City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
January 11, 2023

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:
BARB BOPICK	8414 140TH AVE
Myron & Cindy Angel	14048 Fourman St.
Karen Fleming	14827 Anson St

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
01.11.2023

The 01.11.23 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Robert Busch, Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland and Sue Wagamon; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Megan Rogers, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, Public Communication Coordinator Connor Keith and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

Also in attendance: Cindy Angel, Myron Angel, Planning Commissioner Barb Bobick, Kiki Lissack (via teleconference) and Brenda Miller

A. **CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**
   1. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 6:07 p.m.
   2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   3. Agenda Approval with Additions
   4. Approval of the 10-12-2022 City Council Meeting Minutes
   5. Approval of the 10-26-2022 City Council Special Meeting Minutes
   6. Approval of the 11-16-2022 City Council Special Meeting Minutes
   7. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Preiner to approve Consent Agenda items Nos. 3 through 7. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – abstained; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. **PRESENTATION**
   8. Public Open Forum

Good evening, Mr. Mayor. My name is Barb Bobick. I live at 8414 140th Ave. NE. Knowing that the Council, Planning Commission and Staff have been extremely busy at the end of 2022, I waited to comment on an issue that should be documented in the Council's record. In October 2022, three self-published articles by candidate Dave Povolny were sent to voters. Many of his statements were either untrue or ambiguous, but the statements regarding BRI's asphalt plant were absolutely erroneous and, frankly, very insensitive to residents affected by the nuisance of the plant, including my own family.

One of the residents affected responded to the assertions on Nextdoor social media to clarify the facts. On October 28, 2022, the statement reads: "A couple of days ago, I received something in the mail from Dave Povolny, who is running for mayor of Columbus. In this flyer, he stated that Columbus residents still have not reported any noxious smells or out of control truck traffic coming from the asphalt plant. Where are the missing smells and missing truck traffic? Well, I can answer that question. I guess no one is complaining to the town management, but we are experiencing the smells and the traffic. What good

would it do to complain anyway? There are days when the smells are so bad I have to keep my windows closed and is very uncomfortable to be outside. Truck traffic is very heavy. I have had trucks pull out in front of me going north where I've had to apply the brakes as I follow him up the incline to the bridge up ahead. I see many trucks going by without the cover over the asphalt. I thought they were supposed to cover their loads, although the trucks are supposed to be a certain amount of minutes between each other. That is not happening. I see three in a row going down the road. If I'm correct, I thought their hours of operations were 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., but I see trucks leaving the plant loaded before 6 a.m. Then there's the noise: they deliver loads of dirt and I don't know what else – hunks of stuff in huge piles. The dump trucks dump their loads and their tailgates bang, bang, bang as the trucks are emptied. It's extremely loud. Mr. Povolny, don't kid yourself. The asphalt plant is an unwelcome nuisance of smells, noise and traffic. You don't see, smell, or hear it because you don't live near it."

In addition, I personally went door-to-door along Freeway Drive and 20th Avenue in the summer of 2021 to talk to residents. Those I contacted commented that the smells, traffic, noise and incoming loading and dumping trucks are worse than they expected. They can't keep their windows open or sit outside because of the odor, truck noise and vibration. They can't even carry on a normal conversation. I encouraged them to write down their observations and contact the City. Their comments were that it was an everyday occurrence and the plant is already there so no one is going to stop them or care about the residents. Out of sight, out of mind. I live one mile west of the plant. This summer, we were awakened in the middle of the night by noxious odors coming through open windows. I contacted the City Administration on August 24th, 2022, and learned that the plant could indeed work during night hours. I filed a complaint with Minnesota Pollution Control and did not receive a response from that agency. During the same timeframe, I was walking my dog in Laurie LaMotte Park in Centerville early Saturday morning and the air was filled with asphalt smells along with the caravan of dump trucks driving down Main and Centerville Road. During the week of October 31 through November 6, 2022, the Emergency Call system received two calls in the Broadway and Kettle River area and two calls in Wyoming reporting strong gas odor. The Sheriff's Department, Forest Lake Fire Department, Mangus Gas Control Company, CenterPoint and Xcel Energy crews were dispatched. After hours of investigation, it was determined that the problem was emissions from the asphalt plant. It should be noted that when emergency response receives gas odor calls, the police, fire and utility companies are obligated to respond, even if intuition tells them that is probably emissions from the asphalt plant. I have to ask, what does that cost?

These are just a few examples of the issue. Mr. Povolny's cavalier attitude and decision to send out hundreds of flyers denying the problem, in addition to other snippets of misinformation is, in my opinion, counterproductive and certainly not behavior that instills confidence in someone who wants to hold positions in City government responsible for the health, safety and welfare of citizens. Back in 2018, when the CUP was designed, the residents had asked for a monitoring system around the perimeter of the properties. That wasn't put in the CUP and I'm wondering if that's a possibility in the future.

9. Planning Commission Report

No report as the January 4, 2023, Planning Commission meeting was cancelled.

10. City Organizational Meeting

Preiner shared that the City Council devised the 2023 organizational chart at the previous evening's workshop. Mursko said the organizational chart distributed at this meeting reflected the agreed-upon changes from the previous night's discussion and that both Park Board members whose terms ended December 31, 2022, have requested reappointment.

Motion by Wagamon to nominate Hegland as deputy mayor. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – abstain; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Wagamon to approve City 2023 organizational appointments on Page 1 as presented to include the appointment of Janet Hegland as Deputy Mayor, the reappointment of Brad Norling and Bob Bodene to the Park Board for three-year terms and Ron Hanegraaf designated as an additional check signee for the City. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Wagamon brought the City Council's attention to the proposed Community Events & Fall Fest Committee, expressing concern that many wanted to have events but was concerned about City Council and City Staff's time constraints. Wagamon said she would not be the chairperson for this committee despite what was listed on the organizational chart due to her time constraints and expressed concern about getting a free volunteer for this position that may become bigger than the Council expects.

Hegland asked Mursko if the City Staff had the capacity to lead this type of events committee. Mursko said Staff can help, but felt the committee truly needed a community events "cheerleader." Hegland proposed moving forward with a roundtable discussion that includes City Council, Planning Commission, Park Board and those interested in planning an event. Hanegraaf agreed with Hegland.

Motion by Hegland to amend the proposed City Council committee assignments to remove the Community Events & Fall Fest assignments until after a roundtable meeting. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to adopt the amended City Council committee handouts as reflected on the handout. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

11. 2023 Recycling Events

Hegland pointed the Council to a memo from Lorie Spangler, Deputy Clerk, detailing 2023 Citywide Recycling Events, and asked Mursko about Item No. 5 regarding funding being available for recycling opportunities provided in proposed community events. Mursko said the grant is structured such that the money is available, but the City has to schedule an event that meets the County's criteria to utilize it.

Hegland asked why there wasn't a Fix-It Clinic listed for 2023. Mursko said that the Fix-It Clinic is usually an every-other year event, as Anoka County tries to allow all interested cities to host before reusing recent hosts.

Hegland said she saw other communities collect yard waste and asked if the City could add a similar program, and if the City could recycle bedding plant temporary containers. Hegland also asked that the City Staff request submissions from the community for other events.

Motion by Preiner to approve the 2023 Citywide Recycling Events as listed in the memo dated January 11, 2023, from the Recycling Coordinator. Seconded by Hanegraaf.

Busch asked Mursko if the City could partner with Forest Lake's compost area. Hegland said Anoka County has two compost locations, with the closest being in Lino Lakes near Wargo Nature Center. Mursko said she can consult Deputy Clerk Lorie Spangler to see what options the City has at its disposal.

Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

D. **STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS**

12. Engineer Report

Bittner reported that the West Freeway Drive project has ceased for winter and will resume in spring. Preiner asked when the work is anticipated to complete now. Bittner said completion is still projected for late summer, but is optimistic work could be completed as quickly as two months after work resumes if weather cooperates.

Bittner continued, sharing that Chapter 7D ordinance amendments have been drafted and are ready to be put to public hearing at the Planning Commission.

Motion by Preiner to direct the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing to amend stormwater management regulations, including wetlands sections, in Chapter 7D. Seconded by Wagamon.

Hegland asked if the City Council could host the Public Hearing instead of the Planning Commission. Rogers said that since the amendment is to a planning and zoning code, the Planning Commission is the body to hold the official hearing per state law.

Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

13. Attorney Report

Hegland asked about the Small Cities Bill that had been drafted by Senator Karin Housley last year and what the different numbers mean, specifically the "Distribution Amount Before Cap" and how it compares to "Pay 2022 Net Fiscal Disparities Contribution" column. Rogers said the numbers were generated by the state senate and can work to figure out how the numbers were tabulated.

14. Mayor & City Councilmembers' Report

Wagamon shared that she attended the January 11, 2023, Forest Lake Cable Commission meeting and confirmed that Doug Wood will still serve on the board.

Hegland said she attended the Sunrise River WMO JPA on January 5, 2023, to approve the 2023 budget, which has been structured to be less than $50,000. However, the board has been blocked by Ham Lake, which is trying to leave the JPA, not agreeing to a budget that requires unanimous approval. Wagamon asked if there was a way for the JPA to adopt a previous budget. Hegland said the only way Ham Lake will agree to the budget is if its contribution is under a specific amount.

Busch reported on Forest Lake Fire Department's calls. Busch also congratulated County Commissioner Jeff Reinert for being appointed Vice Chair.

Hanegraaf asked how the Planning Commission is to collect its packets without a Community Service Officer to deliver them. Mursko said the City is working on a solution. Hanegraaf continued, asking for clarification about the Planning Commission Liaison position, specifically if and when this liaison would be invited to participate in things like Public Hearings. Mursko affirmed that Hanegraaf being appointed by City Council to serve as Planning Commission Chairman for the first quarter of 2023 has made him the de facto liaison, but that these types of rules hadn't been discussed yet for the future. Rogers advised that a liaison would participate as a member of the board regardless of if the position is granted voting privileges or not and that the proper time for their involvement is when staff and applicants may make comments or questions.

15. Public Works Report

No report.

16. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

17. City Administrator's Report

No report.

E. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

- Planning Commission Meeting 01-18-2023 at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting 01-25-2023 at 6 p.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Hanegraaf to adjourn. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner - aye. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator

Final Organizational Chart
2023 CITY OF COLUMBUS

Deputy Mayor	Janet Hegland
Depository	Wells Fargo*
Investments	Wells Fargo Advisors
Legal Paper	Forest Lake Times
Engineer	Bolton & Menk, Kevin Bittner
Planner	Resources Strageties, Dean Johnson
Civil Attorney	Larkin Hoffman, Bill Griffith
Criminal Attorney	Carson, C&R, Joseph Murphy
City Auditor	2022 MMKR
City Assessor	Anoka County - Alex Guggenberger
Animal Control w/ Kennel Inspect & Dangerous Dog Addendum	Companion Animal Control
City Council Workshop Meetings	See Schedule - Tuesday 5:30 pm
Data Practices (Responsible Authority)	Assistant to City Administrator
Data Practices (Compliance Official)	City Administrator
Petty Cash Custodian	Deputy Treasurer
Planning Commission Members:	YEAR TERM ENDS
Bethany Barrette	12/31/2023
Barbara Bobick	12/31/2024
Frank Ramisch	12/31/2024
Lynn Carver-Quinn	12/31/2025
Ron Hanegraaf (2023 Chairman 1st Qtr)	12/31/2025
Park Board:	
Brad Norling	12/31/2025
Kris King	12/31/2023
Andrea Messina	12/31/2024
Steven Ray	12/31/2024
Bob Bodene	12/31/2025
Public Works Advisory Board:	
Paul Peskar	
Mike Boland	
Jerry Auge	
Dan Mike	
Lloyd Rehbein	
Dave Schueler (Chairman)	
Russ McPherson	
Forest Lake Cable Commission:	
Doug Wood	

*City Check Signers: Jesse Preiner, Sue Wagamon, Ron Hanegraaf & Elizabeth Mursko

Final Organizational Chart
2023 CITY OF COLUMBUS

City Council Committee Assignments					
	Jesse	Rob	Sue	Ron	Janet
Issues in the office	**M**				**A**
Joint Fire Board (4 Meetings)	**M**	**M**		**A**	
Personnel Committee (Mtgs as needed)	**A**		**M**		**M**
Park Board (4-6 Meetings)				**A**	**M**
Public Works Advisory Board	**M**	**A**			
(Mtgs. as needed)					
Planning Commission Liasion (Rotating)				**Jan-Mar**	
Anoka County Sheriff's Office Liaison	**A**			**M**	
Met Council (As Needed)	**M**				
FLCC - Cable TV (Semi-Monthly)			**M**	**A**	
Watersheds:					
Rice Creek	**A**				**M**
Coon Creek					
Sunrise (Monthly Meetings):					**M**
At Large Member: Tim Melchoir					
Other Task City Council Members:					
Council Corner	(Monthly Rotating Schedule)				
M = Primary Representative					
A = Alternate Representative					