

**City of Columbus  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Alternative Meeting Format  
MN Statutes, Section 13D.021  
04.08.20**

The 04.08.20 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Mayor Preiner at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Jeff Duraine, Shelly Logren (via teleconference), Janet Hegland, and Denny Peterson; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith (via teleconference), City Attorney Jake Steen (via teleconference), City Planning Technician Ben Gutknecht (via teleconference), City Engineer Kevin Bittner (via teleconference), City Engineer Dennis Postler (via teleconference), and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Kris king (via teleconference), and Ron Hanegraaf (via teleconference)

**A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:20 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 – Approval of the XX.XX.XX City Council Meeting Minutes**~~
- 6. Motion - Pay Bills as Posted**

**Motion by Peterson to approve Consent Agenda items 3 and 6. Seconded by Duraine. Roll call vote; Peterson - aye; Hegland - aye; Mayor Preiner - aye; Duraine - aye; Logren - aye.**

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

**7. Planning Commission Report**

The Planning Commission’s 04.01.20 meeting was canceled, as such there is no Planning Commission report.

**8. Public Open Forum**

No report.

**9. Thurnbeck Preserve Second Addition WCA Banking Application**

City Planning Technician Ben Gutknecht presented the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Notice of Decision for Thurnbeck Preserve Second Addition. He explained there was a minor misunderstanding on the wetland banking procedure and the paperwork for the notice has been corrected.

Gutknecht asked the Council to approve the amended Notice of Decision.

**Motion by Hegland to approve the amended Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision for application number R-2019-2 for Thurnbeck Preserve Second Addition with the changes noted, and to direct the City Administrator to process the paperwork associated with the Notice. Seconded by Duraine. Roll call vote; Peterson - aye; Hegland - aye; Mayor Preiner - aye; Duraine - aye; Logren - aye. Motion carries.**

#### **10. Sunrise WMO 2021 Budget**

Hegland presented the proposed 2021 budget for the Sunrise River Watershed Maintenance Organization (SRWMO). The budget was presented to the Council a few months ago but was not approved because more information was needed about the cities in the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and their contributions to the operations agreement.

The question to be researched was whether it was possible to remove publicly held land from the equation for determining each City's financial contribution to the operations agreement (as the equation is based on the amount of land each City has located within SRWMO).

Because the budget must be ratified by the end of April, and changing the equation requires approval from all four Cities in the JPA, there is not time to make the change today.

As such, Hegland is proposing that the Council vote on the budget as presented, and between now and next year work on amending the JPA to possibly include a different allocation method by removing the publicly held lands from the equation.

As the SRWMO budget stands today, Columbus will be responsible for contributing \$8,422.56.

**Motion by Hegland to approve the 2021 SRWMO budget as presented. Seconded by Duraine. Roll call vote; Peterson - aye; Hegland - aye; Mayor Preiner - aye; Duraine - aye; Logren - aye.**

#### **11. Rice Creek Watershed District Boundary**

Hegland presented a study evaluating the hydrologic and legal boundary of the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD). Thirteen areas were identified where there is a discrepancy between the legal boundary and the hydrologic boundary, and two of those areas are within the City of Columbus. One is near Broadway Avenue and Lyons street, and the other is near Broadway Avenue and Furman Street.

RCWD is asking the Council if they agree with the new hydrologic boundary. If the Council agrees, the next step will be to have Houston Engineering make changes to the legal boundary. Hegland noted that all affected watershed districts have accepted the redrafting.

Mursko said that she will respond to RCWD saying that the new boundary has been reviewed and approved. The Council agreed.

**Motion by Hegland to approve the proposed boundary change put forth by RCWD, and direct City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko to communicate such approval to RCWD.**

**Seconded by Peterson. Roll call vote; Peterson - aye; Hegland - aye; Mayor Preiner - aye; Duraine - aye; Logren - aye. Motion carries.**

#### **D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS**

##### **12. Engineer Report**

###### State Park Road Account Update

City Engineer Dennis Postler reported that the City received \$1.186M for the project extending W. Freeway Drive to the north from the new roundabout, which is good news for the City. The funds will cover construction and will not cover engineering or inspections. Columbus was asked to cover all construction on the DNR's land and half of the construction on the City's land. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2.5M.

Postler continued to explain that there are two possible scenarios going forward. The first is if the City is successful in securing the Local Road Improvement Dollars (LRIP) from the legislature, then all project costs would be covered. The second is if the City is not successful in securing the LRIP money, then the City will need to secure additional funding for just over half of the project cost.

**Motion by Duraine to accept the State Park Road Account Funding in the amount of \$1,186,750.00. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote; Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.**

##### **13. Attorney Report**

###### Chapter 14 Ordinance Amendment

Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad spoke about the proposed amendment to Chapter 14 of City Ordinances. He explained that at times there are issues with supplying drinking water to large commercial buildings that have added high capacity and high-volume fire suppression lines. These fire suppression lines are currently tied into the potable water lines.

Windingstad spoke with the Building Department and came up with a solution; running the fire suppression line and the potable water line separately. He added that most commercial buildings do this.

City Attorney Jacob Steen added that the Ordinance amendment gives the Building Official and Public Works Superintendent discretion over when to require a dual line and does not preclude alternative options.

**Motion by Peterson to approve Ordinance 20-02, an ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances. Seconded by Duraine. Roll call vote; Peterson – aye; Hegand – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.**

Windingstad clarified that this requirement will not be retroactive to current buildings and will be communicated to developers when a new building proposal is received.

###### Governor's Order 20-33

City Attorney Bill Griffith reported that the most recent Governor’s Order extended Shelter in Place until 05.03.20. Governor Walz talked about the expansion of what are deemed to be critical sectors. Critical sectors now include landscaping and other agricultural services like lawn care. Walz also explained that what is considered critical manufacturing will be expanded.

Lastly, Governor Walz is working with different agencies to phase in allowing people to return to work if they have adequate physical distancing and other precautions in place.

#### **14. Mayor and Council Members Report**

##### Council Member Logren

No report.

##### Mayor Preiner

Mayor Preiner reported that during the EDA meeting there was discussion about appointing applicant Robert Berens to the EDA. Mursko noted that Berens would be filling Jon Rausch’s unfinished term, which will conclude on 12.31.2024.

**Motion by Hegland to ratify the Mayor’s appointment of Robert Berens to the Economic Development Authority. Seconded by Duraine. Roll call vote; Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.**

##### Council Member Hegland

No report.

##### Council Member Peterson

No report.

##### Council Member Duraine

Duraine reported that the upcoming Cable Commission meeting has been canceled.

#### **15. Public Works Report**

No report.

#### **16. Public Communications Coordinator Report**

No report.

#### **17. City Administrator’s Report**

##### ClearChannel Extension Letter

At the previous City Council meeting, an agreement was made that ClearChannel would mark billboard columns at various heights to determine how high the imitation brick should extend. Mursko has since received a letter from ClearChannel requesting a 90-day extension on their IUP applications.

Logren asked if any marks have been made on the columns yet? Mayor Preiner said that none have been marked, but they should be putting three marks on each pole that the City identified. Logren followed up by asking if they are going to provide the City with a list of which billboards are being removed? Mursko said that due to contract concerns they are not disclosing which billboards they plan to take down.

**Motion by Duraine to approve a 90-day extension for ClearChannel’s Large Off-Premise Sign Interim Use Permits as disclosed in their letter dated 04.06.20 to expire on 07.07.20. Seconded by Peterson. Roll call vote; Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.**

#### Update COVID-19

Mursko gave the Council an update on changes since the Shelter in Place order was issued due to COVID-19. The past two weeks the City has continued to provide essential services while maintaining physical distancing requirements. The nature of Public Works’ job responsibilities and the fact that their offices are in a separate building from the rest of City Employees, has allowed them to easily keep their distance and continue to work as before. For employees in the main City Office – a schedule with day shifts, night shifts, and work from home shifts has been created to limit the number of people in the office at a given time. Opportunities to work on the weekends have also been offered so that City Employees can fill the number of hours needed. Measures have also been put in place to allow the public to drop off permits and applications without interacting with any employees. Mursko noted that this system is working well, but there will be some delay in processing times.

Mursko noted that the Council has a workshop scheduled for 04.22.20 where transportation projects were to be discussed, and asked if it should be canceled? Mayor Preiner said that he wants to go forward with the workshop, and the rest of the Council agreed.

Hegland asked if next week’s Fall Fest Committee meeting will still be held? Mursko said that the Fall Fest Committee is not essential, so she will ask Deputy City Clerk Lorie Spangler to cancel it and reschedule for late May.

Peterson asked if the spring recycling event is still being held? Mursko said that it is, but she is not aware of the details at this time.

## **E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

### **18. Calendar of Meetings**

The next Planning Commission meeting is on 04.15.20 at 7:00 p.m.

The next City Council workshop is on 04.22.20 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The next City Council meeting is on 04.22.20 at 7:00 p.m.

## **F. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Duraine to adjourn. Seconded by Peterson. Roll call vote; Peterson – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Duraine – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator