

**COLUMBUS COMMON COUNCIL - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010 – 6:30 PM
COLUMBUS CITY HALL**

The Columbus Common Council met as a committee of the whole on Tuesday October 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Columbus City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Council President Perkins and notice of open meeting was noted as posted. Present: Mayor Link, Council members Bomkamp, Bruns, Perkins, Schumann and Walker, City Administrator Kraemer, City Clerk Donahue, interested citizens and the media. Excused Sneath.

Council President Perkins led the Council in the pledge of allegiance. Motion by Bomkamp second by Bruns to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried voice vote. There were no citizen comments on agenda items.

Council Liaison Reports were given by: Schumann said the PFC did not meet so no report, and the Senior Center will hold a luncheon to honor veterans November 11, please call ahead if you have a guest to honor; Link reported for the Water & Light Commission; Bomkamp for CDA and Plan Commission; Walker for Recreation Advisory Committee; and Perkins for Library Board.

A discussion of the request for permit to keep animals & construct or use shelters was held. The consensus was to not allow chickens in the city. Referred to the next regular meeting of the Council, November 1, 2010.

A Standard Operating Procedure for Floods was introduced by City Administrator Kraemer. Staff has been working on disaster event procedures for comments from the Council and other City officials. After comments and revisions the procedures will be brought to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

City Engineer Lietha introduced an easement for the At Home Again Columbus LLC storm sewer, as well as a pedestrian bike path easement. These issues were identified during the recent development of the lot. The developer will be installing new surface over the length of his property as part of the development. Kraemer noted the path will remain under City responsibility for maintenance and clearing snow, and asked the Council to be aware of this responsibility. Referred to the next regular Council meeting, November 1, 2010.

Resolution #21-10 "Final Resolution Regarding Midwestern Disaster Area Revenue Bond Financing for At Home Again Columbus, LLC" was introduced and read by title only by Council President Perkins. This is the last step in the Industrial Revenue Bond for this project and will allow the development to close on its bonds. Referred to the next regular meeting, November 1, 2010.

City Administrator Kraemer introduced a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement for Columbus Area Emergency Medical Service District for consideration by the Council. Atty. Lan Waddell provided this proposed document after meetings with the members of the area served by the same ambulance service and discussions of forming a district to govern the service. Representation on the governing board was discussed as well as the term of the current contract. Kraemer advised the Council to consider preparing an ad hoc committee to look into the issue of ambulance service for the City and the area. Mayor Link asked for Council members to volunteer to work on this matter. Referred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting, November 9, 2010. Schumann, Bomkamp and Bruns volunteered to participate.

Police Chief Meister updated the Council on the Eastern Columbia County Joint Municipal Court 2011 budget discussions. The committee voted to adopt the 2011 budget with a \$2,000 increase for the court clerk, and to locate the court and court offices on Fall River, rather than pay for utilities in Columbus. City Administrator Kraemer attended the meeting and reported some members of the committee thought the court was to rotate location for the benefit of the member communities. Other communities offered space for a cost similar to Columbus. The judge stated it was an unfortunate move since the facilities in Fall River are not as convenient as Columbus.

Court will be held in Fall River beginning February 2011. Kraemer offered to send a letter to the EECJMC to keep dialogue open for future consideration of using the facilities in Columbus. Chief Meister was asked to confirm the compliance of the Fall River building with the state statutes for a court facility. The ECCJMC 2011 budget was referred to the next regular Council meeting, November 1, 2010.

Fire Chief Koehn presented a draft Ordinance 654-10 "An Ordinance Requiring Structures to Have a Key Lock Box Installed On the Exterior of the Structure for Fire Safety Purpose" for consideration by the Council. The ordinance would require Knox boxes, containing keys to enter attached buildings, on specific buildings within the city. Referred to the next regular Council meeting, November 1, 2010.

Fire Chief Koehn presented a draft amendment to section 82-38 "Prohibited Activities and Noncollectible Materials" for the Council to consider. Referred to the next regular Council meeting, November 1, 2010.

Fire Chief Koehn presented information on replacement Fire Department turn-out gear for the officers and men in the department and fire hose replacement. The cost of these replacements will be funded from the 2010 budget and through an insurance reimbursement. Koehn asked the Council to approve the use of the recommended vendor for turn out gear and boot replacements for the next 5 years. Koehn thanked Officer Scott Hazeltine for his extra work on the request for proposals for the gear and hose. Referred to the next regular Council meeting, November 1, 2010.

Police Chief Meister presented replacing the department copier and one squad car, and promoting an officer to lieutenant from the current staff of officers. Meister presented a revised set of budget accounts with his requests to add the third lieutenant by reducing a patrol officer position, and not replacing the squad car to absorb the cost of the lieutenant. The changes result in an overall decrease to the 2011 department budget of \$4,000.

Council members commented the squad will still need to be replaced and will just put off the cost for another year. Link added the addition of another command staff would go against the strong feelings of several former council members. Kraemer reminded the Council it is easy to cut a car but a position is hard. If the car is ready to be replaced, putting it off now might not remove the need to replace the car in 2011 – it is ready to be replaced. Meister finished stating the safety of the department is his primary concern.

Page 3 – 10/26/10
Columbus Common Council
Committee of the Whole

The Council asked the departments come to the meetings to discuss components of their proposed 2011 budgets.

The meeting convened to closed session per ss 19.85(1)(c) to discuss personnel, namely labor contract negotiations for wages and benefits at 9:12 pm on a motion by Bruns second by Schumann. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote with Bomkamp, Bruns, Link, Perkins, Schumann and Walker voting 'Yes'. The meeting did not reconvene to open session.

Anne Donahue
City Clerk