

**City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
05.23.18**

The 05.23.18 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:07 P.M. by Mayor Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Bill Krebs, Jeff Duraine, Mark Daly, and Denny Peterson; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Dennis Postler, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: John Young, Kris King, Paul Peskar, Janet Haglund, and Julia Parent (Forest Lake Times).

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:07 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Approval of the 03.28.18 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 4. Motion – Approval of the 04.11.18 City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Motion – Approval of the 04.11.18 Closed City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 6. Motion – Approval of the 04.23.18 LBAE Meeting Minutes**
- 7. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 8. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**
- 9. Motion – Housekeeping Ordinance 18-01 Amendment Summary Publication Notice**

Motion by Daly to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.

Duraine reported that at the 05.09.18 City Council meeting he voted yes to approve the Bituminous Roadways Developer's Agreement, and he would like the record to show that was a mistake and he does not support the Developer's Agreement.

C. PRESENTATIONS

10. Planning Commission Report

Garth Sternberg was unable to attend the City Council meeting, so City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko presented in his absence.

6502 W Broadway Avenue NE Variance Request

The first topic was a variance request for 6502 W. Broadway Avenue. The Planning Commission considered the topic at their 05.02.18 meeting, and asked the Council for direction at their 05.09.18 meeting. Since that time, a wetland specialist determined that the proposed area for the septic system includes wetland, and therefore cannot be built there. Soil borings indicated that it is possible to place the system in a location which would not require a variance, and therefore the applicant has withdrawn their variance application. The Planning Commission recommended accepting the withdrawal.

Motion by Duraine to accept the withdrawal of a variance application for a type three septic system at 6502 W. Broadway Avenue. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council continued discussed about the property. The buyer, Fannie Pen, attended the previous week's Planning Commission meeting. She indicated that she understood the house is in disrepair, and plans to fix it. She was informed that the driveway is in compliance with City Code and the accessory buildings must be cleaned up. Mayor Povolny attended the meeting and reported that it was unclear whether she would be living there or renting the house out.

Columbus' 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

The Planning Commission also held a Public Hearing for the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. No one spoke during the Public Hearing, and City Planner Haila Maze gave an update on the plan. The Planning Commission is recommending approval of a resolution approving the draft Columbus 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Duraine asked if changes can be made after the resolution is approved? Mursko replied that changes can be made based on comments which are received during the review period. Mayor Povolny asked if the revisions can be unrelated to comments received? Mursko said that they cannot, because the Public Hearing was based on the draft plan, so major revisions would require an additional Public Hearing.

Duraine said that he thought the residents in the northwest section of the Freeway District preferred not to be included in the Suburban Residential Overlay? Daly said that he had not heard this, and the residents Duraine was referring to did not attend any neighborhood meetings or the Public Hearing to convey that opinion. Duraine said that he will reach out to them personally to see what they think.

Motion by Peterson to approve Resolution 18-14, a resolution approving the draft Columbus 2040 Comprehensive Plan update for affected jurisdictions and Metropolitan Council review. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Povolny asked about a portion of the plan which includes a mention of solar power, and whether it would be possible for a person to purchase property in Columbus and only use it for solar panels? Mursko replied that City code does not allow that, because a principal use is required on all properties in Columbus.

11. Public Open Forum

No report.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

12. Engineer Report

Update – I-35/TH 97/Hornsby Street Projects

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City Engineer Dennis Postler gave an update on transportation projects going on in Columbus. He reported that next Tuesday 05.29.18 MnDOT will be closing the I-35 northbound ramp to Hwy 8 east for two (2) weeks while they pave the freeway. He added that traffic will be detoured onto Hwy 61 for the interim.

Mayor Povolny asked if Hornsby Street has been closed? Postler replied that it had.

Next, Postler showed a map of the layout of the new Hornsby Street intersection. Improvements being made on Hwy 97 east of the bridge are part of the Hornsby Street project. That project will also include an additional turn lane going from Hwy 97 to Hornsby Street north. Postler added that the pavement for additional through and turn lanes will all be new, while pavement in the middle of the road will be preserved.

In terms of financing the Hornsby Street project, Postler said cooperative agreement grant and LRIP funds will be used, however there may be remaining costs that the City will have to cover.

Mursko asked about the west side of the freeway, more specifically, at what will become Evers Street to the north of Hwy 97. She reported that they raised the road there a noticeable amount, and is wondering if it will be left that way in the long term? Postler replied that they raised the street because it will be serving as a temporary off ramp during construction. He said he is not sure how long it will be raised, but will look into it.

13. Attorney Report

Bonding Bill

City Attorney Bill Griffith reported on the bonding bill that contains funding for the bridge project. At this point, Governor Dayton still has to sign it, however, Griffith is confident that it will be passed because it contains funding for a large number of projects across the state.

Sanctuary at Howard Lake

Griffith continued to report on a meeting that he had with the DNR and the developer for the Sanctuary at Howard Lake. He feels confident that the project could be approved based on the flexibility that the DNR was willing to exercise at the meeting. He is expecting a formal concept plan to be presented in July, and the developer is also hopeful that he will not lose any units due to compromise. Griffith added that the developer will be asking for some flexibility in the PUD process.

14. Mayor and Council Members Report

Council Member Krebs

No report.

Council Member Peterson

No report.

Council Member Daly

Council Member Daly said that he attended the most recent Fall Fest meeting, which did not contain any significant developments. However, Daly did report that he heard the Forest Lake Fire Department is looking to hire firefighters, and they could be advertising for those openings during Fall Fest. He added that the openings should be advertised on the City's website and social media.

Mayor Povolny

Mayor Povolny asked what will happen to the assets from the Howard Lake Drive Park? Mursko replied that it's likely the picnic table is moving to the main park, and that the swing set will be dismantled and used for parts.

Secondly, Mayor Povolny reported on a letter he received from the Met Council stating the population of Columbus is 3,873, and asked if the City needs to change their sign since the number has changed? Mursko replied that the number he received in the letter is simply an estimate, and the signs are only changed on census years.

Council Member Duraine

No report.

15. Public Works Report

No report.

16. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

17. City Administrator's Report

Election 2018 – New Equipment (Poll Books)

Mursko handed out a press release and played a short video regarding training for election poll books this year. She reported that Columbus will no longer be using paper rosters in order to simplify the process. In its place will be electronic poll books, which are very similar to iPads. Columbus will be using five (5) of these on election day, and will require election judges to be trained on them beforehand.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

18. Calendar of Meetings.

The next Planning Commission meeting is 06.06.18.

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator