

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
04.10.19

The 04.10.19 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Mayor Preiner at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Janet Hegland, Jeff Duraine, Denny Peterson, and Shelly Logren; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Dennis Postler, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Aaron Bedessem, Kris King, Paul Peskar, Arlen Logren, Doug Wood, Dan Mike, and Julie Parent (Forest Lake Times).

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:09 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Approval of the 02.13.19 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 4. ~~Motion – Approval of the 12.12.18 City Council Meeting Minutes~~**
- 5. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 6. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**

Motion by Duraine to approve the consent agenda items 3, 5, and 6, subject to moving the Running Aces Harness Park request ahead of the Planning Commission Report. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS

RAHP Request to Close Zurich Street for Event

Aaron Bedessem, Director of Marketing at Running Aces Harness Park (RAHP), came forward to address the Council about a 5k run they're hosting at their facility on 04.27.19. Due to recent land issues relating to weather and construction, they have changed the run route and are requesting that the City temporarily close a portion of Zurich Street during the race. Bedessem said that the new route has the least impact on the land and is the safest for participants.

Mursko distributed updated route maps to the Council. Zurich Street would be closed from the entrance to RAHP to the Preiner's Preserve development. The proposal is to close the road from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The first heat leaves at 9:00 a.m. and the last heat leaves at 11:30 a.m. RAHP is estimating a maximum run time of just over an hour, so everyone should be through the course by 1:00 p.m.

Bedessem recalled that two years ago they closed Zurich Street for a similar event and learned that it is important to have signage and supervision at the road closure to help drivers that may be unaware of the event. Based on that experience they are adding additional signage to direct traffic. There will be small bright green directional signs coming off the freeway as well as a sign at the intersection of Zurich Street and Lake Drive saying Zurich Street is closed past Running Aces. There will also be barricades and signage places at each end of the closures

themselves. Both barricades will be staffed with RAHP employees.

Hegland asked Bedessem if they will be notifying Preiner's Preserve residents of the closure? Bedessem replied yes, they are either going to give residents a letter or speak to them in person.

Mursko noted that RAHP applies to the City for events through an Interim Use Permit (IUP), which contains conditions for each event. Based on the type of event, the City will determine if any inspections or permits are needed. RAHP is also required to contact the Anoka County Sheriff's Office regarding each event held at their facility. Mursko pointed out the second set of conditions on the permit, which are related to the road closure and based off conversation with Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad. With that, Mursko asked if the Council has any additional conditions they'd like to add to the permit? The Council did not.

Hegland asked if notifying the Anoka County Sheriff's Office also notifies medical dispatch? Windingstad replied that if the City closes a road he calls the Sheriff's Office personally to ensure that they notify hospitals.

Motion by Duraine to approve the Running Aces Harness Park Special Event License Permit for the Great Inflatable 5k Race and the closure of Zurich Street from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm 04.27.19, subject to conditions 1-3 for the Special Event License and conditions 1-4 for the road closure. Seconded by Hegland. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Planning Commission Report

Barb Bobick gave the Planning Commission report on their 04.03.19 meeting.

Bobick reported that they discussed changes to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan; including clarifying land use boundaries and recommending density levels and land use designations. The Planning Commission agreed to adopt mixed-use designations in certain areas of the City.

During the City Council workshop on 04.03.19 representatives from Hy-Vee and JAMP, LLC requested that the City consider adding mixed use in the NE I-35 quadrant based on their plan to add multi-family housing on their site. The Planning Commission determined that the NE I-35 quadrant would be a good location for high density multi-family housing at 20-30 units per acre.

Based on information received during a Concept Plan discussion, the Planning Commission also discussed the possibility of adding a mixed-use designation to land abutting the current Garage Solutions Condominiums off Lake Drive. Bobick said it is the understanding of the Planning Commission that the Council would like to hold a neighborhood meeting to hear from residents in the area before making a decision. If it is determined that mixed use is appropriate in that area, the Planning Commission is recommending a density of 1-8 units per acre.

The Planning Commission also discussed commercial areas in the Freeway District and determined that mixed use would also be appropriate in the NW I-35 quadrant area, as well as on the west side of Zurich Street, south of Lake Drive. The recommendation is a medium density of 16-20 units per acre for the NW I-35 quadrant and the recommendation for land west of Zurich Street is also medium density, except for the land directly across the street from Preiner's

Preserve is being recommended for high-density at 20-30 units per acre.

Griffith noted that Hy-Vee and JAMP were given direction that once the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan is approved, they will be able to submit applications that would run concurrently with the Comprehensive Plan so that they are completed at the same time.

Motion by Hegland to call for a Special City Council meeting on 04.24.19 at 6:00 p.m. to review the final draft of Columbus' 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.

Mursko recommended that the Council schedule the neighborhood meeting for landowners off 135th Avenue NE and Humber Street on 04.22.19 so that their feedback can be taken into consideration before the Special City Council Meeting on 04.24.19.

Peterson asked how many people will be in attendance? Mursko replied that it would be a small group, at the most 20 people.

Motion by Duraine to call for a Neighborhood Meeting with the landowners off 135th Avenue NE and Humber Street NE on 04.22.19 at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Hegland. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Public Open Forum

No report.

9. 2020-2022 Requalification for City Participation in Housing and Urban Development Programs

Mursko noted that these are Anoka County programs, and it is required that the City either opt in or opt out of them. Historically the City has always opted in because the Council felt it was good to provide these home investment and community development options for Columbus' citizens.

Motion by Duraine to opt in to Anoka County's HUD programs for 2020-2022. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Coon Lake Improvement District Aquatic Invasive Species Control

Mursko explained that each year the Coon Lake Improvement District (CLID) sprays Coon Lake to combat invasive species. The City is automatically enrolled in the program unless the Council chooses to opt out. The City is involved because Columbus owns two lots on Coon Lake that have very limited developability and may be converted into a park in the future. Mursko added that if the City chooses to opt out the land will not be sprayed but an assessment will still be given. The City has historically not opted out of this program. The Council agreed they would not like to opt out.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

10. Engineer Report

ACD Ditch 15 Project

Based on feedback from a previous Council meeting, City Engineer Dennis Postler presented additional information about the ACD 15 regional ponding project. From the five options that were laid out at the 03.13.19 Council meeting, three have been identified as the most feasible options.

The first is option 1A, where each landowner is responsible for their own ponding. This would result in about 12 ponds and take up roughly 14 acres.

Option 1 would leave ACD 15 in place and create a regional ponding scheme with two large ponds. Postler said that having fewer large ponds is more efficient than many small ponds. This option would preserve 1 ³/₄ additional acres of developable land than option 1A would.

Option 2 would move ACD 15 to abut Hornsby Street. This would create three large ponds, one of which is partially located in Forest Lake/Washington County. The thought behind this option is that by moving the ditch additional upland may be created when the old ditch is filled in.

Postler said the next step would be to return to a Council meeting with a cost estimate, study, and report. These are to ensure the options presented above are feasible. He added that the best time to hold a neighborhood meeting would be when cost estimates are complete. Postler added that Bare Home will be doing their own ponding for their site, and that will be taken into consideration.

Mayor Preiner asked how much money has been spent to date? Postler said that they've used roughly one quarter of the \$40,000 budget, adding that half of the project was funding by a grant from the Rice Creek Watershed District.

Griffith noted that in his experience with regional ponding plans it is important to try to maximize the amount of upland and locate ponds away from the most valuable land. He noted that in this case the most valuable land is abutting the freeway.

At this time Dan Mike, of 15123 Hornsby Street, came forward to address the Council. He asked how the project is estimating the number of rooftops that will be in the area? Postler said that anytime planning is involved estimates are made with general industry standards.

Mike continued by clarifying that none of these options would require a pond on his property. Postler said that was correct, but he will still be required to contribute financially to the creation of the regional ponding scheme. He added that the goal of the regional approach is to make ponding costs more affordable than it would be to do ponding individually. Mike replied by saying people in the area have already received assessments for utilities and will likely get another assessment for the reconstruction of Hornsby Street. Adding another assessment on to those costs will be tough. Postler said that this project is intended to help landowners because it should save upland and be more cost effective than individual ponds.

Mike followed up by asking if ponding can be placed in the buffer outside of wetland? Postler said that is not allowed because the City requires a 16.5-foot setback requirement from wetlands.

11. Attorney report

Griffith presented a resolution to set a Public Hearing for the vacation of Hornsby Street north of TH 97. The existing easement is to be vacated and replaced with platted right-of-way. The Public Hearing is set to be held on 05.08.19.

Motion by Duraine to approve Resolution 19-08, a resolution setting a Public Hearing for the vacation of Hornsby Street north of TH 97. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Mayor and Council Members Report

Council Member Logren

Logren reported on her most recent meeting with the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SWRMO). A company called Carp Solutions came to the meeting to report on what they have been doing. A large portion of the SWRMO budget is used to study carp in the area. She noted that Coon Lake is not part of their carp study.

Logren continued to report on research she was doing on the local government aid program. She said that the program is meant to help growing communities with road problems they are facing. She believes it is a program the City should have gotten involved with some time ago.

Council Member Peterson

Peterson noted that the Broadway Avenue and Lexington Avenue traffic signal project started on 04.08.19, and it looks like it is going well. Postler added that the project should be completed in a 2-3 month time frame.

Council Member Hegland

No report.

Mayor Preiner

No report.

Council Member Duraine

Duraine commented that adding shoulders to Kettle River Blvd this year might not be a good idea because of the traffic that will use that road as a detour around construction on I-35. Mursko said that Anoka County has already budgeted and lobbied for that project, and it is part of their internal schedule, so there is nothing that can be done to postpone the project.

13. Public Works Report

No report.

14. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

15. City Administrator's Report

Personnel Report – City Planning Technician Position

Hegland reported on the result of interviews for the Planning Technician position. Each applicant was required to take a test and participate in an interview. Based on the results of the test and interview, the Personnel Committee is recommending hiring Ben Gutknecht for the position. They are also recommending increasing the number of hours for the position from 24 to 28. This is because Gutknecht has experience with GIS software, which would be helpful for the Public Works department. The Personnel Committee said they believe he is qualified, interested in the career, and wants to continue to develop in the profession. Mursko noted that he would attend all Planning Commission meetings.

Duraine asked if this position has more hours than the previous City Planner did? Mursko noted that she is using this opportunity to delegate some of her work to the Planning Tech, so she expects him to work more hours than the previous Planner did. Duraine asked how many hours they anticipate the Planning Mentor to work? Mursko said that is difficult to determine. She is confident that in a few years Gutknecht will have learned enough to no longer require a Planning Mentor. She added that the Planning Mentor will work less hours than the previous City Planner did.

Motion by Duraine to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to offer the City Planning Technician position at 28 hours per week to Ben Gutknecht, subject to reference and background check, starting at an hourly rate of \$22.38 (Step 1), with the understanding that he would be eligible for a step increase at 6 months based on performance. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mursko reported that for the Planning Mentor position an RFP will be drafted and posted online. The Council will ask for presentations from those who submit requests. The presentations can be part of a Council meeting or be held at a different time.

Motion by Hegland to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to post an RFP for the Planning Mentor position. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts:	\$	0.00
Disbursements:	\$	180,030.89

Balance: \$ 8,821,056.12

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

16. Calendar of Meetings.

The next Planning Commission meeting is 04.17.19 at 7:00 p.m.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is on 04.23.19 at 7:00 p.m.

The next City Council Workshop meeting is on 05.22.19 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator