

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois
Held Monday, May 17, 2021 in the Council Room of City Hall.**

A. Call Meeting to Order

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

B. Roll Call

Present: Aldermen Niemietz, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer and Khoury

Absent: Aldermen Roessler and Huch

Quorum present.

Administrative Staff present:

City Clerk Andrew Hitzemann
City Attorney Terry Bruckert
City Engineer Chris Smith
City Treasurer Linda Sharp
IT Manager James Mitchell

City Administrator Douglas Brimm
Chief of Police Jason Donjon
Asst. to the City Admin. Sue Spargo
Dir. Of Community Dev. Scott Dunakey
EMS Chief Kim Lamprecht

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Proclamations/Recognitions/Presentations

1. Employee Retirement

Mayor Hill recognized Steve Mueller and Jackie Hausmann for their contributions to the City and presented them with tokens of gratitude on their retirements.

- Steve Mueller – Worked for Department of Public Works for 37 years.
- Jackie Hausmann – Worked in Administration Department for 15 years.

2. National Police Week

Mayor Hill recognized May 9th through May 15th 2021 as Police Week.

3. Emergency Medical Services Week

Mayor Hill recognized May 16th through May 22nd 2021 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

E. Public Input

There was no public input.

F. Comments & Announcements - Mayor

There were no Mayor Comments & Announcements

G. Comments & Announcements - Aldermen

There were no Aldermen Comments & Announcements.

H. Comments & Announcements – Department Directors

City Engineer

Mr. Smith noted that May 16th through May 22nd 2021 is Public Works Week. Mr. Smith announced Creekside Park had a DNR grant which was paused due to Covid. The Grant will be withdrawn so we are eligible for this grant for the upcoming cycle. Mr. Smith along with Mayor Hill and Mr. Brimm attended Illinois TPC meeting virtually and Phase 2 of Ghent road was recommended for funding in the amount of \$552,000.

I. Consent Agenda

City Clerk Hitzemann read the Consent Agenda.

1. Motion to Approve Minutes of the April 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting
2. Motion to approve Minutes of the May 3, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting – 1st Session
3. Motion to approve Minutes of the May 3, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting – 2nd Session
4. Motion to authorize the payment of vouchers for the period from May 1, 2021 through May 14, 2021 in the amount of \$610,010.36
5. Motion to approve a Special Event Permit Application for 4th of July Celebration
6. Motion to approve a Special Event Permit Application for FestiFall on October 3, 2021

Mayor Hill inquired if the Council wished to remove any items prior to a motion.

Alderman Garmer requested amend to Item 3 to update roll call of adjournment to include Alderman Garmer and Alderman Khoury

Motion:

It was moved by Alderman Garmer, and seconded by Alderman Riddle, to approve the Consent Agenda with Item 3 amended.

Motion Passed.

Roll Call Vote results:

- 6 Aye: Niemietz, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer and Khoury
0 Nay:
2 Absent: Roessler and Huch
0 Abstain:

J. Unfinished Business

1. Ordinance No. 3571 - Annexing into the City of Columbia, Illinois Certain Property Owned by the City, which Contains 1.54 Acres More or Less Located at 2000 Columbia Quarry Road and Zoning Said Property A-1 Agricultural District

Alderman Garmer inquired as to if surrounding area is A-1 as well. Mr. Dunakey stated it wasn't but this has to be A-1 per state statute. This has to be the most restrictive zoning district where residential is allowed.

Motion:

It was moved by Alderman Martens, and seconded by Alderman Garmer, to pass and approve Ordinance No. 3571 to Annex 1.54 Acres More or Less Located at 2000 Columbia Quarry Road and Zoning Said Property A-1 Agricultural District

Motion Passed.

Roll Call Vote results:

6 Aye: Niemietz, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer and Khoury

0 Nay:

2 Absent: Roessler and Huch

0 Abstain:

K. New Business

1. Discussion of Tourism Grant Application for Songs4Soldiers

Ms. Spargo provided information regarding Tourism Funds and Local Tourism Grant Program. Tourism Funds are received by the city by overnight stays from people staying at hotels within the City. Per State Statute, those funds can be expanded by the City to promote tourism and conventions within the city or attract non-resident overnight visitors to the city. In March 2020, the Local Tourism Grant Program was created. It provides a way for non-profit organizations, venues, hotels to apply for tax funds to promote events which brings visitors to the city. First application was received from Song4Soldiers. According to procedure established last year, the application is reviewed by the Tourism Advisory Committee. Scoring is based on completeness of application, ability of event to grow successfully, economic opportunity the event presents to the community, if event reflects positive on the city, potential of overnight visitors, funding request is consistent with how it will be used, and post event recording. Following review, the Advisory Committee recommended approval to Finance Director who confirmed there are funds available. Request review of the Council and comments prior to bringing resolution at June 7th Meeting. Alderman Garmer asked if she anticipated the high score of 61 out of 63. Ms. Spargo confirmed saying this event is expected to result in 35 rooms rented at the hotel and 8,000 to 10,000 people which will generate income. Alderman Garmer inquired regarding information of 16 nights stayed in the packet. Mr. Brimm added that in 2019 there were 16 rooms booked for the band and

an additional 10 rooms for guests. They anticipate this many for 2021 but there should be more. Ms. Sharp requested the amount be shared and Ms. Spargo confirmed the amount is \$2,500. Alderman Niemietz asked if the hotel can record what is for Song for Soldiers for tracking purposes. Ms. Spargo mentioned it is the responsibility of Song for Soldiers to track this number. An additional requirement is that Song for Soldiers has to have the hotel logo on their advertisements.

2. Discussion of a Plat of Survey and Land Transfer by Way of Real Estate Exchange Between Parcel No. 04-22-102-024-000 and Parcel No. 04-22-102-029-000 Located in the City of Columbia, Monroe County, Illinois
Mr. Dunakey informed the Council he received a request from Jim Vogt on behalf of his clients Bruce and Kathy Robert to transfer one portion of a parcel they own to another parcel. The parcels are adjacent. This is in the R6 district and already had a detached garage. There is no proposed development. Upon review, both lots comply with the applicable provisions of zoning code and subdivision code. Approval would be at the June 7th Council Meeting. Alderman Garmer and Alderman Niemietz both questioned why the request. Mr. Dunakey stated his understanding is that they don't want the attached garage to go with the current lot it is on.

3. Discussion of Street Closures – IDPH Bridge/Phase 5
Mr. Brimm stated that the resolution was adopted by City Council in June 2020 which provides for temporary outdoor seating for dining and drinking establishments within the city. It also gave staff authority to approve temporary street closers for outdoor dining. It was attended for Phase 3 of Restore Illinois Plan. Council extended this authority through Phase 4 of Restore Illinois Plan on the August 3, 2020 Council meeting. Illinois Dept. of Public Health has transitioned entire state to Phase 5. Due to this, the temporary authority passed under Resolution 2020-12 has lapsed. Discussion with Council if they would like this to continue or expire. If it were to continue, Mr. Brimm and Mr. Dunakey could amend the resolution for zoning for outdoor dining which would have to go through the Plan Commission then back to Council for recommendation. Mr. Dunakey mentioned a third option would be a temporary permit. Alderman Niemietz stated we are in a state of transition and due to restrictions of state regulations this is a moving target. Mr. Brimm agreed and asked if it should be extended for 90 days temporarily and see where we are in Restore Illinois at that time. Alderman Niemietz expressed we should help businesses and inquired upon the amount of utilization and if there were any issues. Mr. Dunakey confirmed there has been three requested street closures including one which was recently rescheduled. All the guidelines attached to the application weren't requirements for approval but the guidance issued by the state as best practice. Alderman Garmer asked if this isn't extended and allowed to expire if the affected restaurants couldn't have outdoor dining. Mr. Dunakey mentioned they couldn't use their outdoor parking areas as temporary dining. Mr. Brimm confirmed the outdoor dining which was allowed pre-pandemic

would be allowed to continue. Alderman Garmer expressed his concern allowing this to expire due to uncertainty in the future. Mr. Dunakey confirmed the resolution is already drafted and if something occurred in the future that only the dates would have to be changed and get it back in front of the Council. Alderman Garmer inquired on how the original set of dates were decided. Mr. Brimm confirmed it was based upon Restore Illinois Plan phase. He also stated even though it has expired, nothing is currently being enforced to alter business plans. Alderman Riddle expressed concerns to allow businesses opportunity to make additional money by having extra people. Alderman Garmer agreed and that businesses made extra investments for these circumstances. Mr. Brimm brought forward there should be a motion to extend Resolution 2020-12 by 60 days.

Motion:

It was moved by Alderman Riddle, and seconded by Alderman Khoury, to pass and approve an extension of authority granted under Resolution 2020-12 by 60 days.

Motion Passed.

Roll Call Vote results:

6 Aye: Niemietz, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer and Khoury

0 Nay:

2 Absent: Roessler and Huch

0 Abstain:

4. Discussion of City Council Committee Structure

Mr. Brimm stated the committees which are set by code for City Council include 8 different committees including the Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole was established in 2017 via 2.02.060(d) of the city code which has been utilized in lieu of individual committees of the past. The history explained to him was that individual committees would meet time to time but Council members would attend regardless. It was believed that it would be beneficial to move into the Committee of the Whole Structure. The responsibilities of the committees were established in 1990 per 2.02.060. As such it doesn't reflect the current structure of city's organization. It's the recommendation that all committees except for the Committee of the Whole would be abolished. Per 2.02.070 of city code, the mayor reserves authority to appoint special committees as deemed necessary or by directed by council. This would allow Council to form committees as needed to review items that have special consideration. One example is the Public Safety complex. While reviewing options, it might be beneficial for Mayor Hill to appoint Alderman to a special committee which would work with staff for a recommendation to the Council as a Whole. Alderman Garmer asked if the 8 committees are either obsolete or miss-titled or if only 5 are currently valid. Mr. Brimm mentioned that prior to 2017 there were 15 or 16 committees in place which weren't all

being utilized. It was decided at that time to reduce to the current size of 8. Moving to the Committee of the Whole structure has rendered the 8 without function. Now having professional staff in Columbia, the department heads perform the duties and responsibilities which were being carried out by the committees. Alderman Garmer inquired if 2.02.070 was setup at the time to fill in gaps which 2.02.060 didn't cover and if now 2.02.070 would cover everything. Mr. Brimm confirmed the Committee as the Whole would remain in place and gave the example which occurred in April where the Committee of the Whole reviewed the budget outside of a normal Council meeting. The mayor would have the right under 2.02.070 to convene special committees as needed. The Public Safety complex would be a good example for one of these sub committees. Alderman Garmer asked if the advantage would be cleaning up the code. Alderman Niemietz expressed concern with Committee of the Whole in hopes of having more discussion on items. Example she provided is the Consent Agenda where it is gone through quickly. Although Council receives the packet information to study, there is not a lot of time to ask questions since it is provided on Friday and the meeting is on Monday. There isn't a lot of time to contact staff for questions. Sometimes more discussion is needed to get a better understanding. Prior to having staff, the Alderman with the appropriate background would assist with functions and she doesn't want to lose that level of detail and understanding. Mr. Brimm discussed how the agenda model today is different where prior the Council meets the first and third Monday's of the month and the Committee of the Whole would meet every second and fourth Monday. Things which were discussed on the second Monday by the Committee of the Whole would be brought in front of the Council on the third Monday. The current model slowed legislation to allow Council to review new items under new Business and give Council time to discuss and ask questions. Staff is then able to take note and address. This can then be incorporated in codes and ordinances in following meetings. It gives Council an additional week to ask questions and connect with staff. New business will give two weeks. Rarely will something be acted upon quickly. Committee of the Whole will still have use and applicability. The intention is to take items which Council has questions to the Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole would be the working session to go through the city code line by line to free up time at Council meetings to focus on discussion and specific questions. There is value to retain the Committee of the Whole but not where previous utilized. Alderman Niemietz questioned staff in attendance if having someone as chair of meeting made them more attentive or is it better to explain to everyone at a meeting instead of the one on ones discussions. Mr. Dunakey stated the Committee of the Whole is more conducive to having more of a conversation which opens up questions. Mr. Brimm stated that the Committee of the Whole structure is being utilized under New Business where conversations and discussion can occur. Chief of Police Donjon seconded that he prefers Committee of the Whole so things can be presented to everyone. Ms. Sharp stated she values having Alderman Roessler the head of the Finance Committee. Mr. Brimm mentioned that Ms. Sharp would still have access to Alderman Roessler even

without him being the head of the Finance Committee. Alderman Garmer expressed some Committees can get used more than others which can cause fatigue. Sometimes having Committees also results in quick approval in front of Council instead of detailed discussion. The gap week would allow more time for questions. Mr. Brimm stressed he is not discouraging anyone from approaching him or staff on off weeks. Discussion with them would help further discussion to address in agenda items.

L. Closed Session

Mayor Hill informed the Council that he would entertain a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss:

- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Performance, Discipline, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body
- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective Bargaining
- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Pending or Probable Litigation

Motion:

It was moved by Alderman Khoury, and seconded by Alderman Niemietz, to direct the Mayor to go into Closed Session at 7:45 PM to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Performance, Discipline, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective Bargaining, and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Pending or Probable Litigation

Motion Passed.

Roll Call Vote results:

6 Aye: Niemietz, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer and Khoury

0 Nay:

2 Absent: Roessler and Huch

0 Abstain:

Mayor Hill called the Regular Session of the City Council back to order at 9:14 PM. Upon return to Regular Session, Aldermen Niemietz, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer, Khoury, and Mayor Hill were present.

M. Announcements

Mr. Brimm spoke on behalf of Mr. Smith. Due to the Creekside project being delayed, he asked if anyone on the Council had an objection to allowing the Schaefer's to farm the property for the next planning season. There were no objections.

Mr. Brimm announced that the Household Hazardous Waste event will be held Saturday May 22nd, 2021 at the fairgrounds and if anyone wants to volunteer to contact Ms. Spargo.

Mayor Hill expressed his sympathy on behalf of himself and the City on the passing of Ray Aycock. Mr. Aycock was a police dispatcher for 10 years in addition to being an EMT for 10 years.

N. Adjournment

Motion:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz, and seconded by Alderman Martens, to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting held Monday, May 17, 2021 at 9:16 PM.

Motion Passed.

Roll Call Vote results:

6 Aye: Niemietz, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer and Khoury

0 Nay:

2 Absent: Roessler and Huch

0 Abstain:



ANDREW LITZEMANN, CITY CLERK



MAYOR BOB HILL

NOTE: Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order (2020-10) in response to COVID-19 issued March 16, 2020 this meeting was held virtually with certain members attending remotely, as noted above with an asterisk (*) by their name.