City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
March 22, 2023

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:
Myron & Cindy Angel	14048 Furman St NE
Joshua Reyes	901 Washington Ave Minneapolis MN
Carter Lucas	1134 9th Ave S. South St. Paul
DEAN DALLY	150XX # HORNSBY
I WAIVE I DALLY	150XX E HORNSBY COLUMBIA

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
03.22.2023

The 03.22.23 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 (via teleconference), Public Communication Coordinator Connor Keith and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

Also in attendance: Cindy Angel, Myron Angel, *Cell1* (via teleconference), Dean Dally, Tucker Dally, Joshua Heinz, Carter Lucas and +1 651-353-7482

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 02-22-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
   5. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Hegland to approve the Consent Agenda Nos. 3-5 with some minor edits that were submitted on the City Council meeting minutes. 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. Planning Commission Report

No report due to the March 15, 2023, Planning Commission Meeting being joint with City Council.

   8. Final Plat “Bonfire Farmstead” Approval

Mursko presented to the Council a final plat application that was received for Bonfire Farmstead. With no changes since the preliminary plat, City Staff is recommending the application’s approval subject to title review, which was included in the agenda packet, and a development agreement which will be discussed with the applicant at the next City Staff meeting.

Motion by Preiner to approve the final plat for the Bonfire Farmstead, subject to title review conditions and the development agreement. Seconded by Wagamon.

Hegland asked if the Council gets to approve the development agreement, which Mursko confirmed was the case.

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

Bonfire Farmstead Title Review Conditions:

1. The legal description for the Property on the Final Plat does appear to match the legal description on the Commitment. Applicant must either amend the documents to provide identical legal descriptions in the Commitment and Final Plat or provide written assurance from a licensed surveyor that the legal description on the Commitment describes the identical portion of land described on the Final Plat.
2. Any party having an interest in the Property must sign or consent to the Plat.
3. Any levied or pending special assessments, penalties and interest for the Property which are due and payable in 2023 must be paid prior to, or contemporaneously with, the recording of the Final Plat. This shall include any taxes, assessments, penalties and interest that may become due as part of the Green Acres tax deferment program, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 273.11.
4. The Billboard owner must provide a written recordable consent to the easements prior to recording the Final Plat.
5. The development agreement must be signed by the Applicant prior to release and recording of the Final Plat.
6. Applicant must reimburse the City for any outstanding Expenses incurred to date prior to release of the Final Plat.

D. **STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS**

9. Engineer Report

Bittner presented to Council, summarizing updates to the speed limit policy based on discussion had at the City Council Workshop Meeting on March 14, 2023, and noting that the Council had yet to reach a consensus on the speed for Furman Street south of 144th Avenue to the southern City border. Hegland felt that the speed limit on Crossways Lake Drive/Furman Street needs to be addressed, and that she had talked to residents in the area that voiced support for making the road's speed limit the same for its entire duration from the City border to Lake Drive. Hegland also felt offshoots from Crossways Lake Drive/Furman Street should reflect that change.

Preiner asked Windingstad for a cost estimate for signage. Windingstad said signing all gravel roads would cost approximately $4,500. Windingstad asked if the Council intends to sign all roads in Columbus or only those that have been discussed during the speed study. Hegland voiced support for signing the entire City, but staggering implementation over the course of a few years and signing blocks of the City together until the project is complete. Wagamon agreed that the initial focus should be the streets included in the study, but that she was not opposed to Hegland's suggestion of blocks throughout the community. Windingstad said posting signage for the roads listed in the speed study and all the City's gravel roads would be a year's worth of work and would likely utilize most of the year's entire sign

budget, but adding the approximately 15 signs the Council was discussing shouldn't exceed the budget and leaves money leftover for potential replacements for damaged signs.

Wagamon asked if the Council had reached a consensus on the Crossways Lake Drive/Furman Street speed limit and if the side streets off those roads would also be signed. Hegland felt all speed limits should be posted at 30 mph and all side roads would be signed to reflect that change. Bittner asked the Council if it wanted to sign side streets off roads that were included in the speed study. Hegland supported following the same procedure and signing these streets like the ones off Crossways Lake Drive/Furman Street. Busch agreed with Hegland, but felt the roads in the study should be prioritized over Crossways Lake Drive/Furman Street.

Bittner recommended a 30-mph speed limit for 172nd Avenue and Willamette Street.

Mursko asked if the speed study included a recommended procedure for implementation of the new speed policy. Bittner said there is not an implementation policy beyond these initial recommendations.

Motion by Hegland to direct the City Engineer to come back with an implementation plan for the subsequent phases of this policy and to accept the recommendations of the Engineer as outlined in his March 9, 2023, memo with the following modifications: that Crossways Lake Drive, Furman Street and all intersecting side roads be signed at 30 mph; that Camp 3 Road as noted would be 40 mph but the gravel portion be 30 mph; that Furman Street NE from Broadway Avenue to 165th Avenue would be 30 mph; that all gravel roads in the City would be signed at 30 mph; that Notre Dame Street would be signed as noted with the side roads of 172nd Avenue signed at 30 mph; that side roads of Willamette Street off of Camp 3 Road would be signed at 30 mph.

Wagamon amended Hegland's motion to include that Notre Dame Street's speed limit be changed from 50 mph to 40 mph from Kettle River Boulevard to Broadway Avenue. Hegland accepted the amendment. Seconded by Busch.

Bittner requested clarification regarding Furman Street's proposed speed limit, as his recommendation was to set the speed limit at 40 mph from Broadway Avenue to 169th Avenue and 30 mph on the gravel segment from 169th Avenue to 165th Avenue. Busch asked what the driving surface of the 40 mph zone is. Bittner confirmed it was paved bituminous.

Hegland amended her motion to reflect Bittner's recommendation regarding Furman Street's speed limit.

Mursko asked if the speed study sets the policy and if the implementation plan was to set speed limits or determining a plan to decide which roads were to be signed. Bittner said the policy provides the procedure for Council to decide what speed limits to set. Griffith clarified that the policy includes the implementation plan and the first phase, which the City Council has accepted and modified. Later documents will be a further implementation plan.

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

10. Attorney Report

Griffith said he had been asked to review the memorandum of understanding that was drafted in 2009 pertaining to different simultaneous projects by Rice Creed Watershed District, Washington County, the DNR and the City to determine how the City formalizes its request for promised wetland credits. Griffith recommended the Council direct him to compose a letter on its behalf addressing the history of this understanding to formally request three banked wetland credits and request time in front of the board for the City to argue its case.

Motion by Hegland to direct the City Attorney to request time to address the Rice Creek Watershed Board and to draft a formal request for recognition of three wetland credits. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

11. Mayor & City Councilmembers' Report

Busch shared that he attended the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 19, 2023, and that he witnessed a good turnout.

Hegland said she and Preiner attended a Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) Board Meeting to be involved in a discussion pertaining to Anoka County Ditch No. 10-22-32, which has caused flooding issues in the southwestern portion of the City. The discussion pertained to potential remedies, which entities would be responsible for funding them and how further development along Lake Drive is impacting the problem. The conversation will continue at the next RCWD Board Meeting, scheduled for April 26, 2023, at 9 a.m. at Shoreview City Hall.

Busch reported that he and much of the City Council attended the League of Minnesota Cities "City on the Hill" event on March 9, 2023, to learn about bills in the state legislature that may have impacts on Cities and had the opportunity to talk to both of its representatives about issues facing the City that the state could play a part in.

Reporting on behalf of the Personnel Committee, Wagamon said that the committee is recommending hiring Aaron Lewicki for the Code Compliance Inspector position.

Motion by Wagamon to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to extend an offer of employment to Mr. Lewicki for the full-time position of the Code Compliance Inspector; starting pay would be at Step 2 and starting date is still being discussed. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch – nay; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Wagamon continued, sharing that the City Council accepted Ella Giefer's resignation from the Planning and Zoning Tech position on March 15, 2023, after her last day on March 10. The Personnel Committee has since updated the position's description, which requires approval by Council.

Motion by Busch to approve the Planning Technician job description. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

12. Public Works Report

Windingstad shared an update on the road grader ordered last April, saying it is currently scheduled to be delivered in September.

Windingstad continued, pointing the Council to the proposed Utility Bill Adjustment Policy that requires approval.

Motion by Hegland to approve the Utility Bill Adjustment Policy 23-03 as presented. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Windingstad continued, sharing an email he received from the Park Board regarding lighting in Columbus City Park. With the park currently closed from dusk till dawn, Windingstad asked the Council if this was a project it would be interested in pursuing. Hegland said this has been a topic of discussion for a few years and that it has resurfaced while the Board is working on an updated Park Master Plan.

13. Public Communications Coordinator Report

Keith shared that the City received no applications for nomination to the Coon Creek Watershed Board.

14. City Administrator's Report

Pointing the Council to a memo in their packet regarding financial fraud prevention, Mursko recommended the City enroll in Positive Pay and Positive Payee Pay services through Wells Fargo, the City's bank. Costs incurred by the program vary, as it is dependent on the number of checks cut.

Motion by Preiner to approve the City's enrollment in the Positive Pay and Positive Payee Fraud Protection Services with Wells Fargo Bank for the City's checking account. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner - aye. Motion carries.

Mursko continued, detailing the schedule of the ColumBiz event taking place the morning of March 23, 2023.

E. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

- ColumBiz Event 03-23-2023 from 8-10 a.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting 04-05-2023 at 6 p.m.
- City Council Workshop Meeting 04-11-2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- City Council Meeting 04-12-2023 at 6 p.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator