

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
02.12.20

The 02.12.20 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Preiner at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Jeff Duraine, Shelly Logren, Janet Hegland, and Denny Peterson; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Ron Hanegraaf, Barb Bobick, Kris King, Paul Peskar, Dan Mike, John Young, Tim Houle, and Cindy Angel.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:01 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- ~~**4. Motion – Approval of the xx.xx.xx City Council Meeting Minutes**~~
- 5. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**

Motion by Duraine to approve consent agenda items 3 and 5. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS

6. 2020 Ambulance Service

Al Newman, Forest Lake Fire Chief, came forward to discuss a recent meeting that he had regarding 2020 ambulance services for the City of Columbus. He met with police department representatives and M Health representatives. At the time of that meeting on 01.23.20, over half of M Health's staffing is filled and interviews are ongoing. They discussed all aspects of the transition including operations, staffing levels, transport logistics, ambulance housing, and services provided to the community. Ambulances will largely be coming from Lino Lakes, Forest Lake, and Wyoming. Staffing will occur in twelve-hour shifts, and staffing for community events will be provided at no charge. They will also support fire and emergency medical response (EMR) training at no charge.

Newman reported that M Health representatives were asked what would happen if Lino Lakes or Hugo chooses to contract with a different ambulance service provider. Their answer was that if that occurs, they will have to adjust their operational model as they do not have a plan for that scenario.

Overall, Newman said that he felt confident that the services being provided will be the same or better moving forward. The official change over date to M Health is 06.01.20.

7. Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission member Pam Wolowski gave the report on their 01.15.20 meeting.

They held a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss a few items. The first is what each zoning category would consist of, such as; retail, professional offices, hotels, motels, e-commerce, etc. The second topic discussed was geographical boundaries of the zoning districts. Overall, the group felt like the current map was acceptable as is. The third topic they discussed was what the zoning districts themselves should be. They discussed four of eight proposed districts.

Work on these topics will continue at the next meeting. Mursko said that the regularly scheduled City Council workshop on 02.26.20 will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission in order to facilitate further discussion on this topic.

8. Public Open Forum

No report.

9. Coon Creek Watershed Appointment Letter

Mursko reported that the City received a letter from Anoka County indicating that they have two appointments up for the Coon Creek Watershed District. This is an opportunity for the Council to submit names for recommendation. Mursko noted that there has been a vacancy for the Coon Creek Watershed District listed on the Jobs & Volunteering page on the City's website for some time, and there has not been any interest in the opening. The Council did not have any recommendations for the position and indicated that the vacancy should remain on the website.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

10. Engineer Report

SW Area Utility Extensions Phase 2

Postler presented a summary memo on the second phase of the SW area utility extensions project. The memo includes a change order for ten items totaling roughly \$72,000. This cost is wrapped into pay request number 3 for the project. He added that many of the items pertain to site conditions discovered during construction. A discrepancy in the electrical voltage was also discovered, which TKDA will be paying for and crediting engineering time. Pay request number 3 is in the amount of \$100,758.20. Postler finished by saying all that remains on the project is turf restoration and driveway paving, which will take place in the spring.

City Attorney Bill Griffith said it is the intent of City Staff to bring forward special assessments for the majority, if not all, of the project. There are two benefitting property owners on either side of the improvement.

Motion by Hegland to approve change order number three for the SW Utility Extensions Phase 2 to Veit Company in the amount \$72,080.28. Seconded by Peterson. Roll call vote; Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to approve pay request number three for the SW Utility Extensions Phase 2 in the amount of \$100,758.20. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hegland to accept the construction and engineering fees credit from TKDA for the SW Utility Extensions Phase 2 in the amount of 17,467.40. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

South Hornsby Street Survey

Bittner continued by discussing future plans to reconstruct roughly one mile of Hornsby Street south of TH 97. A feasibility report for this project was completed roughly a year ago by TKDA, which laid out three options for reconstruction.

Bittner said the window for completing the project this year is closing. It is still possible, but design would have to be accelerated considerably. If the project is not completed this year, the City will still have to do some work to maintain the road.

The first step to completing this process is to give Bittner authorization to complete a topographical survey on the area.

Motion by Hegland to approve a topographical survey for roughly one mile of Hornsby Street south of TH 97, not to exceed the amount of \$9,000. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Bittner said work on this will get started right away, and it will take just over a week to get everything back. Mayor Preiner asked if the data will still be usable if the City waits until next year for this project? Bittner replied that it would.

11. Attorney Report

Arnt Litigation

Griffith updated the Council on the issue of Arnt v. The City of Columbus. Arnt had previously filed in the incorrect court but has since refiled in district court. The City's assigned counsel, John Baker, will prepare an answer by the due date of 03.31.20. Griffith expects that Baker will attend a closed meeting with the Council between now and then.

12. Mayor and Council Members Report

Council Member Logren

Logren continued discussion from Hegland's report. Columbus currently pays 25% of the SRWMO expenses, as they are split evenly between the four members. There is an argument that the share of expenses should be based on the amount of non-public land that is located within the organization.

Logren added that the branding committee event was held at Running Aces Harness Park on 01.23.20. Roughly thirteen businesses were represented at the event and MnDOT had a table

there to discuss the TH 97 bridge over I-35 project. Overall the event was a success and the committee received useful feedback.

Council Member Duraine

No report.

Mayor Preiner

Mayor Preiner reported that the City held a special election yesterday for the Anoka County District 6 Commissioner seat. He congratulated new commissioner Jeff Reinhart on the election.

Council Member Hegland

Hegland reported that herself, Mayor Preiner, and Mursko met with the Columbus senior group on 02.05.20 to close up loose ends on the Senior Center transition. She said the meeting went well, and next steps are to meet with the Columbus Lions to discuss how this will affect their breakfasts held at the Senior Center.

Hegland continued to report on a meeting with the Sunrise River Watershed Maintenance Organization (SRWMO) held on 02.06.20.

Roughly six months ago the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) submitted a memo about a realignment of the boundary with the SRWMO. RCWD is moving forward with the state's process to complete the realignment. This project affects a small area in two parcels of land. Once the realignment is complete, a small area previously located in the SRWMO will now be located in the Coon Creek Watershed District. Affected residents will see this change on their County taxes.

SRWMO also discussed their 2021 budget at this meeting. They are going to be decreasing their budget by 11% due to underspending last year.

Hegland finished by saying the One Watershed One Plan project is continuing to be worked on. Hegland is on the policy committee for this project in the lower St. Croix region. In the next couple of weeks there will be a vote on the plan which will send copies to cities for review and comment. She noted that the concern she has for Columbus' participation in this plan is whether the watersheds are organized as a joint powers collaborative or a joint powers entity. A decision on that question will likely be made at their next meeting.

Council Member Peterson

No report.

13. Public Works Report

Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad came forward to address an ordinance amendment and a drainage issue on Pine Street.

Chapter 6 Ordinance Amendment

The ordinance amendment to Chapter 6 has to do with seasonal weight restrictions. It includes one change to the seasonal load limit. In the past all roads were posted at five tons per axle and the ordinance did not acknowledge the existence of other load limits on roads. To solve that issue the ordinance now says that all roads have a limit of five tons per axle “unless otherwise posted”. City Staff determined that the appropriate limit will be 26,000 lbs per axle. More signs to be placed around the City will be ordered next week.

Motion by Duraine to approve Ordinance 20-01, an ordinance amending Chapter 6, Streets. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Pine Street Ditch Maintenance Project

Windingstad continued by giving an overview of the ditch maintenance project he would like to complete on Pine Street.

He explained that since 2006 he has been getting complaints from residents regarding flooding in this area. He has also received petitions for work to be completed on the issue. The main reason that residents are experiencing flooding is because the ditch does not flow properly and backs up into residential properties.

Windingstad has spent many hours working on this. TKDA has also completed elevation surveys and had many conversations with RCWD on this.

In order to solve the issue, City Staff are recommending cleaning the ditch, replacing culverts, and lowering one culvert so that the water will move properly.

Logren asked if by completing this project the City is setting a precedent for other neighborhoods which would result in additional petitions for such work to be completed? Windingstad replied that the City receives petitions to do ditch work in the right-of-way frequently. In the past the process has been to have the City Engineer review the petition and complete the process. In this manner, public works has not been very involved. However, in the past few years Windingstad has been more involved by completing site inspections to ensure the projects are finished properly. He added that it will ultimately the City will have discretion to determine whether it is justified to complete a project. He feels like the Pine Street issue warrants a project because there has been record high water the past few years and it has been a problem for a long time. In addition, it is the City’s road and road right-of-way that is preventing the water from moving where it needs to. Mursko agreed, stating that she believes this is a road maintenance issue that is the City’s responsibility to correct.

Mayor Preiner asked Windingstad when he plans to begin work? Windingstad said that he wants to start as soon as possible, but he may need to wait until weather is more cooperative.

Hegland requested that the residents who signed the petition be notified that this work is being done. Windingstad replied that he will send the work plan to them.

Motion by Duraine to approve the work plan as presented in the Public Works outline for the Pine Street ditch maintenance project and to award the contract to Dunaway

Construction in the amount of \$14,548.00. Seconded by Logren. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

15. City Administrator's Report

Mursko reported that Deputy City Clerk Lorie Spangler submitted a brochure on the City's 2020 recycling events for the Council to review. If Council members have any comments, they should send them to Mursko. Once those comments are received the brochure will be updated and sent to residents.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts:	\$ 61,639.85
Disbursements:	\$ 481,611.81
Balance:	\$8,416,777.13

16. Closed Meeting Discussion

At this time Mayor Preiner closed the City Council meeting to execute a closed meeting under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, subd. 3(c) to consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase of property for the purpose of extending Zurich Street to the north of Lake Drive.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

17. Calendar of Meetings.

The next joint Planning Commission and City Council workshop is on 02.26.20 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The next City Council meeting is on 02.26.20 at 7:00 p.m.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Duraine to adjourn. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator

