

**City of Columbus  
Regular City Council Meeting  
11.14.18**

The 11.14.18 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Bill Krebs and Mark Daly; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Jacob Steen, City Engineer Dennis Postler, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Kris King, Paul Peskar, Lynn Carver-Quinn, D Faymerville, Richard Mike, George Schwalbe, Bill Prinsen, Arlen & Shelly Logren, Pat BJORKE, Dan LaCoursiere, Tom & Gerrie Olson, Barb Bobick, Bill Bobick, Dan Mike, Steve & Kelly LaVesseur, Tom & Mary Lakner, Rick & Emmy Robinson, Janet Hegland, M Roisum, Chad Maasen, Cindy Angel, Jesse Preiner, Ron Barnes, A Wulff, and Julia Parent (Forest Lake Times).

**A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

- 1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting – 7:00 P.M.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Motion – Approval of the City Council Special Meeting Minutes 10.17.18**
- 2. Motion – Approval of the City Council Special Meeting Minutes 09.25.18**
- 3. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions**
- 4. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted**
- 6. Motion – Approving 2019 PEIP Group Medical Insurance**

**Motion by Peterson to approve the Consent Agenda items 1-4 and 6. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

- 5. Motion – Resolution Accepting Gifts for 2018 Fall Fest**

Krebs thanked everyone that committed their time and money to Fall Fest.

**Motion by Daly to approve Resolution 18-34. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried.**

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

Planning Commission Report

No report.

Boehm's Corner Plat 3 Final Plat

Mursko reported that the Boehm's Corner final plat is no different than the preliminary plat which was previously approved.

**Motion by Krebs to approve the Boehm's Corner Plat 3 Final Plat application (dated 05.31.18) based on findings of fact and conditions 1-6 as outlined in the Planner's Memo (dated 07.01.18). Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

### Boehm's Corner Plat 3 Final Plat Findings of Fact:

1. The preliminary plat application was received on May 31, 2018 and found complete for review.
2. The 120-day preliminary plat review deadline is September 28, 2018.
3. There are a total of 10.3 gross acres in the proposed plat, located at 15650 Willamette Street NE, on property legally described as the N01th 550 feet of N01theast Quarter of the N01thwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 32, Range 22, lying westerly of the Boehm's Corner recorded plat.
4. The property is zoned RR Rural Residential.
5. Two residential lots are proposed. There is one existing dwelling on the proposed easterly 4.82 net-acre lot (Lot 2, Block 1 ).
6. The proposed westerly lot (Lot I, Block 1) is 4.82 net acres and includes adequate areas for a future home, accessory building and SSTS area.
7. The density of the proposed development is one home per 5.15 acres, which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
8. Both proposed lots exceed the minimum lot area of 4.5 acres (with right-of-way dedication) and exceed the minimum street frontage of 220 feet. All other dimensional standards and setback requirements are met.
9. The proposed drainage and utility easements are consistent with City Code requirements.
10. Soil borings have been submitted for the SSTS location.
11. A "no wetland determination" letter has been forwarded to Rice Creek Watershed District for review.
12. The proposed plat is not affected by the shoreland or floodplain overlay district.
13. Driveway access permits are subject to City approval.
14. Subsequent NPDES II permits will be required for any individual site grading that exceeds one acre.
15. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Lakners Woodland Ponds Preliminary Plat on July 18, 2018.

### Boehm's Corner Plat 3 Final Plat Conditions of Approval:

1. Recommendations of the City Engineer.
2. Title review and recommendations of the City Attorney.
3. Recommendations of the Anoka County Survey Department.
4. Recommendations of the Rice Creek Watershed District.
5. Cash in lieu of park land dedication requirements.
6. Subsequent NPDES II permit(s) for any individual site grading that exceeds one acre.

## **6. Public Open Forum**

### Bill Prinson – Rice Creek Snowmobile Club

Bill Prinson from the Rice Creek Snowmobile Club came forward to address the Council. His snowmobile club is based in Circle Pines, and they ride a trail that runs from Ham Lake to Scandia. Their trail has historically run along Lake Drive, to just past Zurich Street, where the

trail turned south through Running Aces' (RAHP) property and out to W. Freeway Drive.

Prinson said that on 11.12.18 he was informed that due to the new hotel being built on RAHP property, his snowmobile club will no longer be allowed to ride through there. In addition, the new roundabout on Lake Drive prevents their club from riding in that area because of new manholes, light poles, and culverts. These issues prevent riders from getting back to W. Freeway Drive from Lake Drive. He added that 12.01.18 is the snowmobile season opener and they are in a hurry to find an alternate route.

To consider alternate routes, Prinson drove around the City with Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad. They determined that their best option would be to ride south along Zurich Street, then east on 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to W. Freeway Drive. Windingstad said that this option is not ideal because they would be riding on a sidewalk located on the west side of Zurich Street. The sidewalk is narrow, surrounded by trees, and will not be groomed by Public Works. Windingstad added that where Zurich Street becomes 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE the sidewalk ends, and snowmobiles would then be riding in the right-of-way. Mursko added that her and Prinson discussed riding underneath the power lines in the swampy area west of Zurich Street, however that is Anoka County property and they do not allow motorized vehicles on it.

Duraine asked Prinson if other cities allow them to ride on their sidewalks? Prinson replied that in other cities they only cross sidewalks. Duraine said that he is not in favor of letting the snowmobile club ride on the City sidewalk. Windingstad said that he has concerns about people with tracks on their snowmobile tearing up the sidewalk if the snow is not deep enough.

Peterson suggested that the City allow the snowmobile club to use this route for one year until they can figure out a better alternative route. Daly and Duraine agreed that this was a good idea.

Mursko wanted to be clear about her understanding with Prinson that the trees along the sidewalk will not be trimmed, that there is curb and gutter in the street's right-of-way, and the area along 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE can often become quite wet. Because of this, the City will accept zero liability if there is an injury. Prinson replied that the snowmobile club has a \$2 million policy for injuries that happen while riding. Mursko asked Prinson to provide her with a copy of their insurance policy, and he replied that he would. Daly added that his stipulation for approval is that there must be signs erected which caution the riders to the dangers in the area. Prinson replied that it is standard for them to place signs along the route.

**Motion by Daly to allow the Rice Creek Snowmobile Association to ride along Zurich Street and 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE for one (1) year until an alternate route is established. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mary Lakner – 15554 Zodiac Street NE

Lakner came forward to discuss an issue she has with a piece of land she and her husband are trying to sell. They own two recently subdivided parcels on Zodiac Street NE and would like to sell one of them in anticipation of retirement.

Lakner said that she was told it would cost roughly \$15,000 to do the work necessary to

subdivide their land, and she completed that process earlier this year. She was also informed that before the plat could be recorded they would be required to put \$15,000 in escrow. At that time she informed City Staff that she and her husband unable to afford that cost, and the Council granted them a waiver delaying payment until after the property is sold. Since that time the Lakners have become concerned that they will not be able to sell their property for their ideal price because of this cost. Due to this, the Lakner's are requesting that the \$15,000 escrow requirement be waived entirely.

Mursko continued discussion by saying that Mr. Lakner previously came before the Council, and this topic was discussed at that time. She said City Ordinance requires all roads within a subdivision to be paved. In this case, the western half of Zodiac Street is located within the Lakner's subdivision, thus City Ordinance requires that portion to be developed. Mursko added that if the rest of Zodiac Street is not developed within a 10-year time frame the escrow money will be returned. When Mr. Lakner addressed the Council, their concerns about the \$15,000 were addressed and the Council compromised by allowing the money to be escrowed.

Mayor Povolny addressed Lakner by saying the \$15,000 going into escrow will be an asset and add value to the property. Lakner said that her family would not have gone forward with the subdivision if they had been aware of this requirement.

Daly asked how large the property is? Lakner said newly created lot is 6.5 acres. Mayor Povolny asked why they did not install a cul-de-sac on the property? Lakner replied that there is a large amount of wetland and it is a very long and narrow piece of property.

City Attorney Jacob Steen addressed the fact that this property's plat has already been recorded and the development agreement has already been signed. If the Council chooses to waive the \$15,000 requirement entirely, staff must prepare amendments to the development agreement and the Lakners must reapply with an amended plat. The Lakner's opportunity to request deviations from the rule would have been at the previous Council meeting in which the plat was approved. Steen added that this rule is standard in every community he has worked in. In addition, by allowing the \$15,000 to be escrowed the Council already deviated from the City's rule.

Mayor Povolny said that in the interest of treating all residents equally he would not be in favor of waiving the escrow requirement, and all Council Members agreed.

## **Board of Canvas for 2018 Election Results**

At this time Mayor Povolny recessed the Council meeting and convened the Board of Canvas.

The Board recited and signed their oath to support the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of Minnesota, and to discharge faithfully the duties of their office to the best of their judgment and ability.

Mursko reported to the Board that turnout in Columbus for the 11.06.18 General Election was at 83% for the 2018 election, which is quite high. There were 9 write in votes for Council seats and 9 write in votes for the Mayor's seat.

Detail of Election Results:

Tuesday November 6, 2018 General Election

Office Title: Mayor (Columbus)

Precinct	Dave Povolny	Jesse Preiner	Write-In
Columbus P-1	947	1198	9
Total	947	1198	9

Office Title: Council Member at Large (Columbus) (Elect 2)

Precinct	Mike Kempf	Janet Hegland	Bill Krebs	Shelly Logren	Write-In
Columbus P-1	708	1113	785	1057	9
Total	708	1113	785	1057	9

**Motion by Duraine to accept and declare the above 2018 City General Election results. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Duraine to adjourn the canvas board. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

At this time Mayor Povolny reconvened the Council meeting.

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

### **12. Engineer Report**

#### NE Groundwater Management Area Advisory Group

The North and East Groundwater Management Advisory Group held their semi-annual meeting on 10.26.18, and Postler shared some highlights with the Council.

The DNR hired a firm to do detailed modeling to determine how lakes in the area interact with the environment and what the relationship is with groundwater. The modeling determined that there is some connection between groundwater levels and the level of White Bear Lake, but it also says that irrigation has had a large effect on the level of the lake.

The most recent court decision was that groundwater usage is the primary cause for the depleting water levels in White Bear Lake. The DNR is appealing this decision.

#### Anoka County Camp Three Road and Kettle River Blvd Intersection

Based on direction from a previous City Council meeting, Postler discussed realigning the intersection at Camp Three Road and Kettle River Blvd with an engineer at Anoka County. The engineer said that it is against County policy to use flashing stop signs, and they provided sketches of two possible designs for realignment. One design shows the addition of cul-de-sacs

at the end of Kettle River Blvd and Camp Three Road, and the second design involves a significant realignment of Kettle River Blvd. The engineer Postler spoke with also said that they could clear trees in the right of way around that intersection.

Mayor Povolny said that he is not in favor of either of the designs, because he believes the issue lies with the alignment of Camp Three Road. He asked Postler to tell the County they would like to have trees cleared, and to continue having conversations about other options for addressing the problem intersection. Mayor Povolny also requested that the County take a look at the intersections of Notre Dame Street and Kettle River Blvd, and Howard Lake Drive and Kettle River Blvd, because they are not perpendicular. Postler said he would bring these requests back to Anoka County.

### Preliminary Estimate for Hornsby Street South

Based on a request from a previous Council meeting, Postler prepared preliminary numbers for paving the southernmost portion of Hornsby Street.

This existing portion of road is 12-foot wide and has narrow shoulders. In order to make it a 10-ton roadway it will need 6" of asphalt on 8" of gravel on one foot of sand. The length of road for this estimate is just about one mile. Postler described three different options for reconstructing the road.

The first option includes 12-foot lanes with 4-foot wide gravel shoulders. The estimated cost for this design is around \$1.5 million.

The second option includes 12-foot lanes with 4-foot wide paved shoulders and 4-foot wide gravel shoulders. This would create a 4-foot wider road and involves widening and filling ditches. The preliminary estimate for this option is \$2.1 million.

The third, and most expensive option, includes 12-foot wide lanes with an 8-foot wide paved shoulder and a 4-foot wide gravel shoulder. This would again involve widening and filling ditches. This is how the northern portion of the road was designed. This option is estimated at \$2.7 million.

Mayor Povolny asked when the final decision should be made? Postler said that he would bring the topic back to the next meeting if necessary. Daly said that a wider road is necessary because of anticipated truck traffic and the possibility of trucks breaking down on the side of the road. The Council decided they would like additional time to consider the options.

### 2019 Proposed Road Improvements

Postler reported on neighborhood meetings that were held for the 2019 proposed road improvement projects.

The first meeting was for 165<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE from Potomac Street to Kettle River Blvd. There were 16 property owners at the meeting, out of 37 who live on the road. There was an informal vote taken, with two absentee votes added in. The results were 6 votes in favor and 12 votes not.

These votes were made with the awareness that the City would be contributing 40% of the cost of improvement. A preliminary estimate of assessments for this project was \$5,300 per parcel.

The second meeting was for a selection of streets to be reclaimed and a section of new paving projects. The second section includes two unimproved cul-de-sacs. The proposal included the City paying for the costs to bring the cul-de-sacs up to the gravel standard, while the costs to pave the cul-de-sacs would be assessed. Poster noted that the City applied for a State road program grant to improve 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE since it abuts the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. He said that if the City is successful receiving money, the road must be widened to meet standards, but it would bring the overall cost down. After an informal vote there were 20 property owners in favor and 20 property owners not. The estimated cost for assessments is \$7,985.

Richard Mike of 18429 Vassar Street asked why Vassar Street was considered for a paving project? Postler said that the City chose Vassar Street to be considered as part of the 2019 proposed paving projects, it was not petitioned for by residents.

**Motion by Duraine to discontinue efforts to pave 165<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in 2019. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Duraine to send formal road paving petitions to property owners on 176<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, 178<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Rutgers Street, Tulane Street, 186<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, and Vassar Street. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.**

Postler said that once formal petitions have been received he will present results to the Council.

Dan Mike of 15123 Hornsby Street NE asked the Council where TIF money will go once it is captured; if it will go to the building itself or to infrastructure? Mursko replied that \$41,000 will be dedicated to administrative costs, \$63,000 will go toward improving Hornsby Street, and \$573,000 will be allocated toward the business subsidy.

### **13. Attorney Report**

No report.

### **14. Mayor and Council Members Report**

#### Council Member Krebs

No report.

#### Council Member Peterson

Council Member Peterson reported that the Columbus sign has been installed on the new bridge and encouraged others to check it out.

#### Council Member Daly

No report.

#### Mayor Povolny

No report.

#### Council Member Duraine

Council Member Duraine asked if Shafer Contracting will keep their concrete batch plant open during the winter? If not, he suggested re-opening the northern portion of Hornsby Street to traffic during that time.

Postler recommended keeping Hornsby Street closed during the winter because it is in bad shape and it will be closed for reconstruction once winter is over. However, he offered to take a look at the geometrics of the road to understand how re-opening it could affect the condition.

Duraine continued his report by asking if Kettle River Blvd is going to get a new overlay next year? He said, if so, the City should request that the County widen the shoulders. Mursko said that the City has not been notified of any projects on Kettle River Blvd, but if such a project should occur she will lobby for wider shoulders.

Duraine finished by saying tomorrow (11.15.18) at 10:00 a.m. there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Running Aces Hotel.

### **15. Public Works Report**

Windingstad came forward to discuss the proposed design project for roundabouts in Columbus. He said that tomorrow (11.15.18) there is a Park Board Meeting and they have agreed to create a sign design for the roundabouts. He asked the Council for a rough estimate on a budget for the designs. Mayor Povolny said that he would like to see an attempt by the Park Board to solicit donations for the project. He added that he envisions some type of concrete obstacle in the center of the roundabout. He finished by asking Windingstad to work with the Park Board to come up with \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$20,000 designs for the Council to consider.

### **16. Public Communications Coordinator Report**

Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes reported that the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) is holding a 10-year watershed management plan open house tomorrow (11.15.18) from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview.

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

#### December Meeting Calendar

Mursko began her report by asking about if the Council would prefer to reschedule the 12.26.18 meeting for 12.27.18? The Council said they would.

**Motion by Krebs to reschedule the 12.26.18 City Council Meeting for 12.27.18. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.**

RCWD Appointment Vacancy Letter

Next Mursko presented a letter from Anoka County’s County Administrator saying that the Rice Creek Watershed District’s Board of Managers has an opening. Mursko is wondering if the Council would like to appoint anyone to the Board of Managers? The Council agreed to advertise the opening on the City’s website and see if anyone from the public is interested.

Human Resources Report

Mursko presented information regarding the City’s 2019 employee health benefits. Open enrollment is this November, and the allocation for health premiums is effective 01.01.19. Based on market premiums, she is recommending an increase from \$783 to \$830 for employees who are eligible for health benefits. She said that employees must work 32.5 hours per week to be eligible for health benefits, and employees that work less than 40 hours a week receive prorated benefits.

**Motion by Krebs to approve the City of Columbus’ 2019 Health Benefit. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mursko continued to report that two City employees are eligible for step increases in October. Mursko is recommending approval of Deputy Treasurer Bill Werner’s increase from Step 1 to Step 2, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes’ from Step 3 to Step 4.

**Motion by Daly to approve step increases based on performance for the Deputy Treasurer and Public Communication Coordinator positions effective 2018 pay period 22. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report

Receipts:	\$ 281,773.17
Disbursements:	\$ 89,009.94
Balance:	\$ 7,580,009.29

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

**18. Calendar of Meetings.**

Announcements – The next Planning Commission meeting is on 11.19.18.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator