

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL

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, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Clerk Wes Hoeffken, City Administrator Anthony Traxler, City Attorney Tom Adams, Chief of Police Joe Edwards, Deputy Chief of Police Jerry Paul, Building Inspector Al Holden, City Engineer Ron Williams, Fire Chief Mike Roediger, and Part Time Assistant EMS Director Ken Buss.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, March 3, 2008 were submitted for approval.

Corrections were forwarded to Mr. Hoeffken.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council held Monday, March 3, 2008, as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, March 3, 2008 were submitted for approval.

Corrections were forwarded to Mr. Hoeffken.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held Monday, March 3, 2008, as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

III. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations present.

IV. REPORT OF OFFICERS

A. Civic Progress Committee

1. Main Street Streetscape Project

Mr. Tom Cissell presented the Main Street Streetscape project concept to the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Oberkfell, and seconded by Alderman Agne, to accept the recommendation of the Civic Progress Committee and approve the concept plan from Oates Associates with the condition that no current parking spaces are removed without prior agreement or additional compensation. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to accept the recommendation of the Civic Progress Committee and proceed with construction plans for Phase I of the Streetscape Project, a 1 - 3 block area centered at City Hall, as finances permit. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Oberkfell, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to accept the recommendation of the Civic Progress Committee and authorize a city representative and Tom Cissell of Oates Associates, to initiate the process and application for additional enhancement funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation to continue moving forward with future improvements on Main Street. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

2. Façade Program Reimbursement - Budget Request

This issue was referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration as part of the budget review.

3. Façade Program Reimbursement - Estes Financial, LTD.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Unnerstall, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to accept the recommendation of the Civic Progress Committee and approve the Main Street Façade Application submitted by Brian Estes on behalf of Estes Financial, Ltd., located at 102 S. Main Street. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

B. Library Board

The monthly report of the Library Board was presented to the Council.

C. Police Department

The monthly report of the Police Department was presented to the Council.

D. EMS Department

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

1. Employment of Ron Dell - EMT-P

Mr. Stumpf informed the Council he would like to send this to Committee for review prior to taking any action. Mr. Buss stated the request was being made in order to fill an open shift this coming Friday. Mr. Buss then explained if the shift is not covered, the State will need to be notified that the City is unable to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) service to the City, and this could result in the State revoking the City's ALS certification. Mr. Adams stated the Council could hire Mr. Dell on a probationary basis, contingent upon the Ambulance Committee's review of the employment application and subsequent recommendation to employ. Alderman Stumpf stated he would like to add this discussion to the Executive Session agenda.

E. Plan Commission

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

F. City Attorney

1. Ordinance - Real Estate Sales Contract

Mr. Adams informed the Council this item needs to be discussed in Executive Session prior to any action by the Council.

2. Ordinance - Prohibit Consumption Of Ground Water

Alderman Stumpf questioned the number of homes included in the area. Mr. Adams explained a map defining the affected area was to have been attached to the ordinance, but was not. Alderman Stumpf recommended action be deferred until the map is made available and subsequently reviewed.

G. Administration Department

There was no report of the City Administrator.

H. Mayor

Mayor Hutchinson presented his report to the Council.

1. Ordinance No. 2638 - Library Board Appointment

Alderman Unnerstall stated he is sure Mr. Brutton would make a fine Library Board member but that he is disappointed with the recommendation and suggested future appointments for all boards should include more diversification and that all of the recent appointments have been people who support Columbia Crossing. Alderman Unnerstall stated the Mayor had promised the next Library Board appointment to Ms. Farmer. Alderman Unnerstall then stated the Mayor is building walls instead of bridges. Mayor Hutchinson stated he has concerns about someone who made such an outburst at a public hearing that a Deputy Sheriff had to be called into the room. Mayor Hutchinson then stated he was willing to appoint Ms. Farmer to the Library Board until he learned Ms. Farmer was a party to a letter sent to the Illinois Attorney General implying the City Council had violated the Open Meetings Act and asked how the Council could approve an appointment of someone who has reported this same body to the Illinois Attorney General.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to pass Ordinance No. 2638, an ordinance amending ordinance No. 2570 which provided for the appointment of members of certain Boards and Commissions of the City of Columbia, Illinois for the fiscal year of the City commencing May 1, 2007 and ending April 30, 2008. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz voted yea. Aldermen Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberfell, and Stumpf voted nay. Motion Failed.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, 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. Vouchers

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Hejna, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to authorize the payment of vouchers received through March 13, 2008; the total

amount of the vouchers to be paid is two hundred ninety-two thousand, fifty-eight dollars, and eighty-one cents (\$292,058.81). Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business brought before the Council.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Video Tape of Council Meeting

Alderman Stumpf requested the City request a copy of the video tape of the last meeting videographed by the private party. Mayor Hutchinson directed Mr. Traxler to research the videographer and request a copy of the video.

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.

Mayor Hutchinson informed the Council he had another staff member listen to the recording of the Committee meeting and create minutes, which he then compared. Mayor Hutchinson then stated there is a serious difference between the two sets of minutes. Alderman Hejna stated she thought the minutes are correct and is ready to approve the minutes. Mayor Hutchinson stated there are some major discrepancies. Mr. Hoeffken stated he would secure a copy of the audio from the meeting, listen to the recording, and report back to the Council.

B. Committee Of The Whole

Minutes of the Committee Of The Whole meeting and the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole held Monday, March 3, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the Committee Of The Whole Committee meeting held Monday, March 3, 2008 as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to approve the minutes of the Committee Of The Whole Committee meeting held Monday, March 3, 2008 as amended and on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Committee Of The Whole

Minutes of the Committee Of The Whole meeting held Monday, March 10, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

Approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting of the Council since the minutes were not distributed in time for review by the Council.

Mayor Hutchinson requested formal motions on actions taken as a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting. Alderman Unnerstall stated any formal motions would be inappropriate at this time as these items had not appeared on any public agenda, and so the public never had any knowledge or opportunity to provide comment. Mayor Hutchinson disagreed and stated this is only delaying the process. Alderman Unnerstall responded the delay is created when the process is not followed correctly and asked Mr. Adams for clarification. Mr. Adams provided clarification and Mayor Hutchinson said he would place these items on the next agenda.

Mr. Adams referred to the Illinois Municipal Code and it does allow you some latitude, but the conservative approach would be to list all action items on the agenda. Mr. Adams added, however, we have always done it that way in the past.

D. Municipal Buildings, Property, and Capital Improvements Committee

Minutes of the Municipal Buildings, Property, and Capital Improvements Committee meeting held Monday, March 10, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Row, and seconded by Alderman Oberkfell, to approve the minutes of the Municipal Buildings, Property, and Capital Improvements Committee meeting held Monday, March 10, 2008 as on file at City Hall. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.

E. Fire Department Committee And Rural Fire District

Minutes of the Fire Department Committee and the Rural Fire District meeting held Tuesday, March 11, 2008 were presented to the Council for approval.

Approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting of the Council since the minutes were not distributed in time for review by the Council.

IX. CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, March 24, 2008

7:00 PM - Ambulance, Radio Communication, and Dispatch
7:10 PM - Committee of the Whole

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne, and seconded by Alderman Row, to direct the Mayor to go into Executive Session at 8:29 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel and land acquisition. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl, and seconded by Alderman Row, to return to Regular Session of the City Council at 9:34 PM. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

Upon return to Regular Session, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberkfell, Stumpf and Mayor Hutchinson were present.

Mayor Hutchinson inquired if there was any business to be brought before the Council as a result of the Executive Session.

A. Fraternal Order of Police - Grievance

Alderman Stumpf objected to Alderman Niemietz's motion because two Aldermen had left to take a restroom break.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl, to acknowledge receipt of the Grievance from the Fraternal Order of Police. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, and Row voted yea. Alderman Stumpf voted nay. Aldermen Hejna and Oberkfell were absent. Motion Carried.

B. Ron Dell - F/T EMT-P

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Stumpf, and seconded by Alderman Row, to employ Mr. Ron Dell as an EMT-P on a probationary basis, until the Ambulance, Radio Communication, and Dispatch Committee can review the employment application and subsequently recommend employment, and subject to the appropriate drug testing and physical. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberfell, and Stumpf voted yea. Motion Carried.

C. Ordinance No. 2638 - Real Estate Sales Contract

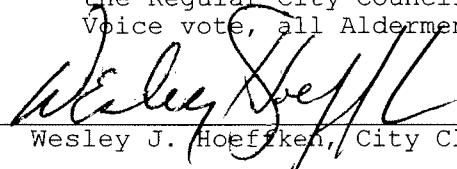
MOTION:

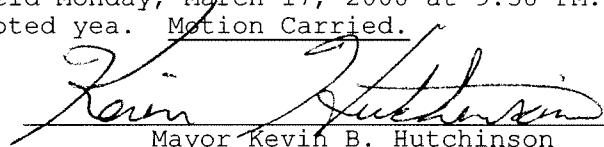
It was moved by Alderman Unnerstall, and seconded by Alderman Agne, to pass Ordinance No. 2638, an ordinance authorizing a Real Estate Sales Contract for the City of Columbia, Illinois to purchase from Winnifred B. D. Fiege, by Wilma Mehrtens, her Attorney in Fact and Agent, real estate having the assigned address of 140 South Main Street, Columbia, Illinois to be used, owned, maintained, operated, and preserved as a historic public building in the City by the City. Upon Roll Call vote, Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Unnerstall, Row, Hejna, Oberfell, Stumpf, and Mayor Hutchinson voted yea. Motion Carried.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Unnerstall, to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting held Monday, March 17, 2008 at 9:38 PM. Upon Voice vote, all Aldermen present voted yea. Motion Carried.


Wesley J. Hoefkens, City Clerk


Mayor Kevin B. Hutchinson