

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. Opening

Mayor Hutchinson opened the public hearing at 6:45 P.M.

The following Alderman were:

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|----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Ebersohl | Present | Huch | Absent |
| Agne | Absent | Reis | Absent |
| Niemietz | Present | Holtkamp | Absent |
| Roessler | Absent | Martens | Absent |

Administrative Staff present:

| | |
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| Deputy City Clerk Donna Mehaffey | City Administrator James Morani |
| City Attorney Terry Bruckert | Accounting Manager Linda Sharp |
| City Engineer Chris Smith | City Clerk & EMA Coordinator Wes Hoeffken |

II. Purpose

Mayor Hutchinson explained the Public Hearing was scheduled to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00 for the purpose of financing various municipal building improvements and major repairs and renovations, emergency response equipment and infrastructure, equipment and capital improvements to city parks and trails, and street improvement projects, and related facilities, improvements and costs.

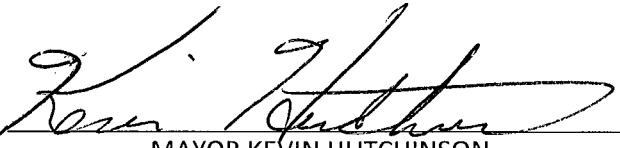
III. Public Comments

Mayor Hutchinson inquired if there were any comments from the public or the Council. There were none.

IV. Close of Public Hearing

There being no more questions or comments, Mayor Hutchinson closed the public hearing at 6:45 P.M.


DONNA MEHAFFEY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK


KEVIN HUTCHINSON, MAYOR

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 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, Roessler, Huch, and Holtkamp. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Aldermen Reis and Martens.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney Terry Bruckert, City Clerk and EMA Coordinator Wes Hoeffken, Chief of Police and Director of EMS Jerald Paul, City Engineer Chris Smith, Director of Community Development Emily Fultz, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests: None.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Approval of minutes from the November 14, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting; (2) Zoning Code Revision; (3) Economic Development Marketing; (4) Carl Street/Route 3 Intersection; (5) FY 2016-2017 Tax Levy; (6) GO Bonds; (7) Other Items to be Considered ; (8) Citizen Comments; and (9) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 14, 2016 COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The minutes of the November 14, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Huch, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Committee of the Whole committee meeting. Upon Roll

Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. ZONING CODE REVISION

Director of Community Development Emily Fultz presented the Zoning Code Update Schedule with the committee. Staff will start the process and then involve the Plan Commission. Ms. Fultz said the schedule is broken down by different areas; residential, commercial, industrial, mixed used and downtown. Ms. Fultz said she has already spoken to two aldermen and if there are any thoughts or concerns to let her know.

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING

Ms. Fultz informed the committee she had discussed with City Administrator James Morani and Community Relations and Tourism Coordinator Sue Spargo about a separate (i.e. secondary) logo and tag line for economic development marketing to major employers and developers for the City of Columbia. This would be separate from the current City of Columbia standard logo, Fritz Schnickel, which would not be replaced as the City's primary logo. Ms. Fultz asked for the committee's thoughts and opinions.

With no objections from the committee, a secondary logo for economic development marketing will be pursued.

V. CARL STREET/ROUTE 3 INTERSECTION

City Engineer Chris Smith gave an overview how the City could possibly receive a Safety Program Grant for a traffic signal at the intersection of Carl Street and Route 3. Mr. Smith added the benefits have to outweigh the cost. Based on recent traffic and accident data, the benefit cost analysis ratio was over 12 which is very high and is competitive throughout the state. Mr. Smith referenced the map of the area and the number of accidents at the location. There have been 23 accidents over the last five years at the Carl Street/Route 3 Intersection and Mr. Smith felt the State of Illinois would consider a traffic signal for this intersection. Mr. Smith also wanted the committee to think about the exhibit of a property currently for sale which extends out to Gall Road and connects to Carl Street. Mr. Smith added the proposed Safety Program Grant covers 90% of all costs including engineering, right-of-way, cost of construction and estimated the whole project would cost the City \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Mr. Smith said he looked at three other intersections, but Columbia Lakes was not included. Mr. Smith said the signal lights could be interconnected, signalized and timed so traffic would flow smoothly, per Mayor Hutchinson's inquiry. Mr. Smith suggested to have a public information meeting regarding the proposed signal light. Mr. Smith also said the state would make sure a signal light is warranted before the grant is awarded.

It was the consensus of the committee for Mr. Smith to move forward with the proposed Safety Program Grant but more public input was desired before a final decision is made by the City Council.

VI. FY 2016-2017 TAX LEVY

Mr. Morani reviewed with the committee the revised Tax Levy Analytical Data worksheet for tax years 2012 to 2015 and proposed tax year 2016. Mr. Morani said he had been waiting to finalize this worksheet until the City received the figures on the police pension, which have come back lower than expected. The proposed levy for the Police Pension is \$375,000.00 and he also noted Social Security has been increased to \$158,000.00.

Mr. Morani said the tax levy ordinance will be ready for consideration at the December 19 City Council meeting.

VII. GO BONDS

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp gave an overview of the RFPs for the \$450,000.00 G.O. Improvement Bonds for 2016. Mrs. Sharp said she received bids from five local banks and added the interest rates are very low. Columbia National Bank showed an average interest rate of 1.625% and is 1/2% better than six years ago when the last bond issue was conducted. Mrs. Sharp also said the interest cost is less than \$10,000.00 from six years ago. Mrs. Sharp said the City received a better interest rate because the local banks reviewed the City's financial statements. Mrs. Sharp gave a timeline on the ordinance. Bond counsel will prepare the ordinance for consideration at the December 19 City Council meeting and will close on the bonds January 9.

It was the consensus of the committee to accept Columbia National Bank's bid for the bond issue. Mrs. Sharp added bond counsel was only used so the cost for the issue was kept to a minimum and cost less than the last one, since we did not engage a placement agent. Mr. Morani said most of the work was done in-house by Mrs. Sharp. The committee was very pleased with the outcome.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

Mr. Morani said the Ambulance Committee meeting will be held at the next committee meeting since Chairman Reis was not at the meeting. Mr. Morani reminded the committee that the information for the next meeting was in the packets.

IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Mr. Joe Koppeis updated the committee on the status of his new office building 11 South. The first two floors should open on January 6. Mr. Koppeis invited

the committee for a tour. He also said he has approval to build a Holiday Inn and a national franchise restaurant is coming soon for a tour.

B. City Clerk and EMA Coordinator Wes Hoeffken complimented the City of Columbia staff on their attendance at the FEMA meeting recently held in Waterloo. He added the City was well represented with the City Engineer, Zoning Administrator and the Director of Community Development attending and they had the attention of FEMA.

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

There was no call for Executive Session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Roessler 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, December 12, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:

Gene Ebersohl

GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Donna Mehaffey

Donna Mehaffey, Deputy Clerk