

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

The Nov. 12, 2015 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:04 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; Attorney Jacob Steen; Engineer Larry Bohrer; and Public Information Coordinator Bronwyn Pope.

Absent: None.

Also in attendance were: Pat Preiner, Jesse Preiner, Mary Preiner, Jody Krebs, Roger Nase, Sue Mulvihill, Laurie King, Dennis Wiler, Dan Mike, Darrell Thurnbeck, Tom Carlisle, Matt Davich, Cheryl Nelson, Lisa Schwartz, Terri Hodges (Forest Lake Cable Commission); and Dennis Postler (TKDA).

CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion – Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 10/28/15
- Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions
- Motion – Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Peterson to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Duraine. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Direction – Thurnbeck Concept Plan

The Planning Commission brought to the Council several questions which came out of a nonbinding concept review plan for Thurnbeck Preserve. The developer wondered if there is potential for cost-sharing related to the paving of Furman Street entering the development. Council consensus was that the cost of street paving would follow existing street improvement petition procedures. The developer also asked if the city would consider allowing piezometers to measure water tables instead of, or in addition to, the mottled soil standard, and if the Council would change its three foot requirement for height above mottled soil to one foot, which is the standard reportedly used by several nearby municipalities. Plans for this development include walkout basements for most homes. In addition, the developers have asked city staff if existing turkey barns on the property could remain with some lots. City staff provided the city code formula regarding exterior building size regulations related to lot size. Council discussed these questions with the developers and City staff. Development questions were answered by Tom Carlisle and Matt Davich. Darrell Thurnbeck answered Council questions regarding watershed and existing exterior buildings. Council consensus was that the development plan would be a positive addition to the City. Bohrer encouraged Carlisle and Davich to contact Rice Creek Watershed District to determine how the watershed's upcoming ditch cleanout project may impact this development. Carlisle hopes to have a model home in place for the spring 2016 Parade of Homes.

Motion by Krebs to direct staff to research how other cities use piezometers and how far above mottled soil neighboring cities require for lowest floor elevation separation. Motion seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

A public hearing will be held Nov. 18 for PUD and Screening Ordinances.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Ron Lindberg, 9420 Howard Lake Drive, and Eric Hoven, 9345 Howard Lake Drive, asked the Council to continue to address the safety issues on Howard Lake Drive. Lindberg reported to have spoken with neighbors and collected signatures of residents who would like the speed limit dropped from 45 mph to 35 mph. Council has requested a speed study from MnDOT and reiterated that they will continue to work on the road's safety issues using the tools at the Council's disposal, including the MnDOT speed study and potentially changing the slope and width of the road shoulders. Council reminded residents that MnDOT sets the road's speed limit and a speed study may result in an increased speed limit. Council discussed the issue, and Kreb and Duraine offered to contact MnDOT to ask if a representative would come to a future City Council meeting. Lindberg indicated he would bring the signatures to the City offices later in the week so City staff could make a copy.

Roger Nase, 6636 141st Ave. NE, asked the City again to consider a 300 foot buffer for his property to shield it from new adjacent commercial industrial development. Nase asked the Council to create a proper buffer ordinance. Murkso explained the difference between a buffer zone and screening. The current draft ordinance is a "screening ordinance." Council reiterated that they would continue to follow the process in place and review the draft ordinance when it comes back after the public hearing.

Anoka County 2016 Law Enforcement Contract

Council previously reviewed this contract during the 2016 budget presentation by the Anoka County Sheriff's office in August.

Motion CON00050 by Peterson to approve the Anoka County 2016 Law Enforcement Contract. Motion seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

ENGINEER REPORT

Howard Lake Drive Shoulders

Bohrer updated the Council on options for improving the shoulders along Howard Lake Drive. There are essentially three options 1) leave the road as it is, 2) install safe slopes, or 3) install safe slopes, shoulders and potentially a walking trail. Bohrer estimated the cost of just installing safe slopes to be \$100,000. The total cost of a project to include shoulders may include wetland mitigation, culverts, ditches and redoing any effected driveway aprons, as well as the costs of

fill, etc. to create the new shoulders. Pervious pavement options were not viable for the site, but expansion of the shoulders may allow for a walking trail to be included along one side of the road. Bohrer will bring back cost estimates and staff will send letters to Howard Lake Drive residents surveying their interest in a trail.

Metropolitan Transportation Meeting update

Bohrer attended the Metropolitan Transportation Committee meeting which included updates about county projects. Bohrer shared with the group the need for the 97/23 bridge project.

The sixteen Roundabout street lights are on backorder and should be installed in January. The Connexus rebate for the LED lights will be \$1,680.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Driveway-Roadway Frontage Ordinance

There is a request before the City to subdivide land where there is not the required improved road frontage for new lots to meet the current standards. Council discussed the draft driveway-roadway frontage ordinance and how it fits into the City's long-term plan for more rooftops, safe roadways and road maintenance. Council discussed whether three driveways is too many off one driveway and asked Steen for clarification on several points. Council and staff discussed the benefits and drawbacks of allowing two to three houses on a shared driveway, and whether or not to create a new ordinance for private roads with tiered development requirements.

Motion by Peterson to call for a public hearing for the Driveway-Roadway Frontage Ordinance, which will be edited to change bullet (a) from "approved by the City Attorney" to "approved by the City Council." Motion seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – nay. Motion carries.

City Owned Land Report

The City currently owns six parcels of land which were originally tax forfeited, conveyed for purposes of parkland or open space purposes. The City would like to return these properties to the original owners, including residents, Anoka County and the MN Department of Revenue. Council discussed how the land would be used if the City kept it, and what could potentially happen with the land if it is returned. Council consensus was that the land should be returned and staff should continue the required investigation to return these properties.

Flood Plain Ordinance Information

The City received a reminder from FEMA regarding the Dec. 16, 2015 deadline to adopt updated floodplain management measures. Steen informed the Council that the ordinance changes are on track. Changes from FEMA may require some residents to purchase substantial flood insurance. The updated floodplain maps may include new properties and some existing properties may now be exempt. Property owners will need to investigate this on their own.

Lot Line Adjustment Direction

Mursko asked the Council to create a process for City staff to approve lot line adjustments without going through the platting process.

Motion by Peterson to approve drafting the zoning code amendment to Chapter 8 - Subdivision Regulations, Section 8-1001. Lot Line Adjustments. Motion seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Peterson to call for a Dec. 2, 2015 public hearing for a zoning code amendment to Chapter 8 — Subdivision Regulations, Section 8-1001. Lot Line Adjustments. Motion seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member Daly – No report.

Council Member Duraine – Duraine asked Steen to investigate what opportunities are available to Columbus through the new Minnesota Job Creation Fund program.

Council Member Krebs – No report.

Council Member Peterson – Peterson will not be available for the Dec. 30 Council meeting.

Motion by Duraine to approve cancellation of the Dec. 30 City Council meeting. Motion seconded by Daly. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

Mayor – No report.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – No report.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR REPORT - No report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP) Health Insurance 2016 Contract

Mursko asked the Council for approval of the 2016 contract to participate in the Public Employee Insurance Program.

Motion HRS00800 by Duraine to approve the Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP) Health Insurance 2016 Contract. Motion Seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

The City's renewal date for the Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP) used to be April of each year but will now change to January of each year. The current health insurance allowance

per employee is \$696.00, and rates for the City will increase in 2016 an average \$60/month across available plans.

Motion HRS00800 by Peterson to approve the \$28/month health insurance allowance increase per eligible employee effective Jan. 1, 2016. Seconded by Daly. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

Holiday Schedule

City offices have historically been open a half day on Christmas Eve. As both dates fall on a Thursday before a Friday holiday in 2015, Mursko asked the Council to allow City offices to be closed both days. Employees will either take vacation time or a day without pay.

Motion by Duraine to approve closing City offices on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, 2015. Motion seconded by Daly. Votes as follows: Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Duraine – aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny – aye. Motion carries.

TREASURER REPORT

Receipts: \$69,766.32

Disburse: \$86,985.65

Balance: \$1,826,587.91

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Planning Commission Meeting 11/18/15

Calendar of Meetings

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Seconded by Duraine. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bronwyn Pope, Public Information Coordinator