

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
APRIL 26, 2010 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ebersohl called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:02 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Oberkfell, Stumpf and Roessler.

Absent: Aldermen Row and Hejna and Mayor Hutchinson.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Engineer Ron Williams, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests Present: Board Members of Art on the Bluffs, Inc., Carol Fecho and Lauren Nobbe.

Chairman Ebersohl stated the purpose of the meeting was to (1) receive a presentation on the Art on the Bluffs – Art Walk event; (2) have an electricity provider discussion; and (3) discuss any other items to be considered.

II. ART ON THE BLUFFS – ART WALK PRESENTATION

Chairman Ebersohl turned the meeting over to Board Member of Art on the Bluffs, Inc., Carol Fecho, who made opening remarks and informed the Committee of the positive responses received from the businesses, artists, and community on last year's Art Walk event. Carol referred to the Plans for Art on the Bluffs, Inc. -- Art Walk flyer distributed to the Committee outlining specific details and the various requests made to the city pertaining to the Art Walk event. Carol informed the Committee of additional items/requests not shown on the flyer including: (1) permission to close a portion of Gunlach Street between the Old Distillery and Charlie's Columbia Carstar since a car show located at Charlie's Columbia Carstar will be added to the event; and (2) the addition of a shuttle service and more music along the Art Walk. During the presentation a general discussion was held in which Committee Members were given an opportunity

to express their opinions and ask questions; it was the general feeling of the Committee that permission be given for the Art Walk event to be held again this year.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Agne to recommend to the City Council approval of the Art on the Bluffs Art Walk event to be held on October 2, 2010, on Main Street as discussed in Committee, provided the event is coordinated with the following city departments: Police, Fire, EMS, DOPW, Community and Economic Development and the City Clerk's Office. Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Oberkfell, Stumpf and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. ELECTRICITY PROVIDER DISCUSSION

Chairman Ebersohl called upon City Administrator Hudzik to address the Committee on this issue. City Administrator Hudzik stated he had been contacted by several electricity providers, as well as one consulting firm, indicating the city could save approximately 10 – 20% in electricity costs by switching to (or utilizing) their services (of providing (or finding a company to provide) electricity to the city instead of AmerenIP). City Administrator Hudzik explained that (a) AmerenIP would (i) still deliver the electricity over their lines; (ii) continue to be responsible for the repairs and maintenance of their lines; and (iii) bill for the delivery of the electricity to the city's buildings/lift stations/water pumps; however, the electricity would be provided by the electricity provider (utilizing AmerenIP's lines); (b) the electricity would have to be delivered to a metered location, and therefore, the electricity to the street lights would continue to be provided by AmerenIP (since the street lights are a non-metered service); (c) after reviewing several months of bills, it appears the average monthly bill for electricity from AmerenIP is approximately \$10,000.00, excluding street lights; and (d) Monroe County Co-op also provides electricity for the city's lift stations/water pumps with the average monthly bill approximating \$5,000.00. City Administrator Hudzik recommended that City Engineer Ron Williams and he solicit bids from/meet with the various electricity providers, and the consulting firm, in order to provide more information to the Council concerning this issue and the possible savings it may mean for the city. A general discussion was held during which it was the consensus of the Committee that City Administrator Hudzik and City Engineer Williams take the steps they feel are appropriate to obtain more detailed information and report back to the Committee.

IV. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Agne and seconded by Alderman Niemietz to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, April 26, 2010 at 7:27 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Agne, Niemietz, Oberfell, Stumpf and Roessler voted yea. MOTION CARRIED.

Gene Ebersohl

GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes taken by:

Sandra Garner

SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

**MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY, APRIL
26, 2010 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mary Ellen Niemietz called the Personnel Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:29 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Stumpf and Roessler.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Aldermen Agne and Oberkfell.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Engineer Ron Williams and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests Present: None.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Niemietz entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

MOTION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl and seconded by Alderman Stumpf to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Stumpf and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION – REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl and seconded by Alderman Stumpf to return to the Regular Session of the Personnel Committee Meeting at 8:09 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Stumpf and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Personnel Committee Meeting, the following Committee Members were present: Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Stumpf and Roessler. Other Council Members present: Aldermen Agne and Oberfell.

Chairman Niemietz asked if there was any action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session of the Personnel Committee Meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Stumpf and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl to recommend to the City Council that the city employ Mark W. Weisman, attorney with the firm of Gallop, Johnson & Neuman, as labor counsel to review the DOPW collective bargaining negotiations documentation and provide advice and counsel on how the city should proceed with future negotiations. Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Stumpf and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.** A poll of the other Aldermen: Agne and Oberfell voted yea.

III. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Roessler and seconded by Alderman Stumpf to adjourn the Personnel Committee Meeting held Monday, April 26, 2010 at 8:10 p.m. Upon Roll Call Vote, Chairman Niemietz and Aldermen Ebersohl, Stumpf and Roessler voted yea.

MOTION CARRIED.


MARY ELLEN NIEMIETZ, Chairman
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Minutes Taken by:


SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant