

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS
HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. Call To Order

Mayor Hutchinson called the Executive Session of the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:25 P.M. Upon roll call vote, the following were:

Ebersohl	Present	Agne	Present
Niemietz	Present	Roessler	Present
Huch	Present	Reis	Present
Holtkamp	Present	Martens	Present

Quorum present.

Administrative Staff present:

City Clerk Wes Hoeffken	City Attorney Terry Bruckert
City Administrator James Morani	City Engineer Chris Smith
Chief of Police Joe Edwards	Accounting Manager Linda Sharp

II. Purpose

Mayor Hutchinson stated the Executive Session was called to discuss personnel and collective bargaining as permitted under 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and (2).

A. Police Department and Telecommunicators Bargaining Unit Contracts

Mr. Morani distributed a summary of the contracts for both the Police Department and Telecommunicators bargaining units and informed the Council that both bargaining units have agreed to a one (1) year contract. Mr. Morani explained that the FOP has requested language in the agreement that states the health insurance plan will be revisited as part of the next contract negotiations. Mr. Morani added the City's labor attorney says this is a harmless clause. Alderman Reis inquired if Chief Edwards was confident the contract will allow the department to move in the right direction. Chief Edwards responded yes and Mr. Morani explained both of them are in agreement on how to retain officers; realizing things can't change overnight. Alderman Agne requested clarification on holiday pay for the telecommunicators. Mr. Morani explained the change was bringing their holiday pay in alignment with the patrol officers. Mr. Morani stated unless there were any outstanding issues or questions, he would likely bring a final agreement to the Council at the next regular meeting. There were none.

Chief Edwards left the Executive Session at 7:32 PM.

Mr. Chris Smith and Mrs. Sharp arrived for the Executive Session at 7:32 PM.

B. DOPW Bargaining Unit Contract

Mr. Morani distributed a spreadsheet of the total dollars associated with pre-1993 accumulated sick leave for the DOPW in the event the Council wanted to consider a one-time payout. Mr. Morani then explained the City had established a fund years ago for accrued sick leave for the DOPW that has a balance of roughly \$282,000.00, which would cover the initial cost of the payout. Mr. Morani then explained that in addition to the payout, there would be an additional cost to cover the City's portion of IMRF associated with the payout amount. Mr. Morani also clarified that sick leave accrued prior to 1993 is paid at the employee's current rate of pay. Mr. Morani stated that of the eight (8) DOPW employees who have pre-1993 sick hours, only three (3) are currently eligible for retirement through IMRF to receive maximum benefits.

There was a discussion as to whether the lump sum payout would bump the employee's pensionable wages which determines their IMRF retirement amount. Mayor Hutchinson requested Mr. Morani verify if the payout would impact this calculation. Mr. Morani stated that if there is no direct impact to the employee's pension, the City does have the funds that would be required for a lump sum payout. Alderman Roessler inquired if the City is still allocating money to the accrual fund. Mrs. Sharp stated the City has not allocated anything to that fund for several years but it is earning interest. It was agreed that Mr. Morani would verify the impact to the employee pensionable wages and report back to the Council.

III. Adjournment

There being no more business to be discussed in Executive Session, Mayor Hutchinson asked for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session.

Motion:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Martens, to adjourn the Executive Session of the City Council meeting held Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:53 P.M. Motion Passed 8 to 0.

Roll Call vote results:

Ebersohl	Yea	Niemietz	Yea	Agne	Yea
Roessler	Yea	Huch	Yea	Reis	Yea
Holtkamp	Yea	Martens	Yea		


WESLEY J. HOEFFKEN, CITY CLERK


MAYOR KEVIN HUTCHINSON