

City of Columbus  
Regular City Council Meeting

March 8, 2023

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Address:

Myron + Cindy Angel 14048 Fierman St NE

BARB BOBICK 8444 140TH

Multiple horizontal lines for additional entries.

**City of Columbus**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Alternative Meeting Format**  
**MN Statute, Section 13D.021**  
**03.08.2023**

The 03.08.23 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6 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 Bill Griffith, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, Public Communication Coordinator Connor Keith and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

Also in attendance: Deputy Donna Adrian, Cindy Angel, Myron Angel, Planning Commissioner Barb Bobick, Sgt. Andrew Lindberg, Lt. Jessica Slavik, Sheriff Brad Wise, Deputy Chris Yantos and +1-651-353-7482 (via phone)

**A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

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

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

3. Agenda Approval with Additions
4. Approval of the 02-08-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
5. Pay Bills as Posted

**Motion by Hegland to approve the Consent Agenda Nos. 3-5. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.**

**C. PRESENTATION**

6. Public Open Forum

No participation.

7. Anoka County Sheriff's Office

Lt. Slavik presented to the City Council to introduce herself as the Anoka County Sheriff's Office's (ACSO) liaison to the City, provide a City crime update and introduce other members of the ACSO.

Columbus has had 413 calls thus far in 2023, 81 higher than this point in 2022. ACSO deputies have responded to 11 thefts and no burglaries. Automobile crashes are down in the City from this point last year and the pace set in November and December 2022, as deputies have responded to 29 automobile crashes thus far in 2023, only three of which caused injuries. ACSO deputies made 11 custodial arrests and 218 traffic stops, 29 of which resulted in traffic violations and one DWI arrest.

Wagamon asked about crime rates on Hornsby Street. Slavik said she didn't have many instances of crime in that area, but that she would keep on statistics in the area and would advise deputies to stay alert in that area. Hanegraaf asked if traffic stops are included in the calls totals. Slavik said those numbers are kept separate. Wagamon asked why the City had experienced 81 more calls than this point

in 2022. Slavik said not all calls into 911 are crime related and that the increase might be as simple as an increase in the population or the addition of new businesses.

Slavik continued, sharing three calls of significance to portray the types of activities ACSO was involved with in Columbus, as well as introducing Deputies Adrian and Yantos as Columbus' deputies, Sgt. Lindberg as a patrol sergeant and shift supervisor, and Sheriff Wise, who provided an update on the ACSO.

#### **8. Planning Commission Report**

No report due to the March 1, 2023, Planning Commission meeting being joint with the City Council.

### **D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS**

#### **9. Engineer Report**

No report.

#### **10. Attorney Report**

Griffith prepped the City Council with the agenda for their participation in League of Minnesota Cities' "Cities at the Hill" event, which included meetings with Senator Mike Kreun and Representative Nolan West, Columbus' representatives in the State legislative bodies, as well as Representative Jeff Brand and Senators John Jasinski, Bonnie Westlin and Kelly Morrison. Griffith also shared the packet the City Attorneys have been utilizing to promote bills for one-time (HF2600) and permanent transportation funding.

Hegland voiced support for continuing talks with state representatives to alter the fiscal disparities formula and asked the rest of the Council if it was interested in commissioning research regarding how Columbus is limited in its ability to impact its return from the fiscal disparity formula. Griffith said while the focus is on the more likely approval of permanent transportation funding, the Council is encouraged to speak with its legislators about any topics. Wagamon agreed with Hegland that Staff should research fiscal disparity impacts on Columbus and its inability to turn itself from a "net loser" into a "net gainer," as well as identify Cities in similar situations. Mursko said she would request an estimate for conducting this type of research.

#### **11. Mayor & City Councilmembers' Report**

Hegland reported on behalf of the Park Board, sharing work is continuing on the Park Master Plan. Hegland said Anoka County is requesting feedback from the public for their Long Range Plan for Coon Lake Regional Park, which the Park Board will reference while working on its own Master Plan as a way to utilize other offerings in the area and be a positive addition to area amenities by either offering different options or connecting to them.

#### **12. Public Works Report**

No report.

### 13. Public Communications Coordinator Report

Keith reported that work is coming to a conclusion on the first newsletter of the year, with only two articles left to write. Hegland asked if a schedule for Council Corner and Planning Commission Liaison duties had been drafted. Keith confirmed that both schedules were complete and were awaiting final approval before distribution. Mursko reminded the City Council that the March 15, 2023, Planning Commission is a joint meeting with City Council to discuss commercial building standards.

### 14. City Administrator's Report

Mursko provided a preview of the money allocations from the Running Aces land sale, sharing that the City may need to invest at least a portion of the funds into information technology security.

#### E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- City Council LMC City on the Hill Event 03-09-2023
- City Council Workshop Meeting 03-14-2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- Joint Planning Commission & City Council Meeting 03-15-2023 at 6 p.m.
- ColumBiz Event 03-23-2023 8-10 a.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

#### F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

*Connor Keith*

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator