

**City of Columbus  
Regular City Council Meeting  
February 8, 2017**

The February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Mark Daly, Jeff Duraine and Bill Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Engineer Dennis Postler, Attorney Bill Griffith and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Myron Organ, Sherry Organ, Joyce Guttson, Holly & Paul Pierson, Dan Mike, Joan Swenson, Jody Krebs, Mary Preiner, Pat Preiner, Jesse Preiner, Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad, Paul Rignell (Forest Lake Times) and Teri Hodges (LATV).

**A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

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

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3. Motion – Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 01.25.17**
- 4. Motion – Resolution Columbus withdrawing from RUSH LINE JPA**

**Motion by Krebs to approve consent agenda items 3-4. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

**5. Columbus Senior Center**

Joyce Guttson, Joan Swenson and Sherry Organ came forward to represent the Senior Center and discuss a few concerns regarding their lease renewal. The Columbus Senior Center is a tenant of the City, as they are renting part of the City Offices building. They have a three-year lease, which is set to expire April 23, 2017.

Senior Center representatives expressed concern with the price of rent and the need for thorough cleaning and updates in the Center itself. The Senior Center currently pays \$300/month for rent, which they believe is too expensive (especially because the Center needs upgrades and a thorough cleaning). Guttson asked if the Council would consider allowing the Senior Center to use the space for free or reducing their rent. City Attorney Bill Griffith said that the City is not legally able to offer the space for free, as rent must be sufficient to cover expenses for the space. Mayor Povolny reported that in 2016 the expenses for the space were roughly \$1600, which were from repairs to the exchange unit, HVAC system, refrigerator, stove, and other miscellaneous items.

Guttson, Organ, and Swenson all agreed that the Senior Center is in need of new blinds, fresh paint, floor waxing, carpet removal, and a commercial cleaning of the entire space. The Council agreed that the City (along with various volunteers) will address these concerns at no cost to the Senior Center, while maintaining the same price for rent. Council Member Krebs agreed to

donate paint for the Center. Duraine and Krebs also agreed to help purchase and install new blinds for the Center's windows. Mayor Povolny said he would look into the possibility of adding a new phone and internet service to the Senior Center. And the Council agreed that the Senior Center's garbage would be put together with the City's garbage, therefore eliminating their garbage pickup fees. The remaining issues (floor waxing, carpet removal, and a commercial cleaning) will be taken care of by the City at no cost to the Senior Center. Griffith will redraft the rental agreement detailing these decisions.

## **6. Planning Commission Report**

Jody Krebs presented the Planning Commission report. The Planning Commission met on February 1<sup>st</sup> and they're bringing one topic forward to the City Council, which is the 2018 Columbus Comprehensive Plan.

### 2018 Columbus Comprehensive Plan

Columbus' Comprehensive Plan is a Met Council requirement, that must be updated every 10 years. Because the last plan was made in 2009, the process for developing the next Comprehensive Plan is beginning now with the expectation of finishing in June 2018. Commissioner Jody Krebs reported that Columbus has a new Sector Representative from the Met Council named Corrin Hoegen Wendell, who will be working with the City on the Plan. Krebs reported that one of the City's expectations for this plan would be to change the designation from Rural Diversified to Rural Residential.

Mayor Povolny mentioned that the March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 date for a joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting regarding the Accessory Building Ordinance no longer works with his schedule. Therefore, he is requesting to change the meeting date to March 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7:00 p.m., and asked Commissioner Krebs to relay the message back to the rest of the Planning Commission.

Mursko noted that the Met Council and Anoka County are having a meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 to discuss reorganization of the Met Council, and they have asked local governments to send representatives in order to testify with their concerns and suggestions. The meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. at the Bunker Hills Activity Center. Commissioner Krebs said this would be a good opportunity to voice concerns that the City has about the Met Council. Overall the Council was unsure if anyone would be able to attend this meeting.

## **7. Public Open Forum**

### Paul and Holly Pierson

Paul and Holly Pierson of 65481 141<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE came forward to speak about the 141<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE Shape and Pave project. They own 20 acres off of 141<sup>st</sup>, and are being assigned two assessments for this project. The Piersons disagree with being given two assessments, because the property contains a lot of wetland area which would make building a second home there very difficult. They argued that in order to build a second home, there would have to be a shared access driveway because the cost to add a separate driveway would be too great (due to the

amount of fill that would be needed). The Piersons said they plan on living in their home for as long as possible and not subdivide the property.

The Council responded that assigning the Pierson's property just one assessment would go against what the City has historically done for road improvement projects. Traditionally, the City assigns assessments based on what a future landowner could do, not what the current landowner plans on doing. City Council members agreed that although it may not be ideal for this property to be subdivided, it is still possible that someone could do this in the future.

Mr. Pierson asked what would happen if he entered into a conservation agreement with the DNR (for example) for part of his property. Griffith said that the Council can only react to what is in front of them today, and until evidence is presented that the land has been dedicated to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for conservation status, the two assessments will still be assigned to that property.

### **8. Anoka County Coon Creek Watershed Appointment**

Due to the expiration of the terms of Nick Phelps and Scott Bromley on May 27, 2017, vacancies will occur on the Coon Creek Watershed District Board of Managers. In order to fill vacancies, a valid list containing at least three eligible nominees for a manager's position must be submitted by March 28, 2017 for consideration. Those interested in being considered for appointment are encouraged to contact the City to request being included on the list. At this time the City does not have any nominees.

### **9. Reinette Labernik resignation Sunrise Water Management Organization (WMO)**

Reinette Labernik has informed the City that she will be resigning from the Sunrise WMO. The Council asked City Staff to advertise this vacancy, and send a letter to Labernik thanking her for her service.

**Motion by Daly to accept Reinette Labernik's resignation from the Sunrise WMO.  
Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **10. Local Board of Appeal & Equalization April 17, 2017 7:00 p.m.**

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has given Columbus the date of April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

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

### **11. Engineer Report**

#### 141<sup>st</sup> Road Petition Results

City Engineer Dennis Postler presented the results from a petition for a shape and pave project on 141<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE (from Lake Drive to approximately one mile west). At the January 11, 2017 meeting the City Council directed petition forms be mailed out to the 26 property owners abutting the prospective street paving improvements. The results were as follows:

Number of petitions sent:	26
Number of petitions returned:	23
Yes petitions:	15
No petitions:	7
Yes/No petitions:	1

**Motion by Krebs to approve Resolution 17-07, a resolution accepting petition results and ordering a feasibility report for the 141<sup>st</sup> Ave NE Shape and Pave Project. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

150 Acre Residential Development Public Utilities

Postler and Mursko are looking for direction from the City Council on the future of a 150-acre site located in Columbus. The city of Forest Lake received a request to extend public sanitary sewer and water to serve a 230-unit development on this site in Columbus. Based on a study done by Forest Lake, they would have to restrict development in the Northwest part of their city to allow for a public sewer and water connection to the proposed development. The question posed to the Council is whether or not they would consider extending Columbus’ public sewer and water to the proposed development.

There was a limited discussion on whether this type of development is something they would like to see in Columbus, as it is an urban development with lots less than 1-acre in size. Council Member Krebs noted that although this type of development is out of the ordinary for Columbus, it would be situated far from greater Columbus and wouldn’t affect the majority of residents. Council Member Duraine expressed concern about the lot sizes, noting that such small lots are a big difference from the more common larger lots in Columbus. Overall the Council agreed that they would consider provided public sewer and water for the development, but they would like to see more information about the project before a final decision is made.

177<sup>th</sup> and 178<sup>th</sup> Bender Project

Postler is presenting information to the Council (which was requested by Council Member Duraine), that relates to a 2014 paving project in Columbus where a portion of the project (routing and sealing) was not completed due to lateness of the season. Because of this, a total of \$12,363 from that project’s budget was never spent. Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad will be working with Postler and the Contractor during this project crack fill these roads as routing and sealing did not occur on them.

MnDot I35 TH97 Bridge Project Update

Postler presented information from the most recent meeting with MnDot regarding the I35 TH97 Bridge project. At the January 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 City Council meeting the Council Members asked if it would be possible to add “Columbus” on the bridge. Postler is reporting back that MnDot typically does not include this in their aesthetics budget, however they are checking to see if it has been done in other cities before they make a final decision.

Council Member Krebs asked why the pedestrian walkway in the center of the bridge is 15-feet wide. Mursko replied that it may have something to do with being able to plow the walkway without having to remove snow from the bridge. However, Postler mentioned there has been a lot of discussion back and forth about how wide the walkway should be, and agreed to clarify with MnDot why they've chosen 15-feet.

Next Postler presented a map of the area which shows the potential location for ponds. Some ponds are wetland mitigation from the I-35E Freeway updates, and others are mitigation from the TH97 highway improvements. Postler is working on negotiating the location of one pond in the Northeast corner that would take up developable land.

Dan Mike, (an audience member), asked if there was a plan to create a controlled intersection at Hornsby Street NE and TH97. Postler replied that MnDot is not planning on adding a controlled intersection during this project, but will be putting in a conduit for a future signal.

Lastly, MnDot is asking to meet with the City Council for two items: a bridge workshop, and to ask for municipal consent and hold a public hearing (during a City Council meeting). Mursko asked if February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. would work for the bridge workshop. She also asked if March 22<sup>nd</sup> (during the City Council Meeting) would work for the Public Hearing. Council Members agreed that both dates would work.

#### Policy 09-03 Road Specifications Update

Postler suggested that the City Council consider updating their road specifications. The last time the City updated their specifications was in 2009, MnDot has updated their's since then. Therefore, Columbus' specifications are outdated and different from MnDot's. The Council's consensus was that this should be done.

### **12. Attorney Report**

No report.

### **13. Mayor and City Council Member's Report**

#### Council Member Krebs

Council Member Krebs reported that he went to the Sunrise WMO meeting. The meeting was focused on efforts to clean up the lakes and ditches in that area. He also said that the organization may be asking Columbus for roughly \$1600 to aid in creating a water management plan.

#### Council Member Duraine

Council Member Duraine reported that he attended the Fire Board meeting. At the meeting they discussed yearly statistics and the potential for adding fire inspectors. He also reported that the Fire Board is almost done paying for the ladder truck.

## Council Member Daly

Council Member Daly reported that since the last City Council meeting (where the intersection of Potomac Street NE and W Broadway Avenue was brought up to the Anoka County Police Officers) he has noticed a squad car parked at that intersection.

## Mayor Povolny

Mayor Povolny also reported on the Fire Board meeting. He said they've been working on pre-fire plans, which are unofficial inspections to make sure they are familiar with exits, entrances, etc. Povolny also reported that there are currently 30 members on the board, and they are looking at hiring 5 more in the spring. Povolny also mentioned, in regards to the Potomac Street NE and W Broadway Avenue intersection, that perhaps there should be a conversation with Doug Fisher about creating a turn lane there.

### **13. Public Works' Report**

No report.

### **15. City Administrator's Report**

#### Signage TH97 & Hornsby Street NE

At the January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 EDA meeting, the City Council reviewed a design for business district signage on Hornsby Street NE, at 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE and TH 97. At this meeting, the Council determined that the submitted design was too simple, and there was concern that after construction in the area is complete (roughly 5 years) the signs may not be harmonious with the rest of the area. Therefore the Council asked the business group if they'd be open to the idea of using this sign temporarily (5 years or so), or otherwise update the sign's design to be less simple and include lighting.

Tim McKenzie (leader of the petition) responded that the current design cost \$4500 (for two signs), and anything of higher quality would be too expensive. Mursko is looking for direction from the City Council in order to meet with the petitioners and discuss the details of an agreement. Griffith mentioned that it could be worth explaining to the petitioners that while they are paying for the sign, they are not paying for establishing the easement, surveying the land, or documenting the agreement. Mursko said that if the City accepts their design there may have to be an agreement created because one of the signs may be located on City property. Griffith explained that the City's options are to either install the petitioner's sign on the City's easement, or the City could own the sign and have the petitioners reimburse the City for its cost (with this case the City can avoid paying for an easement agreement and other similar legal documents – however there would still be a simple reimbursement agreement).

In the end the City Council agreed that they would like to own the sign, and have the petitioners reimburse the City for costs. Griffith agreed to create a reimbursement agreement that specifies: The City has the right to upgrade the signs and add more tenants, and after the signs have been up for at least 5 years the City has the right to remove and replace them with something new.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts:	\$	207,766.47
Disbursements:	\$	128,267.35
Balance:	\$	2,954,073.09

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

**The next Planning Commission meeting is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**Calendar of Meeting.**

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Daly to adjourn. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator