

**City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
01.10.18**

The 01.10.18 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Bill Krebs, Jeff Duraine, Denny Peterson, and Mark Daly; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Dennis Postler, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Dan Mike, Jon Rausch, Mel Mettler, Byron Westlund, Janet Hegland, Susan Albertson, Vern Roisum, Marge Roisum, Jesse Preiner, Mary Preiner, Pat Preiner, Jody Krebs, Teri Hodges (LATV), and Julia Parent (Forest Lake Times).

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:03 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 11.08.17**
- 4. Motion – Approval of the two (2) Proposed Road Improvement Projects Neighborhood Meeting Minutes 11.14.17**
- 5. Motion – Approval of the two (2) Proposed Road Improvement Projects Neighborhood Meeting Minutes 11.16.17**
- 6. Motion – Approval of the 2018 LMC Liability Waiver Form as presented**
- 7. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 8. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**

Motion by Daly to approve the Consent Agenda items 3-8. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS

9. Anoka County Transportation Projects

Joe McPherson from Anoka County attended this meeting to present information on four (4) projects they are doing in Columbus; adding a traffic signal at the intersection of CSAH 17 and CSAH 18, widening the shoulder of CSAH 18, a new roundabout at CSAH 23, and the realignment of CSAH 54.

CSAH 17 and CSAH 18 Intersection Upgrades

McPherson started by discussing the intersection of CSAH 17 and CSAH 18 (Lexington Ave NE and Broadway Ave NE), where Anoka County plans to add a traffic signal. Northbound CSAH 17 will also include a right turn lane, left turn lane, and a through lane; and southbound CSAH 17 will be updated to include right and left turn lanes, as well as a through lane. It is Anoka County's hope that adding these lanes will help deal with heavy westbound and southbound traffic. In terms of the schedule; Anoka County is hoping to finalize the plans and acquire Right-of-Way in 2018, bids should be accepted in late 2018 or early 2019, and construction will take place in 2019.

CSAH 18 Shoulder Widening

The second project that McPherson discussed was a plan to widen the shoulders of CSAH 18 from CSAH 19 east to CSAH 62 (Potomac Street NE to Kettle River Blvd). CSAH 18 currently has 8-foot-wide shoulders from CSAH 17 to CSAH 19 (from Lexington Ave NE to Potomac Street NE). The project's plans should be finalized this year, and bids accepted late 2018 or early 2019. Anoka County anticipates construction in 2019. The Council noted that they have concerns with the intersection of CSAH 18 and CSAH 19. Because there is not a turn lane on CSAH 18 (Broadway Ave NE), people will drive into the shoulder to bypass cars that are turning onto CSAH 19 (Potomac Street NE), and this is causing dangerous situations. McPherson said that he will take those concerns back to the County to see if they are able to address them.

CSAH 23 Roundabout

The next Anoka County project that McPherson discussed is the addition of a roundabout on CSAH 23 (Lake Drive) at the new W Freeway Drive. Because of disagreement on how LRIP funds allocated to this specific project can be allocated, Anoka County has separated it from the CSAH 54 (W. Freeway Drive) realignment project. There are no changes to the plans, but making this separation will help the roundabout project begin sooner. It is the County's hope that the project will begin in 2019 and CSAH 23 will remain open throughout the duration. However, McPherson emphasized that with the change in schedule, there may be conflicts with other projects in the area, which could cause unforeseen issues.

Mayor Povolny asked about the land north of the proposed roundabout, and how the County might handle access to and from that property. McPherson said that until the roundabout on CSAH 23 is completed, Anoka County would prefer only right in and right out to that parcel. He added that once this project is completed, Holiday's access from the east will be limited to left in and right out because a median is going to be added on CSAH 23. Mayor Povolny said that it would have been nice if the temporary road that the County is putting in during the roundabout construction could have been left for the City to use after the project is completed. McPherson responded by saying that road will be built in such a way that the impact to wetlands is temporary, and making the road permanent would require buying roughly 3-4 acres of wetland credits which are very expensive.

CSAH 54 Realignment

The last topic raised by McPherson is the realignment of CSAH 54 (W. Freeway Drive). He said that Anoka County recently met to discuss the City's concerns with the design. He said that an ICE (Intersection Control Evaluation) was done to look at whether a roundabout was warranted at the intersection of Evers Street and CSAH 54. The study showed that the intersection did not warrant a four-way stop, which is the basic requirement for adding a roundabout. Krebs commented that developers looking to purchase property in the area find the lack of a roundabout in the design to be concerning, and he believes one should be added to the design. Mayor Povolny agreed, and stated that he believes the new realignment takes up too much of the City's high land. McPherson replied, about the roundabout, that the County's policy is to build for current traffic patterns and not what could happen in the future. Therefore, if the City would like a roundabout there, they would have to do it at their own cost. Krebs asked why the previous design had two roundabouts, but this one cannot? McPherson said that the roundabout had to be removed from the plans because traffic dynamics changed. The previous design had a

new road running east and west, and the roundabout was the only point where all roads led to. In the current design, traffic can go different directions and it does not all meet at one point. Krebs said that his concern is making sure the City can sell their land, and he believes not having a roundabout will hinder development.

McPherson then discussed the southbound $\frac{3}{4}$ access which is being added to the new CSAH 54 in order to gain access to the Holiday gas station. He said that typically the County requires at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile between intersections, however they are making an exception and adding the $\frac{3}{4}$ access within $\frac{1}{8}$ mile of the CSAH 23 and CSAH 54 intersection. He added that the realignment project will end between the two Holiday gas station entrances, and depending on how the LRIP funds will end up being allocated, there could be timing issues with the CSAH 23 roundabout project. This timing issue could cause some unforeseen situations, and McPherson wanted to ensure that the Council was aware of that.

McPherson finished by announcing that the State approved funds for engineering fees relating to the realignment of Hornsby Street. Anoka County will be the sponsor for the program and will work on getting a bid from a design consultant for it.

10. Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission did not meet on December 20th, 2017 as such there is no Planning Commission report.

11. Motion – 2018 Board of Appeal and Equalization Dates Request

Mursko reported that the Council must request dates for the City's 2018 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. The dates chosen must fall between April 13, 2018 and May 10, 2018 (and cannot be on April 26, 2018). The Council chose the dates April 23rd, 2018 and May 7, 2018.

12. Public Open Forum

Byron Westlund, Woodland Development

Westlund came forward to discuss a development he is building in Columbus called Preiner's Preserve. It had been brought to his attention that the development does not have snow plowing services from the City at this time. He stated that because other cities will usually plow before the second lift is put on a new road, Columbus should do the same. City Engineer Dennis Postler replied that the Developer's Agreement says that the streets will not be transferred to the City until after the final inspection is completed. He added that because there were many things that needed to be fixed late in the fall, it was discussed that the City would not plow the streets this winter. City Attorney Bill Griffith added that it is standard that the City's contracts say the responsibility for plowing streets belongs to the Developer until the streets are officially accepted by the City (which will be when a final lift is added).

Mayor Povolny asked Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad if there would be an issue with Public Works plowing the new streets? Windingstad replied that there would not be any issues, except some equipment must be removed from the road before they can start. Griffith

said that having Public Works plow the streets this season would be diverting from the City's standard practice. Duraine said that he does not think Public Works should plow the roads. The remaining Council members disagreed, saying it would not be an issue with them if Public Works plowed the roads in Preiner's Preserve this season, and if there were any issues the provisions of the Subdivision Agreement would kick in and escrow money be used as fall back.

Motion by Daly to direct City Staff to draft an agreement for plowing the streets in Preiner's Preserve, and to plow them starting 01.10.18. Seconded by Peterson. Votes as follows; Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Povolny – aye; Duraine – nay; Krebs – aye. Motion carried.

Susan Albertson – 7848 178th Avenue NE

Albertson came forward to discuss firearm use in the City. She said that people in her neighborhood shoot guns very frequently, to the point where she is afraid to spend time outside in the summer. She added that she is not against people using guns in the neighborhood, but she does believe there should be additional regulations on their use. Mayor Povolny said that the Council has heard about this in the past, and he suggests reaching out to the Sheriff's Office. Albertson replied that she has talked to the Sheriff's Office multiple times, and they say that there is not much they can do because Columbus follows State Statute on gun regulations, which only says you cannot discharge a firearm within 500 feet of any occupied structure. Griffith commented that enforcing the law comes down to evidence. There are two ways that this activity could be enforced; through nuisance laws and criminal laws. The City has nuisance laws which regulate excessive noise, but there needs to be evidence showing the nuisance activity in order for the City to enforce it. Alternatively, the Sheriff's Office would be the body to enforce criminal laws, however, the issue again comes down to evidence. Mayor Povolny added that the City Council does not have interest in increasing gun regulations, however he said the City will have a conversation with the Sheriff's Office about enforcement in her particular neighborhood. Albertson said she understood, and that she would try to find evidence of either nuisance or criminal behavior.

13. 2018 Organizational Selections

At this time the City Council considered their 2018 Organizational Selections. Mursko presented the current organizational chart for the Council to review.

Duraine was nominated by Mayor Povolny for Deputy Mayor, and he accepted the nomination.

Next Mursko suggested changing the City's depository from Wells Fargo to US Bank gradually throughout 2018, and the Council agreed. In terms of the legal paper, there have been some changes at the Forest Lake Times (the City's usual legal paper). They have switched to a subscription model, which limits the distribution of the paper. However, the Times has offered to publish legal notices for free in the Peach, which is published on Sundays. In addition, legal notices will be listed on their website in the non-subscription portion, so the public will have access to it. Mursko said the other options would be the Press and the Pioneer Press. Mayor Povolny said to stick with the Forest Lake Times, and the Council agreed.

Mursko then announced to the Council that the City's Planner, Dean Johnson, is retiring in June of 2018. She said that Johnson has committed to completing the City's Comprehensive Plan before he leaves. Her suggestion is to go out for an RFP and hold interviews for a new Planner. The Council agreed this was a good idea.

Next, Mursko noted that the City's Criminal Attorney Joseph Murphy has changed firms, but will still be the City's Criminal Attorney.

The next topic on the 2018 Organizational chart was Animal Control. Mursko reported that Hillcrest Animal Hospital cancelled their contract with the City, as they are no longer offering impound services. She added that Dover Animal Control is offering their services to Columbus, and they have signed contracts with other cities in the area. Mayor Povolny asked if the cost was comparable to what Hillcrest was charging? Mursko said she does not have prices at this time but she would look into cost and get back to the Council.

The Council continued by considering the City's boards and commissions. Jody Krebs requested reappointment to the Planning Commission, and the Council agreed they would like to reappoint her.

Motion to accept Jody Krebs' reappointment to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.

Looking at the Park Advisory Board, member Andy Fraley has submitted his resignation. Therefore, there is a vacancy on the Park Advisory Board, and the opening should be posted on the City's website and social media.

Motion by Duraine to accept Andy Fraley's resignation from the Park Advisory Board. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Moving on to the Economic Development Authority, Mursko presented an email from member Tracie Wilson withdrawing her application for reappointment. Thus, there are now two vacancies on the EDA.

In light of a second vacancy on the EDA board, Mayor Povolny asked whether the City is required to have an EDA and what their priorities should be. Mursko replied that an EDA is necessary for the levy, and the minimum requirement is to hold one annual meeting. At this time the EDA holds four quarterly meetings. Mayor Povolny asked if an EDA meeting could be held during a City Council meeting? Griffith replied no, that the EDA and the City Council are entirely separate entities and must have separate meetings. Daly suggested that the EDA meet on an as needed basis, and the Council agreed this was a good idea. Mursko noted that the meeting in June/July should be held so that discussions about budget can be had, and the remaining April and November meetings will be held if there are topics which need discussion.

Krebs said that he would like to serve on the Public Works Advisory Board, and Peterson replied that he would be okay with switching from main to alternate so that Krebs can serve as main.

The Council next considered the watershed district appointments. Mursko said that because

Columbus does not currently have someone on the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO), they do not have a quorum and are wondering what the City is going to do to fill that vacancy. She continued to say that the City can appoint two (2) at-large people (City staff are ineligible) to serve on the board, and having an alternate is also encouraged. The Council asked about the financial disclosure requirements for the SRWMO and other watershed districts. Mursko explained that the financial disclosures are the same for Rice Creek Watershed and SRWMO board members. However, there is a difference because on the SRWMO City Council members are considered liaisons which requires more detailed financial disclosure than a board member. Griffith commented that he would recommend that a Council member apply to be a SRWMO liaison, and only disclose what they are comfortable with. Peterson said that he would do that and see how it goes.

Moving on to the Personnel Committee, Mayor Povolny suggested that the City consider taking a closer look at the budget for employees. Griffith commented that the Personnel Committee is left over from when Columbus was a township, and could be reworked if the Council would like to consider such a change.

In an effort to ensure that the Council members have somewhat evenly distributed appointments, Mayor Povolny suggested that Daly give his Personnel Committee appointment to Krebs. Both agreed this was desirable.

Motion by Peterson to adopt the 2018 Columbus Organizational Chart with the changes as described above. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

14. Engineer Report

Postler reported on two (2) items; TIS and ICE reports for Hornsby Street and TH 97, and a storm water feasibility plan for Anoka County Ditch 15.

TH 97 and Hornsby Street Traffic Impact Study and Intersection Control Evaluation Reports

The City Council has been considering the placement of a traffic control device at the intersection of Hornsby Street and TH 97. At this time, the intersection does not meet MnDOT's requirements for an intersection, due partly to the fact that they only consider current levels of traffic when looking at adding traffic control devices. To analyze the intersection further, Spack Consulting produced a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) and an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) for Columbus which was based on one additional development coming to the area. Both reports conclude that a traffic signal (not a roundabout) at the intersection of Hornsby Street and TH 97 is justified, and meets at least three (3) of MnDOT's requirements. Postler asked the Council for a motion accepting the studies and sending the information to MnDOT for consideration.

Motion by Krebs to accept Spack Consulting's Traffic Impact Study and Intersection Control Evaluation reports for the intersection of Hornsby Street and TH 97, and to send them to MnDOT for consideration. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

ACD 15 Storm Water Feasibility Plan

At the December 20, 2017 City Council meeting, Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) gave a presentation on the benefits of the City conducting a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (CSMP) for the SE Quadrant of I 35/TH 97 (more specifically the drainage areas tributary to Anoka County Ditch (ACD) 15 and the undeveloped area between Hornsby Street and I 35). RCWD also discussed that they have funds available to cost-share in the preparation of a CSMP. Postler noted that the remaining cost for the Plan would be assessed to property owners. The CSMP would identify potential regional ponding areas and possible ditch relocation locations, to enable land owners to maximize developable areas. Postler submitted a detailed cost estimate showing five (5) different phases of work. Phases 1-3 would be required to complete the CSMP, and 4-5 are optional depending on whether existing ACD 15 alignment can be moved, and whether the City has any interest in taking ownership of the ditch. The cost for Phases 1-3 are estimated at \$44,500. The RCWD anticipates contributing around \$15 – 20,000 for the project.

Mayor Povolny asked Mursko how the City would fund the remaining \$25,000 to pay for the CSMP? She replied that the City does not have a dedicated fund for storm water, so the money would have to come from a few different places. She added that the money could come partly from the transportation fund, the EDA fund, and from future development. Postler noted that the CSMP would help foster development, and the cost for Phases 1-3 could decrease if RCWD is able to contribute a significant amount of information about the area. Mayor Povolny said that cost is a big concern for him, and the CSMP is expensive and does not include any actual work on the ground. Postler replied that the CSMP is needed to determine how much work on the ground would cost. Griffith added that the CSMP is valuable information for developers, and would help foster conversation about development in the area. He finished by saying the report is worth it if the Council believes that area will develop. However, if they don't foresee development there then it will likely not be useful. Mursko commented that in discussions with developers she has told them there is an addition \$3 per square foot for ponding information, and that has not been a deterrent. Duraine asked how the assessments would work? Griffith replied that it works exactly the same as the City's utilities system, and all land owners in the area would be assessed for it.

Motion by Peterson to direct Dennis Postler to prepare a CSMP for the I 35/TH 97 SE Quadrant undeveloped areas adjacent to ACD 15 and between Hornsby Street and I 35 for a not-to-exceed fee of \$44,500, and to submit an application to RCWD for cost-sharing assistance. Seconded by Daly. Votes as follows; Peterson – aye; Daly – aye; Povolny – aye, Duraine – nay; Krebs – aye. Motion carried.

15. Attorney Report

No report.

16. Mayor and City Council Member's Report

Mayor Dave Povolny

No report.

Council Member Daly

No report.

Council Member Peterson

No report.

Council Member Krebs

No report.

Council Member Duraine

Duraine attended the most recent Forest Lake Cable Commission meeting. He said that they are getting a quote from Tierney Brothers for audio and visual updates to the Columbus Council Chambers.

17. Public Works Report

The City Council has been considering a request from a business owner located off Hornsby Street for a temporary light to be installed at Hornsby Street and TH 97. Therefore, Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad obtained a quote from Connexus Energy to install a temporary light at that intersection. The quote came back at \$10,367.00. Windingstad commented that there is no electricity at that intersection, so some boring work would need to be done to run the electric underground, which is contributing significantly to the high price. He added that depending on how the TIS and ICE reports are taken by MnDOT, there could be a new traffic signal added to the intersection in the near future, which would include lighting. The Council agreed that they would like to wait and see if the traffic signal gets approved before ordering the installation of the temporary light.

Next, Duraine asked Windingstad if Public Works has the intention of adding new, larger, decals to the City's vehicles? Windingstad said that they recently put new decals on the dump trucks but that is it. He showed them a picture of the decal, and the Council's consensus was that the City should buy new, much larger, decals for all of the City's vehicles.

18. Public Communications Coordinator Report

Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes asked the Council about the newsletter that they would like to start publishing, in place of a ColumBiz event. She asked how frequently they would like the newsletter sent out? The consensus was that a newsletter twice a year would be sufficient. She followed up by asking who the Council thought would be the main audience of the newsletter? The Council agreed that the newsletter should be geared toward businesses only at first. Mayor Povolny asked if it was possible to do some type of online meeting with businesses where they can remotely view and participate? Hughes said that the City could do a webinar or Facebook Live session, and would consider that idea as a supplemental event to the newsletter.

Motion by Duraine for the City to publish a business-focused newsletter twice a year. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.

19. City Administrator's Report

Mursko brought up the two (2) public meetings that Columbus will be holding in February. On February 8th Anoka County has an open house from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus City Hall, and afterwards (at 7:00 p.m.) Columbus will hold a Freeway District workshop with land owners in that area. On February 15th, Columbus will hold an open house for all residents to hear presentations about the City's comprehensive plan and ask questions.

Next, Mayor Povolny suggested canceling the first meeting in March because he cannot attend. The remaining Council members agreed they would prefer to hold the meeting with the Mayor's absence.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

The next Planning Commission meeting is January 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Calendar of Meetings.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Daly to adjourn. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator

Final Organizational Chart
City of Columbus

Deputy Mayor	Jeff Duraine
Depository	Wells Fargo (2nd Qtr move to US Bank)
Legal Paper	Forest Lake Times
Engineer	TKDA/Dennis Postler
Planner	Resource Strategies/Dean Johnson
Civil Attorney	Larkin Hoffman/Bill Griffith
Criminal Attorney	Joseph Murphy
City Auditor	2017 Tautges Redpath
City Assessor	Ken Tolzman
Animal Control	
Data Practices (Responsible Authority)	City Administrator
Data Practices (Compliance Official)	City Administrator
Petty Cash Cusodian	Deputy Treasurer
Planning Commission Members:	YEAR TERM ENDS
Jody Krebs	2021
Jim Watson	2019
Pam Woloski	2019
Garth Sternberg	2020
Jesse Preiner	2020
Park Advisory Board:	
Sandra Wood	2020
Vacant	2021
Andrea Messina	2019
Marilyn Didling	2019
Bob Bodene	2020
Public Works Advisory Board:	
Paul Peskar	
Mike Boland	
Jerry Auge	
Dan Mike	
Lloyd Rehbein	
Dave Schueler	
Russ McPherson	
Forest Lake Cable Commission:	
Doug Wood	

City Council Committee Assignments					
	Dave	Denny	Jeff	Bill	Mark
Building Inspector Liaison		M		A	
Issues with builders					
Office Liaison	M				
Issues in the office					
Joint Fire Board (Mtgs as needed)	M				M
Personnel Committee (Mtgs as needed)	M			M	
Park Board (Mtgs 3rd Thurs. Quarterly)		A			M
Public Works Advisory Board		A		M	
(Mtgs. as needed)					
Met Council (As Needed)	M				A
FLCC - Cable TV (Monthly)		A	M		
Watersheds:					
Rice Creek				M	A
Coon Creek					
Sunrise (Monthly Meetings):		M			
Sunrise 2nd Member: Vacant					
M = Primary Representative					
A = Alternate Representative					