

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
08.09.2023

The 08.09.23 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Rob Busch, Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland and Sue Wagamon; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko (via teleconference), City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, Public Communication Coordinator Connor Keith and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

Also in attendance: Dave Povolny

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 6:09 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Agenda Approval with Additions
4. Approval of the 06-28-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of the 07-12-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
6. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Hegland to approve Consent Agenda items Nos. 3- 6 with the minor edits submitted on the two sets of meeting minutes. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATION

7. Public Open Forum

No participation.

8. Planning Commission Report

Mursko advised that the discussion regarding Residentially Zoned Businesses will continue during a September Planning Commission meeting and that the next meeting will feature a Public Hearing for the pool ordinance.

Turning to Ordinance 23-02, Busch informed the Council of his discussion with City Planner Dean Johnson regarding standing seam siding, which is currently drafted to be prohibited but that Busch is advocating for permitting through the Planned Use Development (PUD) process. Griffith advised that if the Council wanted to allow standing seam siding via PUD, the ordinance should be edited to indicate that change.

Hegland asked if the ordinance should reflect Busch’s proposal or if standing seam siding would be listed as an approved material up to a certain percentage of the building. Griffith recommended following Busch’s PUD proposal, which could include the percentage stipulation. Busch suggested imposing a 20-25 percent limitation to standing seam siding being used as an accent material. Hegland agreed with Busch on the 20 percent limitation.

Motion by Hegland to adopt Ordinance 23-02 amending Chapter 7A Commercial Design Standards with the edits regarding standing seam as discussed. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to adopt Ordinance 23-02 amending Chapter 7A Commercial Design Standards Publication Summary as presented. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

9. Columbus Policy 23-02 Building Permit Retention

Motion by Preiner to approve Columbus Policy 04-02 Building Permit Retention as amended subject to non-substantive changes by City Staff. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

10. Columbus Policy 09-04 Petty Cash

Motion by Preiner to approve Columbus Policy 09-04 Petty Cash as amended subject to non-substantive changes by City Staff. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

11. ~~Kettle Kove Final Plat~~

12. Approve Lakes Center for Youth & Families Excluded Bingo Premise Request

Hegland explained that Lake Center for Youth & Families has applied for an excluded bingo premise permit to conduct bingo at the Fall Fest. The Bingo Hall would operate from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, September 16, 2023, in the Columbus Fire Hall.

Motion by Hegland to approve Resolution 23-10 approving Lake Center for Youth & Families Excluded Bingo Premise Permit at 16319 Kettle River Blvd. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

13. Engineer Report

Bittner reminded the Council of the Water System Study proposed at the City Council Workshop Meeting the previous night. The goal of the study would be for the results to guide the City’s water plans for the future.

Motion by Hegland to approve the proposal for Water Treatment System Study as presented in the August 8, 2023, memo to Administrator Mursko and drafted by Bolton & Menk in an amount not to exceed \$35,900. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Bittner continued, shifting to a public utilities project on Running Aces Boulevard and 147th Avenue in anticipation of a larger pavement preservation project in the same area in 2024. The curb over the utility lines is sinking, water is pooling on the roadway and a manhole cover is sitting too high above the street. Bittner estimated the cost of this year's project to be approximately \$45,000. Hegland asked what Bittner hypothesized is the reason for this road's problems. Bittner said it is likely a combination of the age of the pavement, unanticipated wear on the road and even potential structural problems.

Motion by Hegland to approve the project presented by the City Engineer for Zurich Street and 147th Avenue to repair the curb, manhole and stormwater drain in preparation for a bigger pavement preservation project next year and authorize the City Engineer to go out to bid for the project. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

14. Attorney Report

Griffith pointed the Council to a proposed ordinance regulating the use of cannabis in public spaces as a public nuisance, explaining the defined unenclosed areas where smoking marijuana would be prohibited include recreational areas, service areas, places of employment and a smoke-free 25-foot buffer around those places. The City cannot prohibit the use of cannabis in a private residence, on private property that is not open to the public or within the premises of an establishment licensed for that type of consumption.

Motion by Preiner to adopt Ordinance 23-06 regulating the use of cannabis in public places as presented. Seconded by Hegland.

Wagamon asked if the City is going to ban cannabis smoking at a business like Running Aces that has a liquor license, if that business would have a way to be permitted smoking licenses. Griffith said that answer will likely be determined during the moratorium but said that businesses that attain the appropriate license(s) for cannabis use from the state will be exempted from the ordinance.

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

Griffith continued, sharing that the proposed moratorium regarding marijuana smoking requires a public hearing before it may be enacted.

Motion by Preiner to call for a public hearing regarding Ordinance 23-07, an interim ordinance authorizing a study and imposing a moratorium on the operations of cannabis business with the City of Columbus as presented. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

15. Mayor & City Councilmembers' Report

Hegland asked if the Council shared her opinion on the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) Board's letter declining the City's requested wetland credits, sharing that she was ready to let the issue go for now despite the inaccuracies in the most recent correspondence. Griffith said that Staff recommendation is to let RCWD's letter be the last correspondence for the time being.

Turning to the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO), Hegland shared that the Mayor Ham Lake has agreed to rejoin the SRWMO board, so she is hopeful that the board can resume negotiations on the funding formula.

Hanegraaf shared that he attended the whippet races on August 6, 2023, at the Hearly residence.

16. Public Works Report

No report.

17. Public Communications Coordinator Report

Keith shared that the City did not receive notification of any Columbus residents applying to the vacancy on the Coon Creek Watershed District Board and that the newsletter is on track to be published in late August or early September as intended.

18. City Administrator's Report

Mursko shared that the owner of the junk vehicles on Iverson Street appeared in court recently and plead guilty to the charges. He has until October 27, 2023, to resolve the junk vehicles on the property at risk of jail time. Mursko said Code Compliance Inspector Sean Lessard will keep tabs on the property to ensure the cleaning timeline is kept.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Planning Commission Meeting August 16, 2023, at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting August 23, 2023, at 6 p.m.
- City Council & Planning Commission Joint Meeting September 6, 2023, at 6 p.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator
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City Council
August 9, 2023