

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
02.22.2023

The 02.22.23 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Robert Busch, Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland and Sue Wagamon (via teleconference); City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko (via teleconference), City Attorney Bill Griffith (via teleconference) and Public Communication Coordinator Connor Keith (via teleconference).

Also in attendance: Aaron Bedessem, Judy Huntosh (via teleconference), Natalie Ryder (via teleconference) and +1 651-353-7482

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 6:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Agenda Approval with Additions
4. Approval of the 12-28-2022 City Council Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of the 01-11-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
6. Approval of the 01-25-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
7. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Preiner to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye for Items Nos. 3 and 5-7, abstaining from No. 4; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Wagamon – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATION

8. Public Open Forum

No participation.

9. Running Aces Hotel Liquor License

Preiner opened the Public Hearing for Running Aces' liquor license at 6:04 p.m.

Griffith said that Running Aces has had no reported complaints or violations and the license is recommended for approval with conditions mirroring the license from 2022. Mursko said that expiration dates in the memo were updated from February 24, 2024, to March 31, 2024, since City ordinance stipulates that all liquor licenses expire on March 31 of each year. Since Running Aces' current license expires February 24, 2023, the Council is able to grant a 13 month permit to get the permit to align with City Code.

Bedessem of Running Aces said his company does all it can to ensure a safe and secure environment for patrons and staff.

Preiner closed the Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m.

Motion by Preiner to approve Running Aces Hotel’s on-site “on sale intoxicating,” “Sunday” and “2 a.m.” liquor licenses subject to City Staff memo dated February 22, 2023, per Conditions 1-9, terminating on March 31, 2024. Seconded by Busch.

Hegland asked if the license expired on March 31 or May 31. Mursko confirmed that the permit will expire March 31, 2024.

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

North Metro Harness Initiative, LLC DBA Running Aces Casino, Hotel & Racetrack License for an On-Sale Intoxicating, Sunday Liquor Sales and Optional 2 a.m. Conditions:

1. The license is for the clearly defined Licensed Premises as submitted in the diagrams in Exhibit A (areas identified as A1: Running Aces first floor; A2: Outdoor Apron; A3: Fenced Grassy Area; A4: Trout Pond; A5: Hotel; and A6: Finish Line Plaza) (collectively, the “Licensed Premises”), including gated entrance and exits with security personnel at each such entrance/exit during times when liquor service is available.
2. NMHI must continue to meet all additional liquor license conditions set forth in the City Code, Section 4-517.
3. There will be no alcohol allowed on the grounds anywhere outside the Licensed Premises, unless otherwise permitted by a catering license.
4. The President and CEO of NMHI or its food and beverage manager must certify that: 1) all personnel associated with dispensing or serving alcoholic beverages; and 2) all security personnel posted at gated entrances and exits be trained using an alcohol services training program, which must consist of Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS); Alcohol Liability Education Training (ALE); or Selling Alcohol Legally, Effectively, and Safely (S.A.L.E.S.).
5. This license is subject to compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations, including without limitation, licensing regulations or restaurant operations, gambling operators and concessions
6. Quarterly utility payments must be made in a timely manner.
7. NMHI must adequately fence and secure all exterior areas of the Licensed Premises where liquor sales and consumption will be allowed.
8. NMHI will ensure that all areas of the Licensed Premises, including outdoors, will be monitored by surveillance cameras during the hours in which alcoholic beverages are served.
9. NMHI will provide adequate security personnel as dictated by conditions. Current staffing levels will be monitored and increased if necessary.

10. Planning Commission Report

Hanegraaf reported on the February 15, 2023, Planning Commission meeting, sharing that the discussion pertained to the commercial pet and small animal moratorium study and potential amendments to the City Code that may be suggested based on the results. Hanegraaf said the result of the discussion is a Joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting has been scheduled for March 1, 2023.

11. Coon Creek Watershed

Preiner shared that two board members from the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) are resigning. Preiner proposed promoting the vacancy to Columbus residents living in the CCWD territory.

Hegland asked if the City would follow the same process for recruiting and recommending appointments to Anoka County as it did with the Rice Creek Watershed District vacancy. Mursko confirmed that would be the case, as the City Council's recommendations are added to a list with other municipalities' recommendations, and if that list reaches three or more names, the County is obligated to appoint from that list.

Motion by Preiner to direct City Staff to send out notices to the Coon Creek Watershed property owners in regards to the opening on their watershed board. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Wagamon – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

12. 2023 Recycling Flyer

Preiner pointed the City Council's attention to the 2023 recycling flier. Busch asked Mursko if the City or County still offered large composting bins. Mursko said she could check with Deputy Clerk Lorie Spangler. Wagamon said a picture of a refrigerator is included in the flier, but didn't know if that type of device would be able to be recycled. Mursko said this is another topic she can discuss with Spangler. Hanegraaf said large and small devices with and without freon may be recycled and felt fridges would fall within one of those listings.

Hegland asked if locations and dates of remaining Fix-It Clinics could be included in the flier. Mursko said she could ask Spangler to include a line to reference the list provided on the City's website for nearby clinics.

Motion by Preiner to approve the recycling flier as presented with the addition of Fix-It Clinic dates. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Wagamon – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

13. Engineer Report

No report.

14. Attorney Report

Griffith shared that good discussions are taking place at the State Capitol with authors for permanent small city transportation funding, including the House Chair of the Transportation Committee, Representative Frank Hornstein, and Representative Jeff Brand.

Griffith continued, sharing that any City Councilmember that signs up to attend the League of Minnesota Cities "Day on the Hill" event on March 9 are welcome to attend the event and would have the opportunity to meet with legislators and the City Attorney's office.

The mayor and all four councilmembers expressed interest in attending the LMC event.

15. Mayor & City Councilmembers' Report

Hanegraaf shared that he, Preiner and Mursko had met with Lt. Jessica Slavik, Columbus' liaison with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, to discuss the City's police contract with the sheriff's office. Hegland asked if some of the crime statistics Slavik shared could be posted to the website.

Hegland said the Personnel Committee met on February 21, 2023, to interview Judy Huntosh for positions on the Economic Development Authority and Planning Commission. With a history of serving for 18 years on their EDA and being a prior business owner while living in Forest Lake, the Committee is recommending Huntosh's appointment to both bodies.

Motion by Hegland to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to appoint Judy Huntosh to the Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2025. Seconded by Wagamon.

Wagamon echoed Hegland's sentiments that the City is fortunate to have to opportunity to add someone like Huntosh with her level of experience.

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

Motion by Hegland to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation and appoint Judy Huntosh to the Economic Development Authority, filling an existing term previously held by Bob Berens ending December 31, 2023. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Wagamon – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Mursko said that if Huntosh's schedule permits her to join the Planning Commission in March, a motion would be necessary to allow Hanegraaf to fulfill the remaining time in his extended term as Planning Commission Chair. Huntosh said she would be available for the Planning Commission meeting on March 15, 2023.

Motion by Hegland to allow overlap of Hanegraaf's term ending on March 31, 2023, and Huntosh's term beginning on March 15, 2023. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland continued, sharing that two co-chairs have been identified for the Fall Fest Committee. The tentative schedule is a three-day weekend event from September 15-17 with a movie in the park on Friday, the traditional Fall Fest events on Saturday and a Lions Club breakfast on Sunday, and intentions of involving local businesses as sponsors or exhibitors.

Busch reported on the ribbon cutting at Street Smart, sharing that the entire Council was there for the event in the new facility.

16. Public Works Report

No report.

17. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

18. City Administrator's Report

Mursko said that the land sale general fund allocation interfund discussion will be tabled to the City Council's next meeting on March 8, 2023.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- City Council & Planning Commission Joint Meeting 03-01-2023 at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting 03-08-2023 at 6 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting 03-15-2023
- Calendar of Meetings

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator