

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,  
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the City Council of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:00 PM.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell.  
Alderman Stumpf arrived during the Executive Session.

Absent: Alderman Unnerstall.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Administrator Anthony Traxler, City Attorney Tom Adams, Chief of Police Joe Edwards, and Building Inspector Al Holden.

The Council observed a moment of silence for the Kirkwood city and elected officials who lost their lives in the recent City Hall incident.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, February 4, 2008 were submitted for approval.

Corrections were forwarded to Mr. Hoeffken.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, February 4, 2008, as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, February 4, 2008 were submitted for approval.

Corrections were forwarded to Mr. Hoeffken.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, February 4, 2008, as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

III. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations present.

IV. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Library Board

There was no monthly report of the Library Board.

B. Police Department

The report of the Chief of Police was presented to the Council.

C. EMS Department

The monthly report of the Director of the Columbia Emergency Medical Service was presented to the Council.

D. Plan Commission

The report of the Plan Commission was presented to the Council.

E. City Attorney

1. Ordinance No. 2631 - Gall Road Condominiums

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to pass Ordinance No. 2631, an ordinance approving the Final Subdivision Plat for the Gall Road Condominiums in the City of Columbia, Monroe County, Illinois. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

2. Ordinance No. 2632 - Valmeyer Road Sidewalk

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to pass Ordinance No. 2632, an ordinance approving a public sidewalk easement from the St. Elizabeth's Hospital of the Third Order of St. Francis, an Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation, on property having the assigned address of 399 Edelweiss Drive in the City of Columbia, Illinois on which property the Columbia Family Health P.C. is located and to authorize the Mayor to execute and deliver the said easement for and on behalf of the City. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

3. Ordinance No. 2633 - General Obligation Capital Project Bonds

Alderman Hejna stated she would prefer to send this ordinance to the Finance Committee before taking action.

Alderman Row requested clarification on the items and project included in the proposed bond issue and the utility tax that will be used to secure the bond issue. Mt. Traxler explained the primary revenue source for the new bond issue will be a utility tax, the same revenue source as the bonds being retired.

Alderman Oberkfell stated while the CAD software was briefly discussed by Chief Edwards, he would like to see some documentation on the software, as well as an overview of the software. Mr. Traxler stated CAD software, along with all of the other items were included in the original proposal discussed by Mr. Schmersahl a few months prior. Mr. Adams added this ordinance is not the final bond ordinance, but initializes the process, and there will be a supplemental bond ordinance that will be brought to the Council for final approval. Mr. Traxler stated the proposed bond issue would free up approximately \$250,000.00 in the Capital Development fund. Alderman Oberkfell stated he would like to see a presentation of what the CAD software is since no one has previously explained this to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Oberkfell, and seconded by Alderman Hejna, to table action on an ordinance providing for the issuance of General Obligation Capital Projects and Refunding Bonds (Public Utility Taxes Alternate Revenue Source) of the City of Columbia, Monroe and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, in the principal amount of six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) for the purpose of financing certain capital projects of the City and refunding certain Public Improvement Bonds,

Public Utility Taxes Alternate Revenue Source, dated May 1, 2001 and December 1, 2001, of said City, said bonds to be payable primarily from the revenues of the Public Utility Taxes of said City, but alternatively from ad valorem property taxes, prescribing the form and incidents of said bonds, designating said bonds as Alternate Bonds under the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, and providing for the levy of a tax for the payment of said bonds, both as to principal and interest. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Hejna and Oberkfell voted yea. Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, and Row voted nay. Motion Failed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to pass Ordinance No. 2633, an ordinance providing for the issuance of General Obligation Capital Projects and Refunding Bonds (Public Utility Taxes Alternate Revenue Source) of the City of Columbia, Monroe and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, in the principal amount of six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) for the purpose of financing certain capital projects of the City and refunding certain Public Improvement Bonds, Public Utility Taxes Alternate Revenue Source, dated May 1, 2001 and December 1, 2001, of said City, said bonds to be payable primarily from the revenues of the Public Utility Taxes of said City, but alternatively from ad valorem property taxes, prescribing the form and incidents of said bonds, designating said bonds as Alternate Bonds under the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, and providing for the levy of a tax for the payment of said bonds, both as to principal and interest. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Aldermen Hejna and Oberkfell voted nay. Motion Carried.

F. Administration Department

The report of the City Administrator was presented to the Council.

1. Ordinance No. 2634 – Vision Care Benefits

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to pass Ordinance No. 2634, an ordinance providing the Schedule of Benefits of the Vision Care Plan for full-time city employees of the City of Columbia, Illinois. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

2. Newsletter Printing Bids

Mr. Traxler informed the Council both respondents to the bid request are qualified to provide the required services. Mr. Traxler then explained Messenger Printing is a one-stop printing service, including the use of their bulk postage rate. Alderman Oberkfell questioned the need for a quarterly newsletter as compared to other avenues available to the City, such as the website and public bulletin board. Mr. Traxler explained there are a significant number of older citizens who do not have internet access and added Columbia is one of the few communities who do not have a newsletter. Alderman Niemietz stated selecting Messenger Printing would prevent the City from having to purchase supplemental software. Alderman Niemietz also stated a newsletter is a great way to get news to the entire community. Alderman Row inquired about the cost per publication and the duration of a contract. Mr. Traxler stated the cost would be approximately \$2,500.00 each quarter and the City could sign a contract for whatever term they felt necessary. Alderman Agne suggested a one-year contract with a review of the services after the third publication. Alderman Hejna inquired if a quarterly newsletter was included in the current year's budget. Mr. Traxler stated the cost for a quarterly newsletter

is included in the current budget. Alderman Hejna stated she would like to discuss this further. Mayor Hutchinson referred this to the Committee Of The Whole.

3. Emergency Temporary Living Quarters - EMS Department

Alderman Oberkfell inquired about the recent reports about certain FEMA trailers. Mr. Traxler informed the Council the trailer has been tested and is okay. Alderman Oberkfell requested Mr. Holden to comment regarding the 40' setback requirement from an existing structure. Mr. Holden stated issuing an emergency order would allow the setback requirement to be temporarily bypassed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to issue an Emergency Temporary Order permitting the placement of a trailer for the Columbia Emergency Medical Services to be used as a housing facility for one year beginning February 18, 2008 and ending February 17, 2009. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, and Oberkfell voted yea. Alderman Hejna voted nay. Motion Carried.

4. Civic Progress Committee - Streetscape Update

An update was forwarded to the Council.

G. Mayor

Mayor Hutchinson presented his report to the Council.

H. City Clerk

Mr. Hoeffken presented his report to the Council.

I. Architectural Review Board/Street Graphics Advisory Board

1. Admiral Trost Development Directory Sign Variance Request

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to accept the recommendation of the Street Graphics Advisory Board and grant to Wegmann Properties Group, for the Admiral Trost Development Identification sign, a variance from Section 15.44.190 F.1 extending the sign height to twenty-five (25) feet, and granting a variance from Section 15.44.190 F.2 allowing a 375 square foot identification sign that is fifteen (15) feet in width, said sign to be located on a permanent dedicated easement facing Route 3 (on lot 4 of the Admiral Trost Development Subdivision) and located in a C-3 (Highway Business) Zoning District in exchange for all businesses within the project using monument signs in lieu of pole signs. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, and Hejna voted yea. Alderman Oberkfell voted nay. Motion Carried.

2. First Bank Sign Variance Request

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to accept the recommendation of the Street Graphics Advisory Board and deny First Bank, a variance from Section 15.44.190 F.b allowing the pole sign to remain directly on the property line, and granting a variance from Section 15.44.160 E allowing an electronic sign, said sign being located at 218 N. Main Street and located in a C-2 (General Business) Zoning District. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

3. Building Material Variance Request - 207 N. Main Street

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the recommendation of the Architectural Review Board and grant to Tammy Mitchell Hines, for a building located at 207 N. Main Street, a variance allowing the use of dryvit as an exterior building material. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Row, to accept the report of all Departments and Officers as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

**V. CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS**

A. Past Due Invoices

The report of Past Due Invoices was presented to the Council.

Alderman Hejna inquired about the amount of past due invoices for G. J. Grewe. Mayor Hutchinson explained these invoices are tied to engineering services for the Fish Lake interchange, as per the Master Development Agreement and the City is not financially obligated to pay Horner and Shifrin until it receives payment from G. J. Grewe.

B. Vouchers

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Row, to authorize the payment of vouchers received through February 14, 2008; the total amount of the vouchers to be paid is two hundred eight thousand, five hundred twelve dollars, and ninety-one cents (\$208,512.91). Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Report of Collections

The Report of Collections for the period commencing December 26, 2007 and ending January 25, 2008 was presented to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to approve the Report of Collections for the period December 26, 2007 and ending January 25, 2008, as submitted and on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

D. Statement of Funds

The Statement of Funds for the Month of January 2008 was presented to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to accept the report of the Statement of Funds as presented. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Columbia Crossing

1. Legal

A summary of legal fees for the Columbia Crossing litigation was presented to the Council.

Alderman Oberkfell inquired about the difference in the amount included in the report and the amount included in the email from Mr. Skigen. Mr. Traxler informed the Council the report was prepared from actual invoices received from Hepler Broom and does not know the source of the amount referenced in the email. Alderman Oberkfell requested Mr. Traxler verify the amount with Mr. Skigen.

2. Planning Consultation

A summary of planning consultation fees for the Columbia Crossing development was presented to the Council.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business brought before the Council.

**VIII. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Finance, Claims, Bonds and Interest Committee

Minutes of the Finance, Claims, Bonds and Interest Committee meeting held Monday, January 28, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

The revised minutes had not been distributed to the Council. Consequently, approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

B. Ambulance, Radio Communication, and Dispatch Committee & Municipal Buildings, Property, and Capital Improvements Committee

Minutes of the joint meeting of Ambulance, Radio Communication, and Dispatch Committee and the Municipal Buildings, Property, and Capital Improvements Committee held Monday, February 11, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

1. Ambulance Department Facility

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the recommendation of the Ambulance, Radio Communication, and Dispatch Committee and the Municipal Buildings, Property, and Capital Improvements Committee and proceed with the placement of the Ambulance Department facilities FEMA trailer at a projected expense of \$27,500.00 contingent upon the money being available in the budget and verification with the City Attorney, Tom Adams, if any variances are required for placement of the trailer. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Row, to approve the minutes of the joint meeting of the Ambulance, Radio Communication, and Dispatch Committee and the Municipal Buildings, Property, and Capital Improvements Committee held Monday, February 11, 2008 as on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Water and Sewer Committee

Minutes of the Water and Sewer Committee meeting held Monday, February 11, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

1. Sauerwein Sewer Connection Fee

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to accept the recommendation of the Water and Sewer Committee to waive the Sewer Connection Fee, in the amount of \$1,875.00, for the David Sauerwein property located at 512 Wedgewood Lane. Upon Roll Call

vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Agne, to approve the minutes of the Water and Sewer Committee meeting held Monday, February 11, 2008 as on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

D. Committee Of The Whole

Minutes of the Committee Of The Whole meeting held Monday, February 4, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to approve the minutes of the Committee Of The Whole Committee meeting held Monday, February 4, 2008 as on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

**IX. CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Monday, February 25, 2008

7:00 PM - Committee Of The Whole

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

7:00 PM - Fire Department

A. Mayor Pro Tem

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to appoint Alderman Ebersohl as Mayor Pro Tem commencing Friday, February 22, 2008 and ending Friday, February 29, 2008. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Alderman Ebersohl abstained. Motion Carried.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Hutchinson informed the Council he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to direct the Mayor to go into Executive Session at 8:45 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, and Oberkfell voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to return to Regular Session of the City Council at 9:20 PM. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

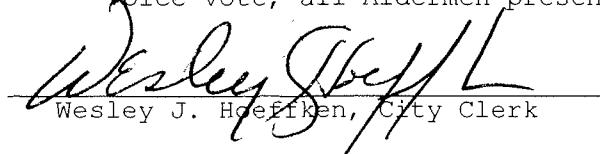
Upon return to Regular Session, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf, and Mayor Hutchinson were present. (Note: Alderman Stumpf arrived during the Executive Session of the City Council)

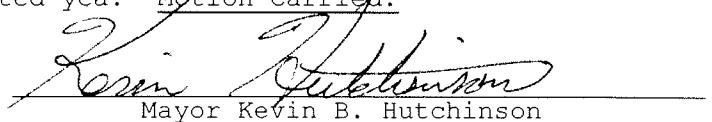
Mayor Hutchinson inquired if there was any business to be brought before the Council as a result of the Executive Session. There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Row, to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, February 18, 2008 at 9:21 PM. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

  
Wesley J. Hoefkens, City Clerk

  
Kevin B. Hutchinson  
Mayor Kevin B. Hutchinson