

**COLUMBUS COMMON COUNCIL - JOINT MEETING WITH THE WATER & LIGHT
COMMISSION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010 – 5:00 PM – COLUMBUS CITY HALL**

The Columbus Common Council met jointly with the Water & Light Commission and the CDA on Tuesday March 16, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. at Columbus City Hall. For the Committee of the Whole the meeting was called to order by President Parpart, for the Water & Light Commission the meeting was called to order by Chair Strohschein, for the CDA the meeting was called to order by Chair Henry Elling, and notice of open meeting was noted as posted.

Present for the City Council: Mayor Link, Council members Bomkamp, Bruns, Parpart, Perkins Sneath and Walker. Present for the Water & Light Commission: Chair Strohschein, members Bruns, Caldwell, Lang, Parpart, Poser and Sanderson. Present for the CDA: Chair Elling, members Link, Parpart, and Larson. Also present: City Administrator Kraemer, City Clerk Donahue, ED/ES Director Sobiek, W&L Superintendent Andler, Asst. W&L Supt Anthon, PW Dir. Jensen, interested citizens and the media.

Mayor Link led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance. Motion by Parpart second by Bruns to approve the agenda with Items #8 (Leadership by Example) and #9 (LED Streetlight Grant Program) reversed. Motion carried voice vote. Mayor Link welcomed the members of the Water & Light Commission and the CDA.

City Administrator Kraemer informed the group the recommendation of the selection committee to hire Ruckert Mielke as city engineer has been approved by the Water & Light Commission and will go to the Council tonight. Upon approval, a contract will be developed with the City Attorney.

CDA Chair Elling reviewed a memorandum of agreement proposed by the CDA, between the City Council, the Water & Light Commission and the CDA, to provide economic development and energy sustainability services for the next 5 years. The CDA proposed the Council and the utilities would fund the position and the CDA would develop a budget, submit for approval and direct to work for the position. The CDA has put together a program to fund the activities and looks to the Council and Commission to help resolve the funding issues. The CDA stated their goal is to have the agreement in place by the end of May 2010.

Sanderson offered a grant program through the WDOC for the CDA to consider application to reorganize the CDA into a more sophisticated program. Elling stated the CDA has considered the program and has the programs in place, now needs funding. The groups agreed they would continue to meet to resolve this issue.

Sobiek updated the groups on the progress of the grant from WDOC. The City has been informed they will receive \$159,000 to convert streetlights to LED within a 10-12 month timeframe. When the application was made, there was no local match requirement to the grant. The timing of the grant implementation as well as the amount of the local match is still in negotiation. The city has proposed to borrow from the WPPI energy conservation fund at 0% interest \$109,000 to pay the local share of the matching grant. Sobiek has been negotiating with vendors for prices on the fixtures. Approximately 219 streetlights could be changed out with the \$268,000 of the grant. The WDOC has stated they want 80% of the streetlights converted within 3 years.

Sobiek stated the \$159,200 will convert 45% of the existing streetlights. To complete the conversion of 100% of the existing streetlights would require \$175,000. To complete the conversion of 80% of the streetlights would require \$109,600. Kraemer stated the details of the change created by acceptance of the grant will be ironed out as the program progresses.

Strohschein stated the Commission is concerned about meeting the deadlines in the grant for the installation of the LED fixtures. The Commission is concerned that the city will not be saving money on the streetlight conversion. Kraemer has proposed the City take on the streetlights and pay the W&L to maintain them. The Commission is also concerned the costs to the city will be higher than expected. The Commission is concerned that the details of the grant program are still changing and the important ones are not in writing. Neither the Commission nor the City has a clear idea of the financial commitment or the timeline for completion.

Sanderson asked Sobiek to get an extension from the WDOC of 3 weeks to further consider the details so both groups understand the issues and commitments connected to the grant. The Council will approve the grant acceptance contingent upon the time extension. Other issues to resolve include verifying the cost of the fixtures and the estimated energy savings.

Andler stated there will be a future cost to the maintenance and installation of the fixtures. The meeting ran past the start of the next meeting so the last 2 items, Leadership by Example Grant/Close Out/Reports/Next Phase and 1% Money Information – Presentation by Water & Light were tabled to the next meeting.

Motion by Parpart second by Bomkamp to adjourn to the next meeting at 6:40 pm. Motion carried voice vote.

Anne Donahue
City Clerk