

City of Columbus
September 10, 2025
Payment Summary

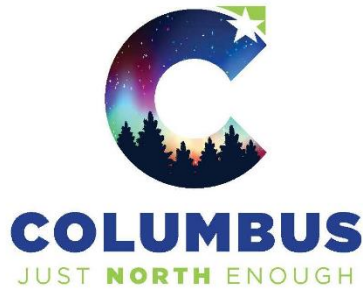
9/5/2025

Vendor	Comment	Fund	Invoice	Inv Date	Total
Payments for Council Approval					
Bills to be approved for payment	Invoices for 2025				\$36,822.00
Electronic Payments					\$0.00
Payroll City Staff - September 11, 2025					
Total to be Approved for Payment					\$36,822.00
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SPS WORKS	APPROVED SIGNATURE STAMP	E 100-4100-2000	IV00579660	9/5/2025	\$43.50

City of Columbus
September 10, 2025
Payment Summary

9/10/2025

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Bills to be approved for payment	Invoices for 2025									\$204,949.97
Electronic Payments										\$17,463.40
Payroll City Staff - September 11, 2025										\$24,005.28
Total to be Approved for Payment										\$246,418.65
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City of Columbus
Administration Dept.
16319 Kettle River Blvd
Columbus, MN 55025
Telephone: (651) 464-3120

City of Columbus Council Meeting

September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: C.2

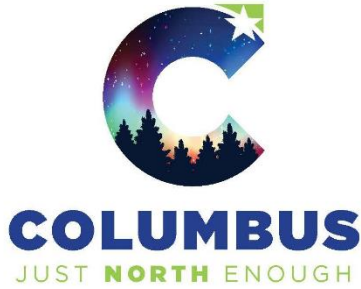
Agenda Item: Planning Commission/CC Joint Work Meeting

Agenda Item Summary:

City staff is recommending that a Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission and City Council be held in place of the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting on October 1, 2025. The purpose of the Joint Meeting will be to:

- Align goals and priorities between the Council and Planning Commission regarding potential amendments to the Large Farm Animal Ordinance.
- Conduct a Non-Binding Concept Proposal regarding a proposed entertainment event development through a joint review of both the Council and Planning Commission. The intent of the discussion will be to gauge the support of this use prior to proceeding with an investment of both the time required for and the costs of the approval process for this type of activity.

City Staff is requesting that the Mayor/City Council call a Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission on October 1, 2025.



City of Columbus
Administration Dept.
16319 Kettle River Blvd
Columbus, MN 55025
Telephone: (651) 464-3120

City of Columbus Council Meeting

September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: C.3

Agenda Item: 2026 Budget Discussion

Agenda Item Summary:

The third draft of the 2026 Preliminary Budget will be discussed at the September 10, 2025 City Council Meeting. The current proposal for the 2026 Preliminary Budget Levy is \$_____.

Budgets for 2024 and 2025 were absent of any general levy increases and this has necessitated increased costs for this year's budget. In addition, this year's budget was encumbered by \$132,000 of additional costs in G.O. Bond payments and fire and law enforcement contracts. The City is bound by the bond amortization schedules and agreements with Anoka County and the City of Forest Lake for costs of outsourcing public safety services.

Costs to partially restore Capital Funds (406, 401 and 407), have been included in the draft 2026 preliminary budget with the balance to be considered in the 2027 budget discussions.

The restoration of the Capital Funds and IT and Document Management services (\$50,000) along with the increases in the G.O. Bond payments and Public Safety total an additional \$182,000 in costs over their 2025 amounts and comprise 66% of the proposed 2026 budget increase. The reduction of Capital Funds transfers were used to lower the 2025 levy. It is recommended that these capital fund accounts be made whole by 2027.

The preliminary General Fund expenditures for 2026 are \$ _____ (includes the EDA levy of \$88,650) or an increase of \$ _____ over the 2025 expense of \$4,848,050. The HRA is a separate levy and Water and Sewer Enterprise Accounts are funded by user fees with neither being a part of the General Fund Budget.

This draft represents a _____ increase in expenditures over the 2025 budget of \$4,848,000. However, the levy for 2026 stands at _____ with the adjustments made in the attached spreadsheets included in Attachment 1.

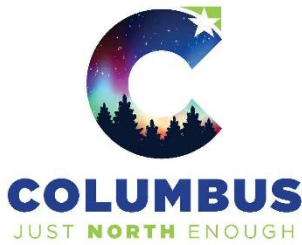
This draft includes a General Fund transfer of \$ _____ from Fund 142 – Public Safety to offset the additional costs incurred by bond payment schedules and Public Safety costs. Please note that any General Fund transfers in 2026 will result in a revenue gap of the same amount for the 2027 budget.

The Preliminary Budget must be submitted to the Anoka County Property Records and Taxation Department by September 30, 2025

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – 2026 Budget Expense Worksheets *(please note that additional column on the right side of each spreadsheet is the preliminary positive/negative line item cumulative difference between budgeted amounts and actual expenditures between 2021-2024). Also note that blank information and revised Worksheets will be sent under separate cover on Saturday, September 6, 2025).*

Attachment 2 – 2026 Budget Worksheet Revenue Reports



Administration Dept.
16319 Kettle River Blvd
Columbus, MN 55025
Telephone: (651) 464-3120

City of Columbus City Council Meeting

September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: C.4

Agenda Item: Approval of August 13, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item Summary:

The August 27, 2025 City Council Meeting Agenda and Packet included draft meeting minutes from the August 13, 2025 City Council Meeting for Council approval. At that meeting, the City Council tabled approval of the minutes to allow Council Members additional time to provide edits to staff for correction and redistribution.

- August 27, 2025: Staff received an email from Councilmembers Hegland and Lattin identifying corrections to the draft minutes.
- August 28, 2025: Staff incorporated these corrections, highlighted in red, and redistributed the minutes to Council for review.
- September 2, 2025: Staff received a second set of corrections from Councilmember Lattin, including suggested corrections and striking of additions originally provided by Councilmember Hegland.
- September 4, 2025: Staff received a second set of corrections from Councilmember Hegland which adds to the corrections Councilmember Lattin ask to remove.

Staff has attempted to incorporate all requested changes, using revision identifiers, into a final set of minutes now attached for Council consideration.

At this stage, there are multiple sets of corrections from different Councilmembers, some of which conflict with one another. The City Council should determine the following.

- Which corrections should be accepted into the final record.
- Which proposed additions, deletions, or modifications should be eliminated.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Council discuss the minutes and corrections and provide direction or a motion regarding which items should be included or removed.

Following Council direction, staff will finalize the August 13, 2025 minutes for official approval and record.

Attachment(s):

Attachment 1 – Revised August 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25

~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~

Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

37 Senator Kreun reported that the state budget decreased from \$72 billion to \$66.4 billion,
38 primarily due to the expiration of one-time surplus funding. He stated that a structural budget
39 imbalance remains, with projected spending exceeding revenue, and the next biennium faces a
40 \$2.2 billion deficit. Major cuts impacted disability services, nursing homes, and transportation,
41 while state agencies largely avoided reductions. About \$4.2 billion in revenue enhancements
42 were enacted, including new fees on nursing homes, which he opposed.

43 He highlighted legislation he authored or supported, including the establishment of an Office of
44 Inspector General to address fraud across state agencies. The bill passed the Senate with strong
45 support but stalled in the House. He also opposed the closure of Stillwater Prison. Additional
46 bills enacted included childcare safety measures, renewal of the Agricultural Best Management
47 Practices Loan Program, updates to the Business Corporations Act, and modernization of the
48 Real Property Partition Bill.

49 Senator Kreun discussed concerns with Metropolitan Council spending, particularly costly light
50 rail projects such as the Blue Line extension, while critical projects like Hornsby Street struggle
51 to secure funding. He noted that the Hornsby Street project received a hearing, keeping it
52 active for future bonding consideration. He also expressed opposition to using trunk highway
53 funds for non-highway purposes and reiterated his opposition to the NLX train to Duluth.

54 Taxation changes were also discussed. The cannabis sales tax increased from 10 percent to 15
55 percent, while local government cannabis aid was eliminated. A \$700 million bonding bill
56 focused on infrastructure was passed, which will benefit the state but included few local
57 projects. Hornsby Street was excluded, but he pledged to continue advocating for Columbus'
58 priorities in future bonding cycles.

59 On housing issues, he noted proposed legislation mandating local zoning changes to address
60 affordability. He stated that while he recognizes housing challenges, he does not support
61 measures that undermine local control.

62 Senator Kreun also addressed federal legislation impacts on state and county budgets, including
63 SNAP changes that may require states to cover additional costs, Medicaid work requirements,
64 and eligibility reassessments that could increase county administrative burdens. He stressed the
65 importance of avoiding property tax increases from unfunded mandates.

66 In closing, Senator Kreun reaffirmed his commitment to assisting Columbus with state-related
67 issues and highlighted his responsiveness to residents, citing recent work with the Lackner
68 family on DNR permitting challenges. The Council thanked Senator Kreun for his update and
69 ongoing support, particularly with the Hornsby Street project.

70 ~~**B. CONSENT AGENDA**~~ (Moved to later in agenda)

~~***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25~~
~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~
Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

- 71 ~~1. Approval of Bill Payments~~
- 72 ~~2. Approval of Supplemental Bill Payments~~
- 73 ~~3. Approval of April 23, 2025 City Council Minutes (Enclosure)~~
- 74 ~~4. Approval of May 28, 2025 City Council Minutes (Enclosure)~~

75

76 **C. PRESENTATION(S) and ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

77

78 1. Public Forum

79

80 Nothing at this time.

81

82 2. Public Hearing, Ordinance 14-320, Restricted Hours for Sprinkling.

83

84 City Administrator Jack Davis reported that as part of the City's most recent Water Supply Plan
85 submitted to and approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), we are
86 required to update our Critical Water Deficiency Ordinance.

87

88 Specifically, Chapter 14-320 – Restricted Hours for Sprinkling is required for approval to
89 increase our DNR Water Appropriation Permit 2009-0641 from 30 million gallons per year to 50
90 million gallons per year. This increase is necessary to accommodate a potential increase in 16
91 million gallons per year in pumping demand, our current withdrawal rate is 24 million gallons
92 per year.

93

94 Mayor Hanegraaf opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 14-320 regarding critical water
95 deficiency measures at 6:45 PM. The mayor invited testimony from the public both in person
96 and online. No one responded to the call for comment and the Public Hearing was closed at
97 6:45 PM.

98

99 City Attorney Bill Griffith provided several non-substantive cleanup recommendations to the
100 ordinance, including:

- 101 1. Capitalizing "City" consistently throughout the Code.
- 102 2. Removing the word "locally" where redundant.
- 103 3. Using numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) rather than letters after Section B for consistency.
- 104 4. Correcting punctuation and spacing issues.

105

106 Councilmember Rob Busch inquired whether the ordinance applies to private wells. City
107 Administrator Davis clarified that the ordinance applies only to municipal utilities and does not
108 affect private wells. Councilmember Janet Hegland requested that the ordinance wording be
109 revised to make this distinction clear, as the current language could be confusing.

110

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25

~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~

Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

111 Councilmember Hegland recommended reorganizing sections of the ordinance to better
112 separate state-level declarations from local City authority. She also suggested that notification
113 requirements be strengthened, proposing the use of formal notice procedures (consistent with
114 public hearings) rather than the current vague language of “reasonably practical.”
115 Councilmember Hegland raised a question regarding whether dust suppression requirements
116 for businesses would be considered a prohibited non-critical use. City Administrator Davis and
117 City Attorney Griffith confirmed such use would be considered essential and therefore
118 permitted.

119
120 Councilmembers Busch and Wendell asked if prohibitions included commercial car washes and
121 truck washes. City Administrator Davis confirmed they would be restricted unless necessary for
122 public health and safety (e.g., visibility or preventing mud on roads). City Attorney Griffith
123 agreed that the current state model language is adequate and should not be altered.

124
125 Councilmember Jennifer Lattin recommended adding the words “Municipal Water” to the
126 ordinance title (e.g., “Restricted Hours for Sprinkling Using Municipal Water”) to avoid
127 confusion among residents with private wells. The Council agreed this clarification should be
128 made.

129
130 City Administrator Davis explained that the ordinance update is tied to the City’s DNR water
131 appropriation permit. The ordinance update was missed in 2019 but is now required for
132 compliance. The DNR review period for the permit concludes shortly, but the city can notify the
133 DNR that the ordinance is under consideration and will be finalized at the next Council meeting.

134
135 The Council agreed to hold Ordinance 14-320 over until the next Council meeting to allow for
136 language revisions and clarifications, including:

- 137 1. Limiting applicability to municipal water only.
- 138 2. Updating the ordinance title.
- 139 3. Reorganizing sections for clarity.
- 140 4. Strengthening and standardizing notification requirements.
- 141 5. Incorporating the City Attorney’s formatting and cleanup recommendations.

142
143 3. Tennis Court Project Bids.

144
145 City Administrator Davis reported that as part of the City's ongoing efforts to maintain its
146 recreational infrastructure and enhance the City Park amenities, the reconstruction/resurfacing
147 of the tennis courts at the City Park was included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement
148 Plan (CIP)/Parks Capital Fund.

149
150 The Columbus City Council **previously** approved the tennis court resurfacing and reconstruction
151 as a CIP project but withheld commitment for funding until bid alternatives and their costs

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25

~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~

Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

152 could be evaluated. The estimated cost of the project was \$130,000 but CIP funds available for
153 the work are approximately \$ 79,316, creating a deficit of \$47,184 for the project funding.

154

155 At the April 23, 2025 City Council Meeting, Bolton & Menk was given approval to move forward
156 for bid advertisement for the Tennis Court Project in accordance with all applicable state and
157 municipal bidding laws and procurement procedures.

158

159 The base bid for the project was only for the repaving and resurfacing of the existing facility and
160 included 2 tennis courts with pickle ball court overlays on each and the low quote was received
161 from Goodmanson Construction in the amount of \$124,600 for the base bid.

162

163 The Park Board heard public discussion on the Tennis Court Project and discussed those
164 comments along with the bid options at their July 15, 2025 meeting. The Park Board was
165 informed that there was a survey in progress to gauge the interest in the use of the facility and
166 the overlay options for tennis and pickleball use. The Park Board delayed a project and option
167 recommendation until those survey results were available for their review.

168

169 The Park Board discussed the survey results at a Special Meeting on August 4, 2025 and voted
170 4-1 to recommend that City Council approve Layout Plan with one Tennis Court parallel to two
171 end-to-end pickleball courts, identified as Alternative of Layout Plan Alternate 2, Alternate Bid -
172 1 as presented in the Bolton & Menk Base Bid and Alternates Plan along with the \$126,500 bid
173 from Goodmanson Construction with the source of the funds required to cover the deficit gap
174 between the project bid and the current Park Capital Funds available for this work.

175

176 Mayor Hanegraaf brought up that a fence to separate the two pickleball court was also
177 requested by the Park Board. City Administrator Davis asked that based on the bid extension
178 he would recommend moving forward and add the net as a change order and figure out the
179 funding change later.

180

181 Mayor Hanegraaf asked about color choice and if there were alternatives. Park Board Members
182 Brad Norling and Steve Ray present discussed no color preference and addressed the lack of
183 adding the net into the recommendation as it would add to the cost and they wanted to avoid
184 that. They stated that they would not want to delay the project over color.

185

186 City Administrator Davis recommended covering the gap funding through an interfund loan
187 from the City's General Fund, to be reimbursed by either the sale of city-owned property (i.e.
188 Hidden Park) or park dedication fees.

189

190 **Mayor Hanegraaf made a motion to approve the Tennis Court Improvement Project for**
191 **Alternate Bid 1 in the amount of \$126,500 and an interfund loan in the amount of \$48,000 to**
192 **cover the funding gap between the bid cost and the funds available in the Park Capital Fund**

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25

Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25

Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

193 **for this project. Furthermore, the interfund loan will be reimbursed from the sale proceeds of**
194 **the Hidden Park property or park dedication fees generated from the sale of city parcel 24-32-**
195 **22-11-0011. Second by Councilmember Jennifer Lattin.**

196

197 Councilmember Lattin asked if the color needed to be defined. Council discussed color options
198 and directed the Park Board to finalize a selection at no additional cost.

199

200 **Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.**

201 **Motion carries unanimously.**

202

203 4. Planning Commission Report and Approval Requests

204

205 Councilmember Busch reported that two minor Comprehensive Plan Amendments, each
206 proposing a land use designation change for City owned property, require City Council approval
207 before being submitted to the Metropolitan Council for review.

208

209 The first of the amendments is the Hidden Park Comprehensive Plan Amendment and ~~Rezoning~~
210 ~~Application~~ **Zoning Ordinance Amendment 25-03**, which proposes re-designating a small city
211 park to Rural Residential to allow for the sale of the property. **The ordinance amendment 25-03**
212 **is contingent on Metropolitan Council approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the**
213 **Hidden Park Property.**

214

215 A public hearing was held before the Planning Commission on July 16, 2025. The Commission
216 recommended approval on August 6, 2025.

217

218 **Councilmember Busch motioned to submit the Hidden Park Comprehensive Plan Rezoning**
219 **Amendment to the Metropolitan Council to change the rezoning of parcel 15-32-22-23-0008**
220 **from Park to Rural Residential. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland.**

221 **Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.**

222 **Motion carries unanimously.**

223 The second of the amendment discussed was the ~~approval of the~~ **change of land use**
224 **designation of a 5.3 acre City owned parcel in the freeway district from General Commercial to**
225 **MU-HD to accommodate potential residential development and associated** Zoning Ordinance
226 Amendment 25-034, contingent on Metropolitan Council Approval of the Comprehensive Plan
227 Amendment for ~~the Hidden Park Property~~ **the city owned parcel**. This also had a public hearing
228 held before the Planning Commission on July 16, 2025 and the Commission recommended
229 approval on August 6, 2025.

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25
Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25
Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

230 Councilmember Busch made a motion to submit the NW Quad Comprehensive Plan Rezoning
231 Amendment to the Metropolitan Council to change of the zoning of Block 2 – Lot 1 from
232 General Commercial to Mixed Use – High Density. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland.

233 Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.
234 Motion carries unanimously.

235 Councilmember Busch reported that Commissioners also briefly discussed resident requests for
236 taller fences, potentially at the level of sound walls, along higher-traffic and arterial roads. No
237 action was taken, and the matter was referred for further consideration in the future.

238 5. Personnel Committee Report and Approval Requests.

239 Councilmember Hegland reported that the annual performance review for City Administrator
240 was conducted in closed session during the June 25, 2025, Council meeting as is allowed per
241 Minn. Stat. sec. 13D.05, subd. 3(a). In the Council Regular Meeting, prior to the closed session,
242 the Council approved a methodology for granting a merit increase, a Council option per Mr.
243 Davis’s employment contract.

244 MN. Stat. Sec. 13D.05, subd. 3(a) requires that the Council summarize the Council’s conclusions
245 regarding the performance evaluation and any resulting salary change at the next open Council
246 meeting. This was done at the 7.9.25 Council Meeting.

247 The Policy also states that each year, the performance review process will be reviewed shortly
248 after the evaluation is completed. Hegland distributed a memo identifying revisions to the City
249 Administrator Performance Review Policy and Merit Pay Plan.

250 In addition, Hegland’s memo provided a list of Annual City Administrator Goals for 2026.

251
252 Councilmember Scott Wendell reiterated concerns from the prior workshop, stating the process
253 was overly burdensome, costly, and unnecessary for a city the size of Columbus. He suggested
254 performance expectations should be handled internally without consultant involvement.

255 Councilmember Hegland defended the process due to the lack of any defined process prior to
256 this one and she further stated the whole process may not be necessary the following year.
257 Hegland asked Wendell what he was suggesting and Wendell suggested trimming the process.
258 Hegland asked for examples and Wendell stated he didn’t like spending \$6,500. Hegland stated
259 that it wouldn’t cost \$6,500 next year because that was the cost to build this process from
260 scratch and that all Ellen would do is collect interviews that City Council can’t. Wendell was
261 concerned and stated that, ~~“he wouldn’t even pay a consultant a dollar and its unnecessary.”~~
262 **“This process is not worth a dollar and if we spent a dollar on its unnecessary. That we can**
263 **develop a process that we handle in house without paying a consultant.”**

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25

~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~

Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

264 Mayor Hanegraaf reiterated that it won't be as involved next year and noted that third-party
265 involvement (consultant or attorney) is required for confidentiality and compliance with open
266 meeting law.

267 Councilmember Wendell pointed out that both Hegland and Hanegraaf have stated they don't
268 know ~~that~~ what the cost for the consultant would be next year. Hegland highlighted the
269 necessity of using a third party to collect Council feedback to be in compliance with how the
270 open meeting law. ~~violation could be problematic if they collectively shared data and recapped~~
271 ~~the need for the evaluation. Collecting staff feedback should be done by someone other than~~
272 ~~council because of the power dynamic between council and staff and the need to keep staff~~
273 ~~feedback confidential.~~

274 Councilmember Lattin asked about the depth of Ellen Hinrichs involvement in the future and
275 asked about the cost. Hegland stated that Hinrichs cost this year included all the work on
276 developing the policy and the evaluation interviews. Hegland stated that she believes that it is a
277 big mistake to not evaluate the city administrator and asked the city attorney for his opinion.
278 City Attorney Bill Griffith advised that a written policy is legally important, though the level of
279 detail is at the Council's discretion.

280 Councilmember Wendell again pushed back on the process and believes that formulating goals
281 is ~~it's~~ not necessary. ~~Hegland stated she believed that all city administrators have more than~~
282 ~~enough to do and to do than they have time to do it and establishing goals helps the City~~
283 ~~Administrator keep on task with those things the Council is prioritizing. All she did was take~~
284 ~~the requests of all the players goal suggestions from council and made them into SMART Goals.~~
285 Wendell believes that this is more than the city of Columbus needs to do. Hanegraaf asked
286 Wendell if he thought that an annual review needed to be done. Wendell but agreed that an
287 annual review was necessary, and he doesn't believe that the consultant was necessary.
288 Jennifer Lattin asked Wendell if he had any suggestions on how to create a process. Wendell
289 did not have any suggestions.

290 Councilmember Hegland went on to state that the process really just defines how the
291 evaluation process is done and a timeline and there is not that much to it. Councilmember
292 Lattin agreed that she believes that the city could do paper surveys and not use a consultant to
293 interview. Hegland said the council could set a dollar amount. She also believes that the staff
294 would rather verbally give their feedback as opposed to completing a paper response.

295 Councilmember Lattin clarified \$6,500 was the total cost and the actual interview was only a
296 fraction of the cost. Hegland stated yes, that Ellen was instrumental in gathering stakeholder
297 data, searching other cities processes, researching LMC, and being present at CC meetings.

298 ~~It was clarified that the council was only voting on the policy that was created and in future~~
299 ~~years it would not need to be replicated and that they can set a dollar value for data collection.~~

300 Councilmember Hegland asked if there were any specific changes to the policy that was
301 presented. Without any suggestions Hegland made a motion to approve the policy.

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25
Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25
Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

302 Councilmember Janet Hegland made a motion to approve the Performance Review Policy and
303 Procedure and Merit Pay Plan ~~and to approve the City Administrator 2025~~. Lattin seconded
304 the motion.

305 Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Nay, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Nay, Hanegraaf – Aye.
306 Motion carries 3 - 2.

307 Councilmember Hegland discussed that the goals were brought in from ~~other people~~ all
308 stakeholders and paired down to SMART Goals and put down on paper. Hegland reminded
309 council that the goals were presented at a workshop and Jack Davis agreed to them.

310 Councilmember Lattin thought the City Administrator is held to a higher level and it important
311 that the City Administrator oversees the City Goals and that Merit Pay is based on City Goals.
312 She raised a concern about terminology in the documents, noting that references to “City
313 Administrator’s Goals” might be misinterpreted by future councils as personal goals of the
314 Administrator. She requested that language be clarified to indicate that the goals are city goals
315 overseen by the Administrator, not personal objectives. ~~She wanted it amended to be clear that~~
316 ~~the goals are those of the City and not the City Administrator. Lattin asked Hegland to amend~~
317 ~~her motion to ensure any reference be to City Goals. She wanted it to be clear that the City~~
318 ~~Administrator is overseeing the goals of the city and not that the goals are Jacks goals.~~

319 Councilmember Hegland clarified that the goals are both Jack’s and the cities City’s and the
320 decision was made not to use personal goals but that the Administrator is accountable for
321 ensuring the stated goals are achieved, ~~They are indeed aligned with city priorities, not~~
322 ~~personal matters. Personal goals (such as professional development) were intentionally~~
323 ~~excluded.~~

324 City Attorney Griffith suggested adding a bullet to be clear the City Administrator’s goal is to
325 implement the city’s goals and proposed language to resolve the concern, suggesting an
326 additional clarifying statement: *“The purpose of establishing annual goals for the City*
327 *Administrator is to ensure the timely and effective implementation of city goals.”*

328 Councilmember Janet Hegland made a motion to approve the May 31, 2026 Goals
329 Recommendations as presented in the August 8, 2025 City Council Packet, as further
330 amended by the council clarifying that the purpose of establishing annual goals for are city
331 ~~goals overseen by the City Administrator is and intended~~ to ensure the timely and effective
332 implementation of city priorities ~~and the report goals~~. Lattin seconded the motion.

333 Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Nay, Hanegraaf – Aye.
334 Motion carries 4 - 1.

335 6. EDA Council Member Appointment

336 City Administrator Davis reported that at the July 9th ~~meeting~~ At the July 9, 2025 City Council
337 meeting, Resolution No. 25-09, Modification of Resolution 10-13 – Enabling Resolution

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25
Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25
Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

338 Establishing an Economic Development Authority (EDA) Under Minnesota Statutes, Sections
339 469.909 to 469.1081 was approved. That resolution allows the change from the current 7-
340 member Authority, which consisted of the entire City Council (5 members) and 2 citizen
341 members to a 5-member Authority composed of 2 City Council and 3 citizen members.

342 Per the existing by-laws, the Mayor is a designated member of the Authority. As a result of the
343 restructuring of the Authority Board, one more council member will need to be recommended
344 for appointment by the Mayor subject to the approval of the City Council. That appointment
345 will be offered at the August 13, 2025 City Council Meeting. The appointment is annual, and the
346 term will expire on December 31, 2025.

347 **Mayor Hanegraaf made a motion to approve the appointment of Jennie Lattin to the City of**
348 **Columbus Economic Development Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2025.**
349 **Councilmember Hegland made a second.**

350 **Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.**
351 **Motion carries unanimously.**

352 **B. CONSENT AGENDA** (Moved from earlier in the agenda)

- 353 1. Approval of Bill Payments
- 354 2. Approval of Supplemental Bill Payments
- 355 3. Approval of April 23, 2025 City Council Minutes (Enclosure)
- 356 4. Approval of May 28, 2025 City Council Minutes (Enclosure)

357
358 **Councilmember Hegland made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 & 2. Second by**
359 **Councilmember Busch.**

360 **Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.**
361 **Motion carries unanimously.**

362 Councilmember Hegland suggested the **April 23, 2025** minutes ~~for the meeting~~ be formatted to
363 match the agenda for the meeting and **suggested** pulling out her two reports **and placing them**
364 **under their respective** ~~as~~ agenda items, not in her council report.

365 **Councilmember Hegland made a motion to approve the April 23, 2025 minutes as written**
366 **Consent Agenda Items 3 with format edits moving the bullet points under councilmember**
367 **Hegland's report to the respective agenda items of Planning Commission Report and**
368 **Personnel Committee Report. Second by Councilmember Busch.**

369 **Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.**
370 **Motion carries unanimously.**

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25
~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~
Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

371 Councilmember Hegland suggested ~~the~~ several edits to the minutes by line item for the May 25,
372 2025 Minutes. Councilmember Lattin asked that 6:00 pm be added to the header.
373 Councilmember Wendell asked questions about the necessity of quotes. Councilmember Busch
374 had minor edit suggestions.

375 **Councilmember Hegland made a motion to approve the May 25, 2025 Minutes Consent**
376 **~~Agenda Items 4~~ with numerous edits suggested by all **council** members during the discussion.**
377 **Second by Councilmember Wendell.**

378 **Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.**
379 **Motion carries unanimously.**

380 **D. CONSULTANT, LIAISON & STAFF REPORTS**

- 381 1. City Engineer Brian Bachmeier reported he attended a MN DOT webinar on 2025 Road
382 Improvement Process.
- 383 2. City Attorney Bill Griffith report that he had no report.
- 384 3. Mayor & City Council Report: Councilmember Lattin reported Coon Creek **Watershed**
385 **meeting on Monday 8-11, nothing** to report. Tomorrow night **is a** Fall Fest Volunteer
386 meeting **at 6:30.** Councilmember Wendell provided that he had no report.
387 Councilmember Hegland had no report but asked City Attorney Griffith if the Cannabis
388 changes will require city ordinance change. **He will check.** Councilmember Busch shared
389 his thanks to residents for the National Nite Out Events. Mayor Hanegraaf had nothing to
390 report.
- 391 4. Parks Board Report: Mayor Hanegraaf recapped the Tennis Court Discussion. **He also**
392 **reported on the** Fire Board **meetings of July 31st**– Ladder 1 replacement delayed to 2038
393 **due to budget constraints.** The 2026 Rescue 1 replacement with a 1 ton **F550** to cut cost.
394 Fulltime Deputy Chief Position being considered **at \$160 k/ yr. Columbus would pay 20%.**
395 **Use of** Public Safety monies of \$30,000 will be needed for seat modification on Engine 1
396 and 2. **The Mayor concluded by stating that city is getting good value for our investment**
397 **in this fire JPA with ~~FL~~ Forst Lake.**
- 398 5. Public Works Report: Jim Windingstad reported that Anoka County is requesting the
399 City’s feedback on using Camp 3 Road (from Potomac to County Road 23) as the
400 designated detour during the County Road 23/Kettle River Roundabout project.
401 Windingstad noted that closing the stretch of County Road 23 for construction would
402 allow the project to be completed more quickly. Traffic is expected to divert regardless,
403 following a “third, third, third” pattern: one-third avoid, one-third use posted detours,
404 one-third find their own quickest route. Councilmembers raised concerns about
405 increased commercial traffic and higher volumes on Camp 3, which may create safety
406 issues, particularly at the Camp 3/Kettle River intersection **and ~~at~~** the impact on residents
407 with driveways along Camp 3, whose homes are close to the roadway. Enforcement
408 challenges for trucks despite “no truck traffic” signage, similar to recent detours on

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25

~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~

Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

409 Howard Lake Drive and Lake Drive were another concern as there are potential speeding
410 issues on Camp 3 due to higher traffic volumes. Councilmembers discussed alternatives,
411 including requiring use of larger county roads (Broadway) as the official detour and
412 considering "local traffic only" signage or temporary closures of sections of Camp 3. A
413 consensus leaned toward not supporting Camp 3 as the official detour, citing public
414 safety and resident concerns, though acknowledgment was made that drivers will likely
415 use it informally. Council requested more information from the County regarding traffic
416 control measures at the Camp 3/Kettle River intersection before making a final decision.

417
418 Windingstad indicated that after the project, he would likely return to Council with a
419 request to designate Camp 3 as a no-truck route and council noted that any such
420 restriction would require coordination with the Sheriff's Department for enforcement.
421 Windingstad also discussed attempts to reach Davey Tree about their offer to donate a
422 tree in coordination with Fall Fest and the damaged tree in the park.

423
424 6. City Administrator Report: a) 2026 Budget Discussion
425 City Administrator Davis presented the first review of the General Fund budget, noting
426 corrections made to several categories which included the Capital Improvements Plan
427 (CIP) which is being developed to guide transfers for equipment and capital needs.
428 Future IT services costs are being refined with an initial estimate of \$100,000 revised
429 down to \$57,000. Additional \$14,000 in equipment costs are anticipated (primarily new
430 telephones). City staff are coordinating with multiple vendors on future services and a
431 final service provider will be determined through RFPs, but a placeholder number will be
432 in place for the preliminary budget.

433
434 The Administrative Services portion of the budget has changes expected in Workers'
435 Compensation. The City notified of a significant rate reduction for 2025, lowering costs
436 across multiple accounts. Additionally, the Planning Consultant Services Budget is
437 anticipated to be reduced from \$16,000 to \$12,000.

438
439 The Public Works & Parks (Fund 150) has changes as proposed to move mowing and
440 seasonal staffing fully under Public Works instead of Parks Board oversight. The budget
441 line includes \$21,000 for seasonal employees to assist with mowing. Contract lawn care
442 accounts (3170 and 3175) will be partially redirected to equipment replacement and
443 public works mowing costs. There is an additional \$900 porta potty expense added for
444 winter use by park walkers (per Parks Board request).

445
446 The Park Capital Fund 403 includes a current City transfer of only \$2,700. Additional Park
447 funding sources of \$21,700 from cell tower revenue (split between capital categories)
448 and \$8,000 in permit fees. Current sources are deemed insufficient to sustain parks long-
449 term and staff suggested future larger transfers and leveraging the upcoming Park

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25
~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~
Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

450 Master Plan to strengthen grant competitiveness. Any grants will require 50% matching
451 funds, necessitating additional revenue sources.

452
453 The Water & Sewer Funds budget includes allocation of wages for billing support and
454 potential transfers of Public Works personnel costs. Staff are evaluating feasibility of
455 covering 50% of personnel costs from water/sewer funds. Currently, water/sewer
456 revenues cover operating costs and partial depreciation. Additional allocations remain
457 challenging however final recommendations will be presented at the next meeting.
458 The Economic Development Authority (EDA) & Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA)
459 budget includes a proposal to allocate \$19,000 of staff salaries to EDA, utilizing Tourism
460 Board tax revenues. A Tourism Board and associated policies must be established before
461 2026. The County HRA Levy levied approximately \$180,000 in 2025, with 15% retained by
462 the County for administration while the City HRA Levy was approximately \$120,000 in
463 2025. Staff are recommending discussions on whether the City should continue to levy
464 both County and City HRA funds, or consolidate. The County funds carry stricter usage
465 restrictions while the City funds allow broader use for housing and redevelopment.
466 Current balances in the County HRA are \$688,000 (includes 2025 levy and the City HRA
467 has \$240,000 (exclusive of 2026 levy). Staff noted possibility of using County HRA funds
468 for Hornsby Street improvements if state grant applications are unsuccessful. Further
469 clarification to be sought at the upcoming EDA meeting with Tonja West-Hafner, Anoka
470 County HRA Executive Director.

471
472 The Fire Board & Capital Planning budget includes a Fire Board adjusted timeline for
473 ladder truck purchase originally planned for 2031 at \$3.2 million with a Columbus share
474 of \$600,000 now rescheduled for 2038, lowering near-term capital funding requirements.

475
476 Staff recommend considering planning for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan Preparation as
477 the City will need to begin work on the 2050 Comprehensive Plan in 2028, with an
478 estimated cost of \$50,000–\$60,000. Past practice has included setting aside funds
479 annually over a 10-year period to spread costs with a current estimated carry-forward
480 balance of \$47,000. Accounting system limitations prevent precise carry-forward
481 reporting, though staff provided best estimates beginning in 2021. Council members
482 discussed whether to continue annual set-asides and engaging consultants versus
483 internal staff for the update (consultants likely required for at least half of the work).

484
485 Staff will present a more detailed budget draft at the next Council meeting and Council
486 acknowledged a need for more time and detail for review with a proposed dedicated
487 budget workshop (5:30–6:00 p.m. start) prior to the September 30th deadline for county
488 submission. Special meetings may be added if necessary to ensure thorough discussion.

489

***Hegland original amended - 8/27/25

~~Lattin suggests removal - 8/25/25~~

Hegland second amendments - 9/4/25

490 **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

- 491 ▶ Anoka County Sheriff's Office Scam Prevention Workshop - "Safeguard
492 Your Savings"; East Bethel Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 19001 Jackson St NE.
493 Thursday, August 14, 2025 @10am and Wednesday, August 20, 2025 @5 PM. No
494 registration is required.
- 495 ▶ Planning Commission Meeting, August 20, 2025, 6:00 PM
- 496 ▶ EDA Meeting, August 21, 2025, 5:30 PM
- 497 ▶ City Council Meeting, August 27, 2025, 6:00 PM

498

499 **Mayor Ron Hanegraaf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Wendell.**

500

501 **Adjourned at 9:29 PM.**

502

503 **Roll Call Vote: Lattin – Aye, Wendell – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf – Aye.**

504 **Motion carries unanimously.**

505

506 Respectfully submitted,

507

508 Assistant City Administrator Aaron Berg

509

510 **Disclaimer:**

511

512 **Portions of these meeting minutes were generated using artificial intelligence (AI) technology**

513 **to assist with drafting. All content has been thoroughly reviewed and verified by a human for**

514 **accuracy and completeness. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Section 13.03**

515 **– Data Practices, a full, unedited written transcript, video, and audio recordings are**

516 **considered public data and can be made available to the public upon request.**

517