

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Sept. 9, 2015

The Sept. 9, 2015 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:13 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; Deputy Treasurer Lynette Olinger 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), Emmy Robinson, Rick Robinson, Paul Rignell (Forest Lake Times), Jim Watson (Planning Commission)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion – Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 08/26/15
- Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions
- Motion – Pay Bills as Posted
- Motion – Approval City Council Meeting Minutes 08/12/15 edits
- Motion – Approval City Council Budget Meeting Minutes 08/12/15
- Motion – Approval City Council Budget Meeting Minutes 08/26/15

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

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

The Sept. 2, 2015 Planning Commission meeting focused on three main topics: approval of the Waldoch/Joyer Comp Plan Amendment & Rezone Application, a public hearing for the lighting ordinance, and continued discussion regarding land use and zoning. Watson asked the Council to provide the Planning Commission guidance regarding what they would like to see in 10-20 years for land use and zoning in the areas of the Freeway District, Hornsby St. and Lake Drive. Council expressed interest in the Hornsby St. area looking similar to the Pheasant Ridge development in Blaine off Lexington and 35W with both commercial areas and multi-family housing, and the Lake Drive area having more commercial buildings similar to current businesses North Pine Aggregate and Cemstone. Council discussed what to do with existing housing in these commercial areas, and whether or not houses placed on the back of lots could potentially remain. Griffith advised when you have something that doesn't fit the district, or your vision, the best time to take care of it is when the property is turning over. Council agreed

that more information is needed from current property owners and the Sept. 10 Freeway District meeting will potentially provide some direction.

Lighting Ordinance 15-03

At the lighting ordinance hearing several issues were raised, including definitions of terms such as “foot candle” and how enforcement would be handled. Council discussed the new lighting ordinance, whether or not it should apply to all existing lighting, how the information would be shared with residents and business, how the new ordinance would be enforced and whether farms needed to specifically be included. The new ordinance addresses both residential and commercial lighting. Council determined the ordinance should clarify that existing lighting that does not meet the new ordinance could be addressed through the existing nuisance ordinance if there was a complaint, while newly installed, repaired or replaced lighting will be required to meet the new ordinance. Griffith will work on adding that information into the ordinance as well as cleaning up some other language, and then bring it back to the Council.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM – None

ENGINEER REPORT

Anson Street Neighborhood Meeting Request

Two existing parcels currently use Anson Street as a common driveway, a third parcel would also like to use it as access. Columbus requires that only two parcels have access on an unimproved street. The owner of the third parcel has requested a neighborhood meeting to discuss public street improvement or other options. The “neighborhood meeting” in this case would include only the owners of three properties on Anson, although it may take place on the same day as another neighborhood meeting. Council discussed whether to require these three residents to pay for the improved road as is currently required, or ask the front lot to move his driveway out to 189th instead of off Anson. The road improvement would ultimately be very costly for these three property owners. Consensus of the Council was to ask the owner of the third property to come before the Council with a variance request.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Council member Mark Daly removed himself from the discussion and vote regarding a potential electrical contract for his company, Countryview Electric, Inc.

Columbus Electrical Contract Resolutions

Council briefly discussed both potential electrical contracts, the mark up rate for materials and state contract standards. As a member of the audience, Daly answered Council questions about material costs and mark ups.

Motion by Peterson to approve Resolution 15-25 to enter into an electric contracting services agreement with Countryview Electric, Inc. including material mark ups not to exceed 15%.

Motion seconded by Duraine. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

Daly returned to his Council seat and participated in the following vote.

Motion by Peterson to approve Resolution 15-26 to enter into an electric contracting services agreement with Sternberg Electric Service Inc. including material mark ups not to exceed 15%. Motion seconded by Duraine. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

The City attorney is working on an update to the PUD ordinance for the Freeway District which may become a model for other districts in the future, and the City Planner is also working on performance standards for detached villas or townhomes, as well as memory care and assisted living related to a potential senior housing development in that district.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member Daly – Nothing to report.

Council Member Duraine – Nothing to report.

Council Member Krebs – Nothing to report.

Council Member Peterson – Nothing to report.

Mayor – Povolny will join Mursko for a Sept. 10 meeting with the Anoka County Sherriff's Department related to statistics and pricing.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Peterson asked Windingstad for an update regarding the new City dump truck. The truck is in, will be going to Towmaster, and be ready in three to four months. Council requested that the new truck have a bigger City logo than some of the other City vehicles.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR REPORT

Daly filmed a new segments which was added to the existing Columbus Economic Development video, and is now available on the City website.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mursko advised Council that a preliminary levy and budget will have to be adopted at the Sept. 23 City Council meeting. Council discussed whether or not they needed an additional budget meeting beyond tonight's discussion to review the numbers and determined they would not need another meeting.

2016 Budget

Mursko presented the 2016 Proposed Budget Summary to the Council which included an overall change of 5.1%, and/or 5.8% in the general levy. Mursko reviewed the summary

budgets for each department with very little change. Council consensus was to remove the \$8,000 in the Fire Fund for fire inspections. That \$8,000 was then reallocated, with \$4,000 added to the culvert budget and \$4,000 added in the bridge funds.

Motion by Duraine to eliminate the \$8,000 for fire inspection from the budget entirely. Motion seconded by Daly. Votes as follows: Peterson - nay; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries. Discussion.

Council briefly discussed how to appropriately budget for culvert repair and replacement.

Motion by Peterson to put the \$8,000 from the fire inspection funds back into the budget, with \$4,000 in culvert and \$4,000 in transportation fund. Motion seconded by Krebs. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - nay; Duraine - nay; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

The Economic Development Authority maximum levy is \$85,000 and Columbus will max out in 2016 at \$85,000. Duraine asked staff for specific data on the City's land debt service to be brought to the next Council meeting.

Murkso presented the revenue side of the budget and the Council briefly discussed the amount of land held by the DNR at a lower tax rate and consensus was to ask Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landmehrer to attend a future meeting.

Duraine asked for clarification regarding the increase in the blacktop fund, which was held flat for several years and then increased as the City managed a backlog of road improvement projects.

Motion by Duraine to keep the blacktop fund flat from 2015. No second.

Motion by Duraine to only increase the blacktop fund by \$35,000 instead of the \$70,000 in the proposed budget. No second.

Povolny asked staff to share data regarding how Columbus falls in within local tax rates. Council briefly discussed the City's placement in the middle of local rates, how to increase the tax base while maintaining five acre minimums, how to stimulate growth and work being done to update the City's comprehensive plan.

Council consensus was to put the budget on the agenda for discussion at the Sept. 23 City Council meeting.

Property tax notice meeting date Dec. 9, 2015

Motion by Krebs to approve the property tax notice meeting date of Dec. 9, 2015. Motion seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows: Peterson - aye; Daly - aye; Duraine - aye; Krebs – aye; Povolny - aye. Motion Carries.

TREASURER REPORT

Receipts: \$210,999.07

Disburse: \$137,335.43

Balance: \$2,067,881.80

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Planning Commission Meeting 9/16/15

Calendar of Meetings

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Duraine to adjourn. Seconded by Krebs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bronwyn Pope, Public Information Coordinator