

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
MARCH 26, 2012 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 Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Piazza and Reis and Mayor Hutchinson.

Absent: Alderman Agne.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, City Engineer Ron Williams (left meeting at 9:30 p.m.), Chief of Police and EMS Director Joe Edwards, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Assistant City Engineer Tim Ahrens (left meeting at 9:30 p.m.), Head Librarian Erica Pyle (arrived at 8:40 p.m. and left meeting at 8:55 p.m.), Accounting Manager Linda Sharp (left meeting at 9:54 p.m.) and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests Present: Shane Watson, a member of the Library Board (arrived at 8:40 p.m. and left meeting at 8:55 p.m.), Mike Kish, principal of Immaculate Conception School (left meeting at 8:40 p.m.), Father Carl Scherrer, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (left meeting at 8:40 p.m.) and several members of the School Board of Immaculate Conception School (left meeting at 8:40 PM).

Chairman Ebersohl stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing (1) the Immaculate Conception School crossing guard; (2) the municipal buildings cleaning services proposals; (3) budgetary and financial information; and (4) any other items to be considered.

**II. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL (“ICS”) CROSSING GUARD
DISCUSSION**

(Note: In addition to the individuals listed hereon in I. approximately twenty-five (25) members of the public were in attendance.)

Chairman Ebersohl opened the meeting, made opening remarks and asked if anyone from ICS would like to address the Committee Members. Tom Prindiville, President of the ICS School Board, read a statement pertaining to the safe drop-off of students at ICS, the use of the church parking lot as a safe drop-off point (which requires the students to cross

Main St.), programs encouraging children to walk to school, the possible de-funding of the crossing guard position by the city and the need for a crossing guard on Main St. (at the ICS site) for the safety of the school children. After Mr. Prindiville's presentation, a general discussion was held wherein all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions, which included (i) a crossing guard is needed (for safety reasons) due to the volume of traffic and driving habits of many drivers using Main St.; (ii) the crossing guard position should remain under the city's oversight; (iii) that safety is paramount, the city has funded the crossing guard position for many years and should continue to fund it; (iv) city budgetary constraints were never the issue in addressing this situation; (v) options need to be explored to have students dropped-off on side streets vs. Main St.; (vi) the responsibility for administering the program (i.e., should the program be administered by the city or by ICS?) – questions were raised about asking Mr. Kish (or other ICS personnel) to administer the program if it is funded by the city and the crossing guard(s) are city employees; (vii) not enough parking is available around the school without using Main St.; (viii) parents may need to play a larger role when dropping off their children (e.g., walk them into school) and must keep safety in mind when dropping off students; (ix) the proper amount to pay the crossing guard(s); (x) a variety of alternatives/options should be considered pertaining to student drop-off; (xi) two (2) individuals have currently been hired and are now going through the physical, background checks and training process; and (xii) several individuals may need to be hired (with possible morning only or afternoon only working options) to successfully staff and administer the program. The Mayor and Committee Members stated the program will be staffed with city employee(s) as soon as the two current applicants complete the necessary training, and that funding in the future would be discussed during the budgetary process (the budget must be passed by May 1st). Fr. Carl Scherrer made concluding remarks about past church/school/city cooperation and encouraged everyone to work together in recruiting individuals willing to staff the crossing guard position.

III. REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS CLEANING SERVICES PROPOSALS

City Administrator Al Hudzik reviewed the Janitorial Service Bids document that had previously been distributed to the Committee Members. He then informed them that the Department Heads met on March 22nd to discuss the bid proposals of the four (4) lowest bidders – it was the consensus at that meeting that the two (2) lowest bidders seemed able to meet the city's cleaning needs (after a few reference checks were made, as well as a check with the Better Business Bureau). It was the consensus of the Committee that (i) the cleaning services contract be awarded to the lowest bidder agreeing to incorporate all contract terms and provisions contained in the city's cleaning services RFP document into their Services Agreement; and (ii) the proper documentation be presented to the council for their consideration at a future council meeting.

IV. BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Library Board Member Shane Watson addressed the Committee Members and informed them the proposed Public Library budget for FY 2012 – 2013 contained the following (approximate) figures: \$336,000 in receipts and \$320,000 in expenses (resulting in \$16,000 going into reserves); the proposed salaries were increased from approximately \$148,000 currently to approximately \$153,700 (individual increases ranged from 3.00 % to 5.5% (based on merit and market analysis adjustments) – total cumulative salary increases approximated 3.82%) – Shane also reviewed the proposed Building Improvements and Equipment portions of the budget.

Accounting Manager Linda Sharp then reviewed a three (3) page document listing the equipment and capital projects each of the Department Heads had included in their budget requests for the city’s 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. She also informed the Committee Members that work continues on the draft budget and she is in the process of reviewing the fee schedule as part of the budgetary process.

City Administrator Hudzik then reviewed the following documents: (a) a worksheet containing actual YTD and estimated figures detailing monthly receipts in the city’s General Fund for the current fiscal year (2011 – 2012); (b) a worksheet containing estimated receipts for the upcoming fiscal year (2012- 2013); and (c) a letter, dated March 21, 2012, from the Steelworkers Health and Welfare Fund informing the city of monthly health insurance premium increases (for the medical and prescription drug plans the city offers its employees), effective July 1, 2012 – he also distributed a worksheet entitled “Comparison of Monthly Medical/Prescription Drug Premiums – July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012 (& as Increased 07/01/12 – 06/30/13)” containing analytical data comparing monthly dollar and percentage increases (resulting from the premium increases) on each of the plans offered by the city.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ebersohl entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to review/discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employee(s).

MOTION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Roessler and seconded by Alderman Reis to go into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to review/discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employee(s). Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Piazza and Reis voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION – REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Roessler and seconded by Alderman Mathews to return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole at 9:54 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote,

Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Piazza and Reis voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting, Mayor Hutchinson and the following Committee Members were present: Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Piazza and Reis.

Chairman Ebersohl asked if there was any action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - there was none.

VI. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

City Administrator Hudzik updated the Committee Members on the municipal electricity aggregation program and its tentative time frame.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Piazza to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, March 26, 2012 at 9:55 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Ebersohl and Aldermen Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Mathews, Piazza and Reis voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



GENE EBERSOHL, Chairman
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes taken by:



SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

**MINUTES OF THE COLUMBIA CROSSING LITIGATION SETTLEMENT SPECIAL
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,
ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
MARCH 26, 2012 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchinson called the Columbia Crossing Litigation Settlement Special Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 9:56 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Ebersohl and Mathews.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Aldermen Niemietz, Huch and Piazza.

Quorum Present.

Administrative Staff Present: City Administrator Al Hudzik, Director of Community and Economic Development Paul Ellis, Attorney John Long (with Belsheim and Bruckert, LLC) and Accounting/Clerical Assistant Sandy Garmer.

Guests Present: Terry Grewe, with G. J. Grewe, Inc.; Attorney Traci Pupillo with Carmody MacDonald, P.C.; and James Gummersheimer, Patricia and Lloyd Pulcher, Daryl Cates and Bill Mitchell, who are owners of property in Columbia's I-255 District (American Bottom).

Mayor Hutchinson stated the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing settlement options to litigation currently pending against the city.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hutchinson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss settlement options to the Columbia Crossing, LLC pending litigation matter.

MOTION – EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl and seconded by Alderman Mathews to go into Executive Session at 9:57 p.m. to discuss settlement options to the Columbia Crossing, LLC pending litigation matter. Upon Roll Call vote, Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Ebersohl and Mathews voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION – REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl and seconded by Alderman Mathews to return to the Regular Session of the Columbia Crossing Litigation Settlement Special Committee Meeting at 10:38 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Ebersohl and Mathews voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Columbia Crossing Litigation Settlement Special Committee Meeting, Mayor Hutchinson and the following Committee Members were present: Aldermen Ebersohl and Mathews. Other Council Members present: Aldermen Niemietz, Huch and Piazza.

Mayor Hutchinson asked if there was any action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session of the Columbia Crossing Litigation Settlement Special Committee Meeting - there was none.

III OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT


MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl and seconded by Alderman Mathews to adjourn the Columbia Crossing Litigation Settlement Special Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, March 26, 2012 at 10:40 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Mayor Hutchinson and Aldermen Ebersohl and Mathews voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.**



KEVIN B. HUTCHINSON, Mayor

Minutes taken by:



SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant