; we can't have individual accounts on winter averaging and then also on individual readings. Staff would have to make a manual entry every month for the new resident for the sewer charges until after the averaging months, which is not very efficient. Mr. Morani said this is a software problem and the ordinance needs to be changed to reflect our current billing procedure. Mr. Morani said he also sent this information to Alderman Roessler since he was not attending this meeting.

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the proposed ordinance amendment; "New residents will be billed at 2,000 gallons of water usage per month until they are able to establish a three month water usage average during the meter reading months of February, March and April".

IX. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

A. Street Graphics Ordinance

Alderman Holtkamp asked about the status of the Street Graphics Ordinance. Mr. Morani said it has not been dealt with as yet and Director of Community Development Emily Fultz will be taking the lead on this item as she works on updating the entire Zoning Code. Alderman Holtkamp said there are some sign variances coming up soon with a public hearing of the Street Graphics Advisory Committee and the ordinance would be good to have before the public hearing.

B. Parks

Alderman Niemietz commended the Department of Public Works on maintaining the Columbia parks and equipment. She added she was stopped at the Columbia Days picnic to be made aware of this and added it was nice to hear something positive. She will also send an e-mail to City Engineer Chris Smith regarding the positive comment.

C. Columbia Days Picnic and Parade

Alderman Martens mentioned that the Columbia Days picnic and parade had a good turnout and was very well organized. Alderman Ebersohl added trash containers along the parade route to stop the littering on Main Street are needed for next year.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

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

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to go into Executive Session at 7:52 P.M. to discuss pending litigation as permitted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp and Martens voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

XII. 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 8:29 P.M. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, 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, Huch, Reis, Holtkamp, and Martens.

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.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Martens to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, August 22, 2016 at 8:30 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Huch, 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