

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statutes 13D.021
01.27.21

The 01.27.21 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 Robert Busch, Shelly Logren (via teleconference), Janet Hegland, and Sue Wagamon (via teleconference); City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith (via teleconference), City Engineer Kevin Bittner, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance (via teleconference): Barb Bobick, Eric David, Ron Hanegraaf, Joe Hiti, Tim Melchoir, Wendy Lene, Kris King, and Matt Kelly.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:00 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 4. Motion – Approval of the 08.12.2020 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Motion – Approval of the 08.26.2020 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 6. Motion – Approval of Resolution 21-02 acknowledging gifts received by City**
- 7. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**

Motion by Hegland to approve Consent Agenda items 3-7, including Resolution 21-02, a resolution authorizing acceptance of gifts received by the City of Columbus and to authorize the City to administer the gifts in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donors. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATIONS

8. Drainage and Utility Easement Vacation 5437 185th Court NE

A new house is being built at 5437 185th Court NE. When the project began, the septic system was mistakenly installed on neighboring property. To remedy the situation, a lot line adjustment was completed. The lot line adjustment was conditioned upon the vacation and reestablishment of a drainage and utility easement that covers the mound system.

Mayor Preiner asked for public comment on the vacation of this easement.

Hearing no one, Mayor Preiner closed the public hearing.

Motion by Hegland to approve Resolution 21-03, a resolution vacating of drainage and utility easements as depicted in Exhibit A at 5437 185th Court NE in the City of Columbus,

Minnesota. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

13. Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission Chair Ron Hanegraaf gave the Planning Commission report from their 01.20.21 meeting. Three issues were discussed at this meeting.

The first issue was a variance request to the side-yard setback requirement for an accessory building. The second issue was for a special type of septic system installation. Because there was a complication with mailing public notices, the public hearings associated with both of these issues were rescheduled for 02.03.2021. The Planning Commission opened each hearing on 01.20.21 to receive testimony from the public. No testimony was received, and each hearing was tabled to continue at the 02.03.21 meeting.

The last issue was selecting a chairperson and vice chairperson for the Planning Commission. Hanegraaf was nominated for chairperson and Wolowski was nominated for vice chair.

Final issue was selecting chairperson. Ron was appointed for chairperson and Pam was appointed vice chair position.

Motion by Hegland to accept the Planning Commission recommendation to appoint Ron Hanegraaf as Planning Commission Chairperson and Pam Wolowski as Planning Commission Vice Chairperson. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

10. Park Board Report

Kris King gave the Park Board report from their 01.21.21 meeting. The group began considerations of a new master park plan. The last plan was completed in 2009. The board is considering developing the plan in house without a consultant.

Each member provided short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals for the park. The first maintenance item to complete is replacing a piece of metal on the City Park bridge which can be a slipping hazard. Short-term goals may include planting trees across the border with Kettle River Blvd. Another short-term idea was to clean up the tennis court and garden area.

Long-term ideas include paving the Notre Dame parking lot, extending the trail system, adding playground equipment, exercise equipment, and lighting along the walking trail.

The Park Board would like to continue this work by distributing an online survey for residents. The City Council is also planning on doing a by-mail survey on internet access. Part of that survey will be requesting contact information from residents. Hegland suggested waiting until the internet survey results are received so that the Park Board can use that contact information to contact residents about the park survey.

Motion by Hegland to direct City Staff to work with the Park Board to develop a survey for residents on City Park usage, and to coordinate that survey with the by-mail internet

access survey. **Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.**

11. Public Open Forum

No report.

12. 2021 City Organizational Schedule

The Council discussed the 2021 Organizational Schedule at tonight’s workshop.

Motion by Logren to nominate Hegland as Deputy Mayor. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Wagamon to approve the 2021 Organizational Schedule with no changes from depository to petty cash custodian. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to recommend Sue Wagamon as the fourth check signer. Seconded by Logren. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to reappoint Kris King to the park board for a three-year-term. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

The Building Inspector Liaison position will be divided among Council members based on months. Busch will be liaison from April – May, Wagamon will be liaison from June – July. Remaining months liaisons are to be determined.

Busch volunteered to fill the opening on the joint fire board.

Mayor Preiner volunteered as the main liaison for the Public Works Advisory Board. Busch volunteered for the alternate position.

Wagamon volunteered to be the main liaison for the Forest Lake Cable Commission. Logren volunteered as alternate.

The opening on the Sunrise Rive Watershed Management Organization shall be filled by Tim Melchoir.

Motion by Hegland to appoint Tim Melchoir as the citizen-at-large representative to the Sunrise River Water Management Organization. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

Wagamon volunteered to serve as the second Council representative on the Fall Fest Committee.

Any positions not discussed will remain the same as last year.

Motion by Wagamon to approve the City Council committee assignments as discussed. Seconded by Logren. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

2021 Animal Control Contract

The Council considered renewing the animal control contract from North Metro Animal Care and Control. There are two services which could be added to the contract for 2021 – kennel inspections and dangerous dog registration. City Staff recommend adding both service options to the contract.

Motion by Hegland to approve the 2021 Animal Control contract for two years (2021-2022) with North Metro Animal Care and Control, with the addition of kennel inspection and dangerous dog addendums. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

13. Engineer Report

City Engineer Kevin Bittner gave a power point presentation on the Hornsby Street reconstruction project and the Furman Street improvement project.

The Hornsby Street reconstruction plan involves just under a mile of pavement, from roughly 152nd Avenue NE to 145th Avenue NE. The existing road is in poor condition and requires considerable maintenance. The existing watermain and sanitary sewer lines are in the Hornsby Street ditch. There are three culverts across the road. Two areas with peat soil under the road will need to be removed during the project.

The City's previous engineering consultant firm, TKDA, presented three options for reconstruction in 2019. The current engineering consultant firm, Bolton & Menk, is recommending the City move forward with option B, at a cost of \$2.47 million. Option B includes two 12-foot lanes with eight-foot-wide shoulders (four feet of pavement and four feet of aggregate). The proposed improvements to the road and surrounding area include soil correction, tree removal, culvert replacement, roadway and ditch regrading, ponding and filtration basins, striping, and replacement of mailbox supports.

Once the Council authorizes advertisements for bids it will be posted on QuestCDN and in the City's official newspaper. Bittner recommends authorizing advertisement tonight, opening bids on 02.18.21, and awarding bids on 02.24.21. This schedule would result in substantial completion of the project by 10.01.21, with a project start date in May or early June.

The construction specifications include a requirement to maintain at least one lane of access during construction. However, there will be one road closure period when the peat soil is removed. There was a recent meeting with Bare Home to discuss the impact this closure will have on their business. The solution discussed was to remove the peat and complete reconstruction to an aggregate standard south of Bare Home during phase 1 when the road is closed. This will ensure Bare Home maintains access to their business.

The permitting process with the Rice Creek Watershed District is ongoing. The City will be applying for a local road program which may remove wetland mitigation costs.

A public informational meeting was held on 01.14.21. There will be another similar meeting in the future. A website for the project will also be established and a project representative will be assigned to answer questions.

The Council wondered if it would be beneficial to request two types of bids – one using type B oil and one using type C oil. Bittner said that type C oil is more expensive than type B oil, but type C would reduce maintenance costs over time. The Council agreed they would like to add an alternate request using B oil to the bid.

Motion by Hegland to approve plans and specs and authorize advertisement for bids for the Hornsby Street south reconstruction project, to include an alternate request using B oil. Seconded by Logren. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

The Furman Street improvement project is associated with the Thurnbeck Preserve second addition development. Just over 2,300 feet of roadway will undergo a shape and pave. The developer has paid for a portion of the project, and the remaining cost will be assessed to 16 ³/₄ benefitting residential units.

The plan is to bid this project on the same day as the Hornsby Street reconstruction project, so that contractors can package them together. The contract would also be awarded on 02.24.21. This would result in substantial completion by 07.01.2021.

Motion by Hegland to approve Resolution 21-04, a resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids on the Furman Street improvement project (City Project 21-02). Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

14. Attorney Report

City Attorney Bill Griffith reported on behalf of John Baker in the *Arnt v. City of Columbus* case. The Anoka County District Court ruled in favor of the City. The decision will be circulated to Council members.

15. City Council Member's Report

Council Member Logren

No report.

Mayor Preiner

No report.

Council Member Hegland

Hegland reported on Personnel Committee recommendations which were discussed at tonight's City Council workshop.

Motion by Hegland to approve recommendations 2 – Building Official Resignation and Plan Forward, 3 – Recording Secretary Hire, and 5 – Increase Accountant Hours During Year End from the Personnel Committee report (dated 01.27.21). Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

Council member Busch recused himself from the discussion on step increases (recommendation 4 from the Personnel Committee report).

Motion by Hegland to approve recommendation 4 – Step Increases from the Personnel Committee report (dated 01.27.21). Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon aye. Motion carries.

Recommendation 6 will be brought back to the next Council meeting for discussion.

Council Member Busch

No report.

Council Member Wagamon

No report.

16. Public Works Report

Surplus Vehicle

Public Works Director Jim Windingstad recommended advertising the surplus Public Works truck for sale on a site called MNbid. The option he recommends for listing has an 8% fee (capped at \$750), and the truck will be held at the MNbid site where they will conduct viewings and complete paperwork for the sale.

Motion by Hegland to direct the City Attorney to draft a resolution declaring the Public Works truck as surplus. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye. Motion carries.

Hornsby Street Light

Windingstad continued by reporting that a streetlight on the newly reconstructed Hornsby Street has been hit twice already, and three street signs have been knocked down as well. There are concerns about speed and driver inattentiveness. The damage has already cost the City \$26,000. The street signs will be replaced but the streetlight will not.

17. Public Communications Coordinator Report

Hagert Park Land Sale

Public Information Coordinator Jessica Hughes recommended holding a neighborhood meeting on February 25th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the potential sale of the Hagert Park property.

Motion by Hegland to hold a hybrid format neighborhood meeting with adjoining property owners on the possible Hagert Park land sale on 02.25.21 at 6:00 pm at City Hall.

Seconded by Logren. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Wagamon – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.

18. City Administrator’s Report

No report.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDER

19. Calendar of Meetings

The next Planning Commission meeting is on 02.03.21 at 7:00 p.m.

The next City Council meeting is on 02.10.21 at 7:00 p.m.

The next City Council workshop is on 02.24.21 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hegland to adjourn. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Mayor Preiner – aye; Wagamon – aye; Logren – aye. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator

**Final Organizational Chart
2021 CITY OF COLUMBUS**

Deputy Mayor	Janet Hegland				
Depository	Wells Fargo*				
Investments	Wells Fargo Advisors				
Legal Paper	Forest Lake Times				
Engineer	Bolton & Menk, Kevin Bittner				
Planner	Resources Strageties, Dean Johnson				
Civil Attorney	Larkin Hoffman, Bill Griffith				
Criminal Attorney	Carson, C&R, Joseph Murphy				
City Auditor	2020 Tautges Redpath				
City Assessor	Smith Appraisal Service, Todd Smith				
Animal Control w/ Kennel Inspect & Dangerous Dog Addendum	North Metro Animal Care & Control, Mark Anderson				
City Council Workshop Meetings	4th Wednesday 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm				
Data Practices (Responsible Authority)	City Administrator				
Data Practices (Compliance Official)	City Administrator				
Petty Cash Custodian	Deputy Treasurer				
Planning Commission Members:	YEAR TERM ENDS				
Robert Berens	2024				
Barbara Bobik	2022				
Pam Woloski	2022				
Kris King	2023				
Ron Hanegraaf (2021 Chairman)	2023				
Park Board:					
Brad Norling	2023				
Kris King	2024				
Andrea Messina	2022				
Mark Daly (2021 Chairman)	2022				
Bob Bodene	2023				
Public Works Advisory Board:					
Paul Peskar					
Mike Boland					
Jerry Auge					
Dan Mike					
Lloyd Rehbein					
Dave Schueler (Chairman)					
Russ McPherson					
Forest Lake Cable Commission:					
Doug Wood					
*City Check Signers: Jesse Preiner, Sue Wagamon, Shelly Logren & Elizabeth Mursko					

Final Organizational Chart
2021 CITY OF COLUMBUS

City Council Committee Assignments					
	Jesse	Rob	Sue	Shelly	Janet
	J-F-M	A-M	J-J	A-S	O-N-D
Property Owner Liaison - Complaints (Rotating)	M	M	M	M	M
Issues in the office	M				M
Joint Fire Board (3-4 Meetings)	M	M			
Personnel Committee (Mtgs as needed)	M				M
Park Board (Attendance as requested)					R
Public Works Advisory Board (Mtgs. as needed)	M	A			
Met Council (As Needed)	M				
FLCC - Cable TV (Semi-Monthly)			M	A	
Fall Fest City Council Representative (6-8 Meetings)			A	M	
Watersheds:					
Rice Creek	A				M
Coon Creek					
Sunrise (Monthly Meetings):					M
At Large Member: Tim Melchoir					
M = Primary Representative					
A = Alternate Representative					