

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
JUNE 26, 2017 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 Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis and Holtkamp. Mayor Hutchinson was also present.

Absent: Aldermen Agne and Martens.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator James Morani, City Attorney J.D. Brandmeyer, Accounting Manager Linda Sharp, City Engineer Chris Smith, Director of Community Development Emily Fultz, Chief of Police and EMS Director Jerry Paul, Deputy Chief of Police Jason Donjon and Deputy Clerk Donna Mehaffey.

Guests: Mr. Matt Ament of Mobilitie, Mr. Keith Moran of Moran Economic Development, and Mr. Caleb Wolz of Proving Ground Coffee Roaster, Inc.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing: (1) Small Cell Wireless Facilities (2) Columbia Centre Business District; (3) Admiral Weinel Roadway Improvements; (4) IT Support Services; (5) Electronic Recycling; (6) IDOR Reciprocal Agreement; (7) Electric Supply at City Facilities; (8) Other Items to be Considered; (9) Citizen Comments; and (10) Executive Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c).

II. SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITIES

Director of Community Development Emily Fultz introduced Mr. Matt Ament with the company, Mobilitie, and said he will be giving a brief presentation to the committee. Ms. Fultz said the Council and Committee have been updated with the legislation on the small cell wireless facilities that is being considered by the State Legislature. Ms. Fultz added Mr. Ament came to the City recently with a proposal to install small cell wireless facilities in Columbia. She said there were a lot of questions about the facilities and with legislation pending, Ms. Fultz and City Administrator James Morani felt it would be a good idea to bring Mr. Ament in to address the committee since the council stated they are unable to make an informed decision without having questions answers directly by a company representative.

Mr. Ament said he is the permitting manager with Mobilitie and is in the St. Louis market. Mr. Ament said he approached the City in January about the permitting process and that there was one specific site where he wanted to add the small cell wireless facilities. Mr. Ament also wanted to know how the City felt about their project. Mr. Ament said his job as permitting manager is to meet with the cities, discuss the permitting process, location, design and form, and see if the City will work with them. Mr. Ament thanked the committee for having him at the meeting to conduct his presentation.

- Mr. Ament gave a slide presentation to the committee.
- Mobilitie is the largest privately owned utility provider in the country.
- Mobilitie deals with data backhaul for smart phones. They also deal with distributing antenna systems and high-density Wi-Fi.
- Mr. Ament said the new technology trend is small cell wireless facilities.
- Mr. Ament said if he was the first coming to our City, he said he will not be the last as there are other telecommunications companies. He said Mobilitie has been hired by one specific wireless network company.
- Data demands are growing as everyone is using their cell phones more frequently.
- The current infrastructure can't handle all of the data demands.
- Is gearing up for 5G technology which is around the corner.
- Want to maintain infrastructure with their small cell antennas.
- Their project is covering all 50 states.
- Want to get this project up and operational within 18 months.
- Want to attach to existing infrastructure; light poles, or utility poles that are already out there.
- Attaching to existing light and utility poles are most successful. Most cities do not want to see new poles.
- Showed pictures of small cell wireless facilities attached to existing light and utility poles.
- All attachments and new poles need to be located within the right-of-way.
- Reason for it to be located in the right-of-way is the power is there, the users are close by, and is where most of the users are located.
- Will match material and color to blend in with the existing light or utility poles. Once attached, they are not noticeable.
- Will work with all the cities to discuss the height and where the small cell wireless facilities can be located. Also have to discuss the permitting process and get an agreement on height, location and design.
- There would only be one or possibly two of the small cell wireless facilities in Columbia due to the size of the community.
- The one location that Mr. Ament had previously chosen turned out to be unusable at that location.
- The City of Mascoutah has had Verizon Wireless work with them on small cell wireless facilities.

- Would like Columbia to work with Mobilitie.
- Don't have a location right now and this presentation is more of an education about the small cell wireless facilities and a heads up that Mobilitie is coming to Columbia.

Comments/concerns by the committee and Mr. Ament:

- The small cell wireless facilities do not support the City's large cell towers carriers. Mobilitie has one specific carrier, but can work with all carriers. Mr. Ament said you can add more than one carrier to the small cell wireless facilities with modifications.
- Mr. Ament said coverage and capacity is the key to make this project work. He said the radius of the coverage area depends on where the users are located.
- Mr. Ament said the small cell wireless facilities is to increase the existing service that is out there now and said they do deal with the counties.
- Mr. Ament said they have search rings and their clients have certain search rings they want them to fill.
- Mr. Ament said the City of Mascoutah was great to work with since they own all of their utilities. He said they approved their agreement even before they had a location.
- Wouldn't Mobilitie go to the rural areas first that have very little coverage?
- Mr. Ament said the carrier dictates where they want the small cell wireless facilities to be located and Mobilitie has to meet with that jurisdiction. It is based on the client's needs.
- Mr. Ament said the small cell wireless facilities work independently.
- Mr. Ament also said the light or power pole would be in the 35 feet to 50 feet range with the small cell wireless facilities attached, which is much closer to where the users are located. The cell towers are 200 feet tall. Mr. Ament said their client has their own science and search rings to determine where to locate the small cell wireless facilities and fill in the gaps.
- Pole loading and wind loads were brought up and there is already a history of poles coming down and causing fires. Would also like to see the wind load design and see if the antennas will even work with the poles in the City of Columbia.
- What is the frequency and wattage they will be broadcasting and receiving.
- Mr. Ament said he will strictly go with the City's building codes.
- Does the City have building codes for an antenna.
- Want to see the certifications Mobilitie will be using.
- Mr. Ament said once the drawings are available, he will submit them to Mr. Morani for the committee's review.
- Why doesn't the carrier contact the City instead of a third party contacting the City.
- Mr. Ament said Mobilitie owns the equipment and the carrier is leasing it from them. He also stated their equipment has a much more sleeker design.
- The City's concern as with a lot of communities, companies are just going to come in and apply for permits to get strategic areas and it is just going to proliferate.
- Mr. Ament said they do not want to monopolize the territory and this is being driven by their client. Mr. Ament added their client is the one with the search rings. Mr. Ament can't say who his client is.

- With the City's current cell towers, the City has agreements and fees. The City knows how many other tenants may be on the cell tower and how many antennas that can be added to the cell tower. It is all controlled. One concern is that the City doesn't know how to control the design and look of the antennas and the City can't pick and choose who we can let do things and who we don't. If this is open from a zoning standpoint for one, it then works for all. Some of the preliminary language that was seen in some of the legislative language were going to permit large, bulky equipment. The City's other concern is Mobilitie is working with a cellular company, and they say they need the antennas at several poles in Columbia. Then the City may get another cellular company and they want the antennas at other pole locations in Columbia. Pretty soon they are on every pole. But for the City of Columbia, the antennas will be in our right-of-way. Some communities in the area pride themselves they have very few utility poles and some of the street lights may not be able to handle the weight of the antenna. If the City gets into these mandates with situations that we have to allow the antennas, it is all or nothing.
- Mr. Ament said he thought the City would prefer placing the antennas on the Ameren utility poles. Mr. Ament said the utility poles seem to blend in better as the street light poles are more decorative.
- A lot of the City's street lights are on the utility poles.
- Mr. Ament said again he wants to work with the City on this project and is not interested in throwing their weight around. He wants to get an agreement on the height, location, and design. Mr. Ament said if they can get an agreement, then they can take the next steps. Mr. Ament understands the City's concerns. Mr. Ament can't tell the city how many antennas are going to be proposed but said all he saw was one antenna proposed for the City of Columbia. Mr. Ament also said they work with all the major carriers, so if there is a specific location, Mobilitie can modify the equipment if another carrier wants to join that specific small cell location.
- Another issue that came up is there is a tendency for a lot of the utility poles to be buried underground in the new subdivisions. If there is a gap in an area, for instance in a newer subdivision with underground utility poles, there could be new poles installed above ground. Based on the new legislation being considered, it did allow for new facilities to be constructed. You have communities that want to go underground for various reasons, aesthetic reasons, and weather-related reasons. Yet you still could have a situation where you could get requests for a new utility pole.
- Mr. Ament said there are other communities that say no new poles and is okay to install antennas on existing utility poles. He added if there are gaps in residential areas, then it may have to be exhausted or the search ring may no longer be available. However, this may cause a problem be it positive or negative. If a resident wants better service, then you can't get it because the city doesn't want to have a new pole in that location.
- Mr. Ament said he wants to find the path of least resistance and if the City encourages attachments only, then that is the path that Mobilitie has had the most success in. He said they will do their best to find an attachment, preferably an Ameren pole.
- Mr. Ament said the locations are not that specific. He added that search rings usually go for a few blocks. He said that Mobilitie is allowed 15 feet where it won't be a change for them.

- Mr. Ament said they can't hit every search ring. It won't happen and gave an example that in O'Fallon, Missouri, their City said no new poles in subdivisions and tried to attach the antenna to a 20 foot street light that has the decorative dome on top and that would not work because the street light was too low.
- Mr. Ament said if needed, they could go through the conditional use specialties permit process, if the City has this process.
- If there is only one or two poles with antennas and there is flexibility on it, and with the pictures of the poles with antennas, it could be no less unattractive than Ameren putting up a new transformer on a utility pole. But it's the unknown where the volume of the poles would lead to.
- Mr. Ament said he would reach out to Mr. Morani and Ms. Fultz as soon as they find out the preferred location in the City.
- Mr. Ament said they can't attach the antenna to just any random Ameren pole. Ameren has certain criteria which poles they can attach to. Ameren Illinois is more flexible than Ameren Missouri.
- Mr. Ament said they have not had any communications problems with other utilities and cellular companies with the antenna installation.
- What is in it for the City of Columbia? What will the 5G do for the citizens of Columbia?
- Mr. Ament said 5G is coming and it is just a matter of when. It will operate the same way as Wi-Fi operates in your home. Right now, if you are out and you only have 4G coverage, you may have issues with YouTube, Netflix, or Face Time. It stalls and spins. Mr. Ament says he doesn't even use those when he is out because he will get better coverage at home with his Wi-Fi. It will be beneficial to residents and businesses. People want to stay connected. Young people are all glued to their cell phones and want to stay connected where ever they are. The 5G will help maintain your population as the young people won't move to the bigger cities if they can stay connected where they are at now. He said he has heard people would rather pay for their cell phone bill rather than their water bill.
- If there are two antennas completed and you do a couple of blocks, seems there will be a lot of residents that won't get the service because we are doing where the carrier wants to place the antennas versus where the residents may want to have it.
- What if Mobilitie does a restaurant and a bar and no one else gets the benefit.
- Mr. Ament said it is the carrier's goal to get as many people they can to get the best service. He added if you are not getting good service with a particular carrier, you certainly are going to go to a carrier where you would be getting good service.
- Mr. Ament clarified that they can serve beyond that search ring of a couple of blocks.
- Mr. Ament also clarified that two small wireless facilities should service the entire city. The goal is to get the best service. The search ring is just a couple of blocks and doesn't mean the whole area.
- The City doesn't know what the technology will be in the future.
- Mr. Ament said the original cell phone towers were only meant for phone, not texting and e-mails. The technology just keeps growing so their infrastructure has to be there.

- There is an agreement with the City of Mascoutah in place and it doesn't sound like Mr. Ament does not have a problem with policies and procedures and getting a written franchise agreement in place for the small cell wireless facilities.
- Mr. Ament said they want to work with the City and sent Mr. Morani a template for a short form agreement. Mr. Ament said they have had a 27-page agreement for just one or two sites before and it is very overwhelming. Mobilitie would really rather not have an agreement and just pay a one-time fee and be done with it. Mr. Ament said they just want to be able to work with every community if that is what they want.
- Mr. Morani had informed Mr. Ament the position of the City Council, if anyone was planning to construct facilities in the right-of-way, they need to operate in a franchise agreement with the City of Columbia. Mr. Morani said the legislation that was pending was going to remove that right from municipalities. It was basically going to require cities to issue a permit and set the fees. Mr. Morani said the city was concerned about it and added the City of Columbia is unlike other cities Mr. Ament mentioned. The City of Columbia does not control their own utility poles. The City of Mascoutah can control theirs because they own and operate their utilities. This is the same way it is in the City of Waterloo.
- Mr. Morani said there are no building codes for antennas and the zoning code would have to be amended. Mr. Morani said a written franchise agreement protects the City the most. He also said it is not about the revenue, but is more for control and aesthetics.

It was the consensus of the committee that a written franchise agreement is needed for the Small Cell Wireless Facilities and that the committee does not want to allow Small Cell Wireless Facilities only through a permitting process.

III. COLUMBIA CENTRE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Mr. Morani said in the last couple of months staff has been working on ideas on how to address some of the infrastructure needs throughout the community. Mr. Morani said that one of the areas of concern is the area around Columbia Centre, specifically Veterans Parkway and the traffic congestion issues due to the increased commercial activity at the shopping center. Mr. Morani said he has been discussing with City Engineer Chris Smith on how to alleviate some of the issues plus they have also discussed improvements to Valmeyer Road as well as areas inside the shopping center. Mr. Morani also mentioned Columbia National Bank is concerned over increased use of its private road with the new Burger King restaurant. Mr. Morani wanted to present to the committee a solution to help address some of the funding issues in trying to improve some of the roadways and traffic issues near Columbia Centre. Mr. Morani said he contacted an Economic Development Consultant, Mr. Keith Moran, who met with staff last week to discuss the feasibility of the proposed Business District. Staff asked Mr. Moran if the area would qualify and wanted to use this opportunity to speak to the committee about some of the ideas about forming a business district in and around Columbia Centre. Mr. Morani said City Engineer Chris Smith has prepared figures on cost estimates for several road improvements. Mr. Morani said they are presenting some

ideas on how to address the lack of funding the City has for road projects, try to come up with solutions, and see if this is something the committee would consider.

Mr. Morani introduced Mr. Keith Moran of Moran Economic Development of Edwardsville, Illinois, to provide a summary of what they talked about last week. Mr. Moran said they are Economic Development/TIF Consultants and work all over central and southern Illinois. One of the services they do provide is the establishment and administration of the Business District program. A Business District Establishment document with a proposed map was distributed to the committee.

Mr. Moran reported that the current sales tax rate for the City of Columbia is at 7.50%, would propose to increase it with a 1% sales tax increase which would bring it to 8.50% and would bring it in line with the City of Waterloo at Waterloo Commons. Columbia Centre is similar to Waterloo Commons. (The current 7.50% breakdown for Columbia is: State 5%, City 1%, County 0.25%, CSF {County School Facility} Tax 1% and County Flood Prevention 0.25%).

Mr. Moran named all of the cities with business districts and their current sales tax rate. Waterloo is 8.50% (Waterloo Commons Business District), Collinsville 9.10% (Various Business Districts), Collinsville 9.60% (SW Corridor Business District), New Baden 8.85% (St. Clair County Business District), Millstadt 7.60% (Business District), Edwardsville 8.50% (Business District), Fairview Heights 8.85% (Business District), and Belleville 9.10% (Business District). In Missouri, the sales tax rate would be in the 7, 8 and 9 percent. Mr. Moran added that in Madison and St. Clair counties, they do not have the County School Facility tax. Mr. Morani felt at some point those counties will adopt it and the sales tax rates will increase.

Mr. Moran said that anywhere you turn, there are business districts. He said some of the business districts get set up to support new development and some get set up to protect an asset. Mr. Moran said 20% of the sales is coming from Columbia Centre area if not more than that and it is important to the community to protect that asset. Mr. Moran used the Village of Shiloh as an example with Green Mount Crossing. Mr. Moran said all revenue created by the 1% increase would be placed in a designated fund that could only be used for that area's improvement projects. He referred to it as a dedicated revenue stream. The period of time for which the tax shall be imposed is not more than 23 years and any leftover money goes into the general fund. The tax would not be imposed on food for human consumption that is to be consumed off the premises where it is sold (other than alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and food that has been prepared for immediate consumption), prescription and nonprescription medicines, drugs, medical appliances, etc. and anything licensed through the State of Illinois (automobile, boat, etc.) Mr. Moran said this is not a TIF; it is not property tax based. Mr. Moran said the standard of blight in order to establish a business district is nowhere near what it is for a TIF. Mr. Moran went on to say he wouldn't be here at the meeting tonight if he didn't think the area would qualify. There would be a series of public hearings held, there is no tax referendum required, and the Business District is approved by

the City Council. It was discussed what businesses would and would not be affected by the proposed Columbia Centre Business District. Most of the area would qualify for the full 1% rate and would include a lot of the restaurants. City Administrator Morani said the estimated revenue from the proposed Business District at a full 1% sales tax increase would be an additional \$175,000 to \$200,000 per year. Mr. Morani said the proposed business district could also be done in increments of .25%, .50% and .75%.

Mayor Hutchinson reported that the infrastructure for the area and all throughout the City are all items that are not earmarked in the City's budget. Any projects that are coming up, the City only has a few options; namely MFT and transportation enhancement funds which are very difficult to get. The MFT funds are usually used up every year for street maintenance. Mayor Hutchinson said the City started looking at other revenue sources and other than property tax, the Business District alternative is one of the other resources. Mayor Hutchinson added there will be many meetings on this issue and a lot of back and forth.

Mr. Caleb Wolz of Proving Ground Coffee Roaster, whose business is located in Columbia Centre, said he found out about the meeting and was curious and concerned about what was going on and decided to attend tonight's meeting. He said he is looking out for his business at Columbia Centre. He also asked about other business districts in Columbia. There is only one other and it is the Main Street Abbey Business District, but that has not started to generate sales tax revenue. Mayor Hutchinson informed Mr. Wolz that the City wants to be thoroughly transparent and this is the first time this issue has been brought to the committee. Mayor Hutchinson informed Mr. Wolz to keep in touch with the City of any concerns he may have regarding this issue.

City Engineer Chris Smith reported he has been trying to project ahead by three, five and seven years for roadway improvements in the City. He stated that water and sewer can be repaired with those respective enterprise funds, but streets do not have a dedicated revenue stream for major improvements. Mr. Smith said he has been very aggressive looking for grants for streets. Mr. Smith said the City may receive a grant about every other year for streets that meet a certain classification, but when the City receives the grant, it is usually a \$250,000 match and that is the amount of the annual MFT revenues. Mr. Smith said the City has other needs for MFT in other areas of the City. He also said the City could do a CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) grant from the Federal Highway Administration and get 80% of that paid, but there would still be a 20% match required by the City. He added that reconstruction of the intersection at Veterans Parkway is estimated to cost \$1.3-\$1.4 million and the intersection is eligible for CMAQ funding. The City has also been approached by Columbia National Bank about concerns regarding the additional traffic on their private road because of the proposed Burger King restaurant. The City is currently performing traffic counts in this area. Mr. Smith added that Valmeyer Road needs some work, but TIF money can be used. He wondered if the City should use some TIF funds for something else in the Admiral Parkway-TIF Area Park. Mr. Smith said these are conversations that are needed. Mr. Smith also said the portion of Columbia Centre between the post office and the church needs some work; the drainage isn't quite right and stays

saturated. Mr. Smith said there are still roads that need attention namely Quarry, Gall, and Centerville Roads after Ghent Road is completed with STP funds (Surface Transportation Program) administered by the Federal Highway Administration plus other areas of the City. Mr. Smith said Veterans Parkway is eligible for the STP funding, but down the road in six to ten years, you are just taking money away from other sections of the community that doesn't have the ability to get funded by a different way. The need to add appropriate sidewalk and curb and gutter on Veterans Parkway by Columbia Centre was also discussed. Mr. Smith said for this particular area, they are looking at an alternative funding source just for those types of improvements. Mr. Smith also said the City could do a bond issue to fund the improvements in the proposed Business District and not wait 20 to 23 years to complete. Mr. Smith added the traffic congestion on Veterans Parkway is an issue in the AM and PM and needs to be alleviated so traffic is not blocking the McDonald's entrance and vehicles aren't backed up onto Admiral Parkway (Illinois Route 3). Mr. Smith thought customers may avoid this area because of the traffic congestion and once corrected, would begin to generate more traffic to these businesses in the area.

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp asked a question about the mechanics of the proposed Business District. She asked if all of the projects were completed and approved, could the district be phased out before 23 years and Mr. Moran said yes. Mrs. Sharp then asked about the surplus that could go into the general fund and when would that happen; does it happen on a yearly basis? Mr. Moran said once all the obligations and projects were completed, then if there was any money left over, the City could terminate the business district and those funds would then be declared as surplus and would go into the City's General Fund.

Alderman Huch had expressed concern about the impact of the proposed Business District on Columbia Firestone. Mr. Morani said there would be two businesses that the proposed Business District could have more of a detrimental impact; Flooring Interiors and Columbia Firestone, which sell high-price items. Mr. Morani said consumers most likely won't notice the additional sales tax on restaurants and other retailers. Alderman Roessler commented that he thought the proposed Business District was a good idea and personally did not believe the proposed sales tax district would have an effect on those businesses as consumers search for the price of the item, not the sales tax rate. Alderman Roessler also said flooring installation is not subject to sales tax. But Mr. Morani felt research needs to be completed on these specific retailers. Alderman Roessler also stated there has to be public hearings to have a Business District and if citizens have questions about it, they can come to the hearings. He was of the opinion that the establishment of a Business District would not stop people from shopping at the retail establishments.

Mr. Morani and Mr. Moran said the applicability of the sales tax depends at what point the sale was taxable when speaking about a service oriented business such as Flooring Interiors. Mrs. Sharp said it is called the Retailer's Occupation Tax.

The main reason for concern is that businesses won't locate in the commercial center or customers will avoid the area due to the traffic congestion and roads needing improvement.

Mayor Hutchinson asked the committee if it desired to continue to discuss the proposed Business District. Alderman Reis stated his opposition and expressed concerns about the additional sales tax. He said he thought Mr. Joe Koppeis just repaired all the streets in Columbia Centre and thought the infrastructure was repaired as well. He said there are a lot more areas in Columbia that need help. Alderman Reis said in the past, the City tried to pass two referendums and the citizens voted them down. He said he needs to hear more about the proposed Business District and said he won't vote for it. Mr. Smith said he can get a list of the areas that need to be repaired and the cost.

Alderman Niemietz stated the City is trying to investigate alternative methods of funding for the City and we are just initiating a discussion right now. She said the Old Towne Project was started years ago and has not been finished. The City is looking at creative ways to make community improvements. She added the State of Illinois keeps taking money from cities and wants to stay open-minded. Mayor Hutchinson said if property taxes are increased, that will hurt Columbia residents and businesses.

Mr. Morani said the Waterloo Commons Business District was formed when no businesses were there. He said the State of Illinois may freeze property taxes and the City needs to look at other revenue sources. Mr. Morani also explained that since Columbia is not home rule, it does not have the ability to impose or increase certain taxes beyond its municipal authority. He stated that no one wants the City of Columbia to be home rule. To be home rule, your population has to be over 25,000 or approved through a referendum. It was noted that voter approval is not needed for a proposed Business District since the requirements are statutory.

Mr. Morani will bring this matter back to the next committee meeting with figures and other relevant information for further discussion.

IV.

ADMIRAL WEINEL ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

City Engineer Chris Smith gave the committee an update on the Admiral Weinel Roadway Improvements. Mr. Smith said that Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen, Inc. has already started working on the project. He said it will be bid at multiple staging plans. He informed the committee that he will be speaking to the businesses in the area and wanted to give the committee a heads up in case they get any phone calls. He explained the different stages and will have additional signage for the construction. Mr. Morani added the City is able to do this project at this time because it is located in a TIF District.

V.

IT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Morani informed the committee there were five responses to the RFP for IT Support Services. Mr. Morani said the IT Committee interviewed two firms. He said one of the main considerations of selecting a firm is 24/7 customer support and experience working in a full-service police department. Mr. Morani said REJIS, the City's current IT vendor, was not

interviewed. He said it was time to make a change, wanted to keep a working relationship with REJIS, and said REJIS has been very professional about it. Mr. Morani said the IT Committee is recommending Tech Electronics to provide IT support service to the City. He said the City currently does business with them right now with the key cards at the police department. Mr. Morani said with hiring Tech Electronics, the City will still be under budget. He added the City will be paying slightly more, but will be getting better service which will save time. He also added that Tech Electronic's proposal was less than the other firm interviewed by the IT Committee. Mr. Morani pointed out Alderman Steve Holtkamp works for Tech Electronics in a separate division, but was not involved with the decision-making process. He further stated that no aldermen were involved with the IT committee's recommendation.

Chief Jerry Paul said the police department has a good relationship with Tech Electronics. Mr. Morani said this has been a long process and added that the department heads and the IT Committee were all on the same page. Mr. Morani also said he has delayed some IT projects until a new vendor was in place. He said Tech Electronics will start work within two months and a smooth transition is expected.

Mr. Morani lastly said he is hopeful the agreement for IT Support Services with Tech Electronics will be ready for consideration at the next City Council meeting.

VI.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Mr. Morani referenced a draft of a notice for the discontinuation of Columbia's second Saturday recycle drop-off events located at the Department of Public Works parking lot. Mr. Morani said the electronic recycling vendor is not meeting the City's expectations. He noted some people have been turned away and many are leaving items on the DOPW parking lot. Mr. Morani said it is a combination of the vendor not accepting certain items and additional non-recyclable items being left on the parking lot. Mr. Morani said DOPW is concerned about the continued dumping on their parking lot. He said there is a vendor out of Edwardsville that could do the electronic recycling, but they require so many pounds of recycling to do the service for free. The other option would be to send residents to the Monroe County Recycling Center in Waterloo. Their address is 901 Illinois Avenue behind the Monroe County Health Department. Their hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon. Mr. Morani is recommending the City consider the Monroe County Recycling Center and discontinue the second Saturday recycle drop-off event at the DOPW parking lot until a better option can be found.

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp said they take most things at the Monroe County Recycling Center. Director of Community Development Emily Fultz said the batteries that are collected at City Hall is a different vendor than the electronic recycling vendor. She also added a fee has to be paid for dropping off CRT monitors or tube TVs at the Monroe County Recycling Center. Mr. Morani stated he will obtain more information on the Monroe County Recycling Center in addition to what is on their website.

VII. IDOR RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

For informational purposes, Mr. Morani informed the committee that the Illinois Department of Revenue has a new form for their reciprocal agreement. An amendment to the agreement is now needed each time a city employee would be added as an authorized viewer of the financial information. Mr. Morani informed the committee the new IDOR Reciprocal Agreement will be ready for consideration at the next City Council meeting.

VIII. ELECTRICAL SUPPLY AT CITY FACILITIES

Mr. Morani reported to the committee that two years ago the City entered into an agreement with a third party for electrical supply for city facilities and street lighting. Mr. Morani informed the committee that it was an oversight on his part that he did not realize the City was previously receiving discount for their street lights through the terms of the franchise agreement but he also noted the City was not getting a discount for some of the other accounts. When the City entered into the electric supply agreement, all accounts were bundled at a low rate. Mr. Morani then said the discount the City had for the street lights came off the books, but the City saved on accounts because the City received a lower rate. Mr. Morani said it is a complex situation, but he said he will try to work with Ameren if and when the City goes off the third-party supplier to see if they will still honor the street light discount from the franchise agreement. Mr. Morani feels they should honor it. He said he has spoken to the City's energy consultant, Steve Bryant of Good Energy, who said it was going to be a lot of work, but Mr. Morani said it does not make any sense since it was in our franchise agreement that the city has that discount. The consultant said they are going to say once you left Ameren, you canceled that term of the franchise agreement. Mr. Morani disagrees with this argument since electric utilities were not deregulated 20 or so years ago when the original franchise agreement was signed and said if that was the case, the City could have placed a clause in the franchise agreement related to this. Mr. Morani vowed to work with Ameren diligently to honor the street light discount from the franchise agreement.

Mr. Morani added the contract for street lighting is for one year because he believes it could take four or five months to resolve the issue with Ameren. Mr. Morani said he may get the city attorney involved if needed. Mr. Morani also said the rate is lower than what the City is paying now and the savings amounts to approximately \$14,000 per year compared to what we are currently paying. Mr. Morani said the Mayor needs to sign the contract tonight to lock in the price and it will be ratified at the next City Council meeting. Mr. Morani said City Attorney Terry Bruckert said to handle it this way.

Mr. Morani said the contracts from other third-party suppliers included unfavorable language and he will find a supplier that has language that is acceptable to the City. Mr. Morani said he will refresh the rates for those accounts on Monday, July 3 because they are good for 24 hours. Mr. Morani said that the contract for the other city accounts can be considered at the next council meeting. Mr. Morani also said the standard agreement for the street lighting accounts is in proper form. He said the \$0.0433 per kWh is the same rate the city accounts

had with the unfavorable contract terms for the proposed two years. Mr. Morani said action is needed tonight and the consultant was concerned if the City waited until July 3, some of the suppliers who are trying to buy business at the end of the month may increase their rates at that time. The consultant said you will typically see lower rates at the end of the month. Mr. Morani said it is possible that on July 3, the rate may be slightly higher. Mr. Morani said the third-party supplier for the street lighting accounts is who the City has right now for all accounts, Illinois Gas & Electric.

It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the electricity purchase from Illinois Gas & Electric, the third-party supplier, for one year beginning July 2017 for a rate of \$0.0433 per kWh for the City's nine street lighting accounts.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Reis and seconded by Alderman Huch to agree to purchase electricity from Illinois Gas & Electric for one year beginning July 2017 at a rate of \$0.0433 per kWh for the City of Columbia's nine street lighting accounts. On roll call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. No nays. Aldermen Agne and Martens absent. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

A. Part-Time Code Compliance Officer

Mr. Morani said the new part-time Code Compliance Officer stopped by City Hall today. He said approval for the new employee will be considered at the next City Council meeting.

B. Public Works Cleaning Services - Request for Proposal

Alderman Niemietz asked about the Public Works Cleaning Services RFP that is located on the City's website. Mr. Morani said the current cleaning company, Kleen Sweep, turned in their 30-day notice for the Public Works location. Mr. Morani added Public Works will be hiring their own cleaning service. (Kleen Sweep is still cleaning other city buildings.)

X.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

XI.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)

Chairman Ebersohl inquired if there was a need to go into Executive Session. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Huch to adjourn the Committee of the Whole committee meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, June 26, 2017 at 9:05 P.M. Upon voice vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes taken by:

Gene Ebersohl
GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Donna Mehaffey
Donna Mehaffey, Deputy Clerk