

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Aug. 12, 2015

The Aug. 12, 2015 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Mayor Dave Povolny at City Hall. Present were Povolny, Council Members Denny Peterson, Mark Daly, Jeff Duraine and Bill Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko; Engineer Larry Bohrer; Attorney Bill Griffith; and Public Information Coordinator Bronwyn Pope.

Absent: None.

Also in attendance were: Public Works Supervisor Jim Windingstad, Dennis Postler (TKDA), Pat Preiner, Jesse Preiner, Mary Preiner, Jody Krebs, Terri Hodges (Forest Lake Cable Commission).

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call To Order - Regular Meeting – 7:09 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Motion – Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 07/22/15
4. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions
5. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted
6. Motion – Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation 15-02
7. Motion – Approval Redpath and Company 2015 Audit Contract

Motion by Krebs to approve the consent agenda including the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation 15-02; and the Redpath and Company 2015 Audit Contract. Motion seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATIONS

8. Planning Commission Report

- Motion – Palumbo Variance Resolution 15-22

Motion by Krebs to approve Resolution 15-22 denying a PLZ 02400/ADM 05000 variance at 9331 W. Broadway Ave. from the required 20 foot side yard to an 8-10 foot side yard setback. Motion seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

- Review of PC Workshop Discussion

The Planning Commission had a workshop meeting Aug. 5 focused on several topics. Four policy questions were brought back to the Council for feedback. The first policy question under consideration is whether or not the City should reduce the acreage requirement for existing houses in the commercial areas? A reduction would allow these homeowners to keep as little as a .5 acre for their home, and sell the rest of their land for commercial use. Second, should the City allow

residential use on a commercial zoned property with a new commercial use? An example would be if an existing property with a home on Lake Drive was sold and the buyer continued to use the home as a residence but built a commercial building on the site as well. Third, should the City have a new zoning district that would allow residential businesses with certain rules and regulations that guide the district? And the final policy being discussed, should the City implement a program that charges residential zoned businesses a fee/tax/license?

The Council discussed all four potential policies, what findings came out of the Planning Commission workshop, what regulating agencies and codes might impact or play a role in each of these decisions, how to incorporate McCombs Retail Study findings, and how to best serve the needs of the residents and businesses currently Columbus, and those looking to move into Columbus.

Council agreed the City needs to create more flexibility in order to help residents sell property, and for new businesses and residents to establish themselves here. Council directed the Planning Commission to continue to work through all four policy issues with help from City staff, and bringing recommendations back to the Council. Griffith recommended bringing the City Building Official before the Council to explain requirements for changing the use of existing buildings, such as turning a home into an office.

Mursko outlined a Sept. 10 meeting for Freeway district residents and property owners to share questions and concerns directly with Planning Commission and City Council members about keeping, selling or developing their property. Mursko will also invite brokers to attend the meeting to offer perspective about what current buyers are looking for.

The Planning Commission also brought a flex district zoning ordinance forward from Blaine for consideration in addition to the current PUD. Council directed City staff to compare the Blaine ordinance to what Columbus currently has in place and bring back any helpful pieces which could be added to the PUD. Griffith cautioned creating any ordinance which is too broad because of the difficulty in enforcement.

In other updates, the Planning Commission is also waiting for a system statement from the Met Council. City staff will participate in an Aug. 26 Washington County meeting with Congressman Emmer including a look at the Lake Drive/I-35 bridge project. The Regional Rail Rush Line has asked to present to the Planning Commission in October. A public hearing will be held Sept. 2 for the City's draft lighting ordinance.

Mursko and Bohrer also updated Council regarding a variety of grant and funding sources which may be available to Anoka County and/or the City for the proposed bridge project as well. Staff will continue to pursue all potential funding opportunities.

9. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

None.

10. Motion – Resolution 15-23 Anoka County Connectivity Services Agreement

Motion by Peterson to approve ADM 05000/CON00050 Resolution 15-23 to enter into Amendment #2 to the connectivity services agreement with community anchor institutions for broadband services at co-location services sites. Motion seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

11. Motion – Century Link Volume Phone Line Agreement

Mursko explained what kind of phone lines the City currently uses in the offices, pump and lift stations, and what kind of options Century Link is offering. Povolny offered to research alternatives that may improve phone service and reduce costs.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

12. ENGINEER REPORT

- Review – FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps & Floodplain Ordinance Amendment

Bohrer explained FEAM Flood Insurance Rate Map updates and Floodplain Ordinance Amendment requirements. Council discussed briefly.

Motion by Duraine to direct city staff to draft the flood plain ADM 05000/PWE 00500 ordinance amendments required by FEMA using the DNR model ordinance. Motion seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

- Update – 18/62 Roundabout Construction

Bohrer provided an update on the CSAH 18/62 Roundabout construction project scheduled to begin Monday, Aug. 17 and run for approximately 45 days Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Council discussed the proposed timeline and schedule. There is no ordinance prohibiting crews from working Monday-Saturday. Council agreed the project could move forward as planned. The city is responsible for paying for the power to the 16 street lights for this project. Council directed Bohrer to apply for the Connexus Energy permit for the source of street light power and look into potential energy rebates for using LED lights.

- Review & Direction – Master Water Supply Plan

The Met Council Water Supply Plan is out for public comment. Bohrer summarized the features of the plan which starts the Comprehensive Planning process. Staff will continue to pursue all available funding.

13. ATTORNEY REPORT

- Discussion & Direction – Running Aces Request

Running Aces requested the City remove ordinances restricting happy hour specials. Council discussed briefly.

Motion by Krebs to remove Ordinance Section 4-517 G, Restrictions 1, 2 & 4 ADM 02300 restricting happy hour specials as requested by Running Aces. Motion seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

- Update – Regulation of Drones

Griffith provided Council with current information related to regulation of drones by county, state and federal agencies. The City does not have the authority to regulate licensed drone use beyond the possible implementation of a nuisance ordinance for drones which violate privacy. As this is a new area of law Griffith advised that new information will continue to become available which may help guide the City in the future.

- Clarification – Definition of Senior Housing

Mursko advised Council that the City does not currently have a definition for “Senior Housing.” Absent a definition, City staff currently use common usage language such as that use by the FHA which considers Senior Housing to include residents 55 and older. Council discussed and determined it was appropriate for staff to continue to defer to common usage.

14. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER’S REPORT

Council Member Daly – Nothing to report.

Council Member Duraine – Is encouraging bus services to erect a shelter at the Running Aces stop.

Council Member Krebs – Nothing to report.

Council Member Peterson – Work is under way to put up the gate at Camp Three Road.

Mayor – Requested City staff update the City websites’ EDA content, add information to the homepage and ask the Cable Commission if they would be able to update the City’s EDA video. Also requested that Tree City signage be removed throughout the City.

11. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

No report.

12. PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR REPORT

No report.

13. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- **Treasurer's Report – Receipts: \$33,867.85 Disburse: \$178,621.57 Balance: \$2,051,883.27**
- **FYI – Legislation passing required vegetate buffers**

Mursko advised there is a fair amount of legislation being considered related to buffers for wetlands. With the high percentage of wetlands in the City it will be important to pay attention as this issue evolves.

- **Review – Fire Station Sign Proposals**

Public Works is performing maintenance on the exterior of the Forest Lake Fire Department Station 2 building in Columbus, including painting and sealing the exterior. This works provides an opportunity to update building signage. Council is interested in making the City name more prominent on the building. Mursko presented three potential sign designs. Council did not like any of the design choices and preferred an alternate offered by Povolny which added the City logo to the design.

Motion by Krebs to approve Mayor Povolny to create a City logo to be added to the Forest Lake Fire Department Station 2, Columbus building signage. Motion seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

**Planning Commission Meeting 8/19/15
Calendar of Meetings**

F. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion was made by Krebs to adjourn.
Seconded by Duraine.**

Meeting adjourned at 9: 10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bronwyn Pope, Public Information Coordinator