

**City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
10.25.17**

The 10.25.17 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Bill Krebs at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Dave Povolny, Jeff Duraine, Denny Peterson, and Mark Daly; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Dennis Postler, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Jesse Preiner, Vern & Margie Roisum, Dan Mike, Dave Schueler, Kris King, Paul Peskar, Jody Krebs, Myron & Cynthia Angel, Barb Bobick, Jon Rausch, Julia Parent (Forest Lake Times), and Teri Hodges (LATV).

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:03 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

B. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 4. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**
- 5. Motion – Lawful Gambling 1% Refund to Forest Lake Area Youth Service Bureau**
- 6. Motion – Resolution Accepting Gift Free Library**

Motion by Peterson to approve the Consent Agenda items 3-6. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS

7. Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission chair Garth Sternberg gave the report from their October 18th, 2017 meeting. He presented on one (1) topic.

Update – 2018 Comprehensive Plan Discussion

The Planning Commission's sole discussion was on the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. The main topic was reducing the Community Retail district and potentially increasing the amount of residential zoning. City Attorney Bill Griffith explained that this district is zoned Community Retail with a Suburban Residential overlay; so, developers can choose between either zoning for a particular property. He continued to say that by dedicating the zone as a strictly residential district the City could collect 100% of the tax base, as opposed to the current 60% level due to the fact that Columbus is a net payer into the fiscal disparities program. Sternberg continued the discussion by saying he would personally prefer that land be zoned commercial, as he doesn't think residential zoning is a good fit for that area. Mayor Povolny said he is not in favor of that because a senior housing project has already been approved for the area. Daly asked why there

needs to be a change? Griffith replied that the area has been dual zoned for ten years, and that designation has not been particularly helpful for promoting development.

Krebs recalled a previous conversation about consideration of a development north of the intersection of Zurich Street and Lake Drive. He said he thinks that would be a good location for higher density residential housing. Mursko added that there is interest from developers in bringing high density housing to Columbus. She recalled a developer who had submitted a proposal for apartments in that area, however they did not move forward with the project. She said that such dense development was not allowed in the district at that time, and the developer was not interested in doing a Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Discussion then turned to the freeway district. Krebs said that he spoke with some landowners in that area, and they have some ideas about what could be best for the district. Mayor Povolny suggested that the City hold a neighborhood meeting with those in that area to discuss their vision for the future. The Council agreed this would be a good idea. Krebs suggested that the discussion should be split up by geographic area to get the best feedback. Mayor Povolny agreed, and Mursko said that she will schedule it. Mayor Povolny added that he is curious what effect higher density housing will have on the City's sewer and water system. Mursko agreed to look into that question further.

8. Public Open Forum

No report.

9. Forest Lake Times Change in Distribution

Mursko is reporting that the City's legal newspaper, the Forest Lake Times, has changed their business model to be subscription based only. Going forward they will not be offering a cost-free option for any communities. However, Mursko spoke with someone at the Forest Lake Times who assured her they still meet the requirements for a legal newspaper. The cost for a yearly subscription is \$38 a year. Mursko asked if the Council would like a representative from the Forest Lake Times to come to a City Council meeting and discuss the changes? The Council agreed that would not be necessary, and they would like to make their final decision in January, when the City normally designates their legal newspaper.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

10. Engineer Report

City Engineer Dennis Postler presented a report on two (2) different topics.

Grading and Drainage Plan for the NE Quad

Based on direction from the Council at their 10.11.17 meeting, Postler prepared a grading and drainage plan for the entire NE quad land. Postler explained that the plan would ensure that the entire property has a comprehensive analysis of future grading, storm water drainage, and ponding requirements. This is because the land in that quadrant will ultimately be developed,

and this is a necessary step to ensure that happens.

Motion by Daly to authorize the City Engineer to prepare a Grading and Drainage Plan for the City-owned property in the NE quadrant of I-35 and Hwy 97 for a not-to-exceed fee of \$20,000. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

I-35 and Hwy 97 Bridge Project and CSAH 54 Realignment Project Update

Next, Postler presented an update on the I-35 and Hwy 97 Bridge Project. Shafer recently moved some dirt piles closer to the Hwy 97 bridge, so that it can settle throughout the winter. Shafer is also looking to gain access to the weigh station off of CSAH 54, so a driveway may be added there, if Anoka County grants it. Lastly, Rice Creek Watershed District is requiring an erosion and sediment control plan from Shafer. TKDA will be helping Shafer file this plan, at no cost to the City.

In terms of the CSAH 54 project, Postler reports that there are no updates on the allocation of funds from the bonding bill. He expects that due to funding delays, Hornsby Street will not be realigned until 2019.

Krebs asked Postler about the potential for a traffic control device at the intersection of Hornsby Street and Hwy 97. Postler replied that at the 10.11.17 City Council meeting, the Council authorized him to prepare a Traffic Impact Study, which should be completed in the next two weeks. After the Traffic Impact Study is complete, MnDOT will begin their evaluation of the proposal.

11. Attorney Report

Pine Street Ditch Update

Based on direction from the 09.27.17 meeting, City Attorney Bill Griffith researched whether the City could levy and collect assessments for ditch improvements and repairs on Pine Street. Griffith reported back that the City can indeed levy and collect assessments for the ditch repairs. He continued to say that the next step for this project after petitions are received, would be a feasibility study. He continued to say that because there is through traffic on Pine Street, the City would be responsible for a portion of the cost. The feasibility study would determine the City's contribution as well as the benefit for landowners.

Mayor Povolny asked Griffith what the City's liability would be if their ditch work leads to flooding downstream? Postler replied that in theory the project would be moving water in the direction that it should flow, through the County's ditch system. Daly asked how much a feasibility study would cost? Postler said that it shouldn't be more than a few thousand dollars, however the Council can wait until petitions are submitted before the feasibility study is ordered, in order to gauge interest. Mursko said that City Staff have a meeting on 10.26.17 with the landowner who is most concerned about the drainage issues, and recommended that the Council wait until after that meeting to make a decision about the feasibility study. Griffith clarified that the Council could also initiate the project on their own. The Council agreed that they would like to offer the petition process to the landowner at the 10.26.17 meeting and wait to gauge interest

in the project.

12. Mayor and City Council Member's Report

Mayor Dave Povolny

Mayor Povolny asked Mursko to explain the process the City went through when they ordered a Hotel Study. Mursko explained that roughly two (2) years ago, two (2) hotel representatives came to an Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting along with a representative from Running Aces. The hotel representatives were from AmericInn and GrandStay. The group requested Columbus order a hotel study for the area, and the EDA agreed to do so. There was a cost for the study, and Mursko believes that Running Aces contributed roughly 50% of the cost. At the time, the EDA agreed to order the study, with the understanding that it would not become public until after the City Council accepted it. It was also understood that until the study became public, Running Aces would be the sole entity able to access it. Since the City Council accepted the study, it has been distributed based on requests for it. Griffith emphasized that because the hotel study was a City-initiated document, it is required to become public after the draft version was accepted by the Council.

Council Member Daly

Council Member Daly reported on the most recent Fall Fest meeting. He said the Fall Fest committee is considering changing a number of things, in order to increase attendance. He said some things they're considering adding are a 5K run, a corn feed, live music, and/or a beer tent. The overall message from the meeting was that everyone understands changes need to be made to improve attendance at the event.

Council Member Peterson

No report.

Council Member Krebs

No report.

13. Public Works Report

No report.

14. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

15. City Administrator's Report

Personnel Report

Mursko reported that Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes has been working for the City for one (1) year, and is eligible for a step increase at this time. It is Mursko's recommendation that the Council approves a step increase from Step 2 to Step 3 (20.92), effective 10.28.17.

Motion by Daly to approve the step increase for Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes (Step 2 to Step 3 [20.92]), effective 10.28.17. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

The next Planning Commission meeting is 11.01.17

Calendar of Meetings.

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator