

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINANCE, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2013 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Agne called the Ordinance, Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:01 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

Present: Chairman Agne and Aldermen Ebersohl, Niemietz and Reis.

Absent: None.

Quorum Present.

Others Present: Aldermen Roessler, Huch, Mathews and Holtkamp.

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

Guests Present: Approximately twenty (20) members of the public were in attendance.

Chairman Agne stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and review (1) vehicle parking on unpaved surfaces on private property; and (2) any other items to be considered.

**II. VEHICLE PARKING ON UNPAVED SURFACES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY
DISCUSSION**

Chairman Agne opened the meeting, made introductory remarks, and indicated he would like to bring this issue to a conclusion. He stated this is the sixth meeting on this topic, that he has heard from many citizens and feels this issue mainly affects the older neighborhoods in town, since many newer subdivisions have adopted covenants addressing this issue. Agne then (i) reviewed the meetings held and summarized the substance discussed at those meetings (including public comments made at the May 6, 2013, City Council Meeting) pertaining to this issue; (ii) informed the Committee/Council Members that based upon citizen input he has received, approximately 90% would like to leave the regulations as they currently exist (i.e., no changes); and (iii) reviewed some "Advantages" and "Disadvantages" of requiring RVs, campers and other vehicles to be parked on improved pads instead of unpaved surfaces, which included: **Advantages:** (a) makes the neighborhood appear nicer; (b) eliminates ruts in side yards and backyards; and (c) may reduce complaints from neighbors; vs. **Disadvantages:** (A) infringes on owner's use of property; (B) costs of property improvements; (C) future property owner(s) may prefer grass to the improvements made for parking vehicles; (D) property improvements would replace permeable ground and green space; (E) real estate taxes may increase due to the property improvements; and (F)

per Chairman Agne, even if the vehicle is parked on an improved pad, the neighbor(s) would still see the vehicle. Agne stated that current city regulations require vehicles parked in the front yard to be on an improved surface, but vehicles may be parked on the side of the house or in the backyard on an unimproved surface. During Agne's remarks, all in attendance (including members of the general public) were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions, which included (i) the topic to address is not necessarily whether or not property improvements are needed to park vehicles at residences, but rather the number of vehicles allowed to be parked on residential property should be addressed (and possibly the timeframe); (ii) many residents may be inconvenienced/punished for problems being created by a few individuals; (iii) Alderman Huch gave an example of covenant restrictions in his subdivision that resulted in his spending approximately \$12,000 (i.e., \$5,000 for a concrete pad; \$2,500 for a driveway; and \$3,500 for a fence) to park his boat by his house; additionally, this resulted in an increase in real estate taxes approximating \$200/yr.; (iv) this issue pertains mainly to older neighborhoods in town; (v) properties with multiple vehicles creating an eyesore (e.g., abandoned/vacated vehicles) need to be addressed; (vi) the Police Dept. can handle abandoned vehicles; (vii) sometimes RVs are parked on the street and block the view of traffic – this should be reported to the police; (viii) consideration should be given to the number of vehicles parked at residences, but time limits may not be necessary since some individuals keep an RV/camper parked next to their residence year round – most are kept in neat/clean condition and additional costs would be incurred to move the vehicle to a different site for storage; additionally, it may inconvenience the owner, since it would take additional time to drive to the vehicle, pack it and get it ready to go; (ix) time limits are often difficult to enforce since you don't always know the date the vehicle was parked; (x) perceived problems can vary from person to person depending on differing opinions; and (xi) older sections of town with smaller lots cannot be expected to have the same regulations as newer subdivisions with larger lots – if adopted, such regulations may result in the imposition of a different lifestyle on those residents (many of whom may be long time residents).

Chairman Agne asked the Committee Members if any of them had recommendations to make to the City Council on this issue – hearing none, Chairman Agne said this issue would be set aside.

III. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Ebersohl to adjourn the Ordinance, Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Monday, June 24, 2013, at 7:32 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Agne and Aldermen Ebersohl, Niemietz and Reis voted yea. **MOTION**

CARRIED.


JIM AGNE, Chairman

ORDINANCE, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Minutes taken by:

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SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant

**MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS HELD MONDAY,
JUNE 24, 2013 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF CITY HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Huch called the Personnel Committee Meeting of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois to order at 7:33 p.m.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were:

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

Absent: None.

Others Present: Aldermen Agne, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp.

Quorum Present.

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

Guests Present: Justin Osterhage, applicant for Interim Building Inspector.

Chairman Huch stated the meeting was called for the purpose of (1) receiving an update on the Building Inspector's position; and (2) considering any other items to be discussed.

II. BUILDING INSPECTOR POSITION UPDATE

Chairman Huch opened the meeting and called upon City Engineer Ron Williams to address the Committee/Council Members on this issue. Ron reviewed his Memo of June 21st re: Interim Building Inspector (which had previously been distributed to the Committee/Council Members along with its accompanying documents (i.e., Justin Osterhage's Application for Employment and resume)) – the Memo informed the Committee/Council Members of the process being followed to fill/cover the Building Inspector's position, including: (i) advertisements have been published and applications/resumes are due to be submitted on or before July 3rd; (ii) it may take a month or two to review the applications/resumes, conduct interviews and recommend a candidate to the City Council for the position; (iii) Ron contacted the Monroe County Building Department for assistance in the interim and was told the county didn't have sufficient personnel to offer assistance; however, county personnel did pass along the name of Justin Osterhage, who has worked part-time (when needed) for the county in the Building Department; and (iv) Ron contacted Mr. Osterhage, who expressed an interest in the Interim Building Inspector's position (as well as the Building Inspector's position) – Ron then interviewed Mr. Osterhage. It was Ron's recommendation that Mr. Osterhage be employed as an independent contractor to work as the city's Interim Building Inspector, effective July 1st, on an "as needed" basis, until a Building Inspector is hired. Ron felt an employment agreement would be appropriate for this temporary position and stated Mr.

Osterhage had asked to receive \$20 - \$25/hr. for his services. During Ron's review/presentation, all in attendance were given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and express their opinions, including (a) would code enforcement/ordinance violations also be a part of Mr. Osterhage's duties as Interim Building Inspector? – Ron stated Tim Ahrens and he would be handling those issues, but they could be assigned to Mr. Osterhage if he was willing to address them; (b) employment would be contingent upon the successful completion of a pre-employment physical, as well as state and federal background checks; and (c) duties would be assigned only on an "as needed" basis (this temporary position would not necessarily be a forty (40) hour/week position). Ron also distributed and reviewed a "sample letter" he planned to have available in the city's Building & Zoning offices for distribution to customers (& the general public) asking for their cooperation and patience during the interim period when the city is in the process of filling the Building Inspector's position. It was the general consensus of the Committee/Council Members to accept Ron's recommendation pertaining to the Interim Building Inspector's position at a negotiated rate between \$20 - \$25/hr., and that an employment agreement be presented to the City Council (for its consideration).

MOTION

It was moved by Alderman Ebersohl and seconded by Alderman Roessler to recommend to the City Council (i) that Justin Osterhage be employed by the city as Interim Building Inspector beginning July 1, 2013 at a negotiated rate between \$20 - \$25/hr., contingent upon his successful completion of a pre-employment physical, as well as state and federal background checks, to serve in that position until a Building Inspector is appointed; and (ii) that city staff present the necessary documentation to the City Council to allow for such employment. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Huch and Aldermen Ebersohl, Niemietz and Roessler voted yea. **MOTION CARRIED.** A straw poll was taken: Aldermen Agne, Mathews, Reis and Holtkamp voted yea.

III. OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:


It was moved by Alderman Niemietz and seconded by Alderman Roessler to adjourn the Personnel Committee Meeting held Monday, June 24, 2013 at 7:47 p.m. Upon Roll Call vote, Chairman Huch and Aldermen Ebersohl, Niemietz and Roessler voted yea.

MOTION CARRIED.



JEFF HUCH, Chairman
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Minutes Taken by:



SANDRA GARMER, Accounting/Clerical Assistant