

**City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
October 26, 2016**

The October 26, 2016 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Denny Peterson, Mark Daly, Jeff Duraine and Bill Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Attorney Bill Griffith, Engineer Dennis Postler, Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad, and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also in attendance were: Jody Krebs, Pat & Mary Preiner, Kris King, Paul Peskar, Teri Hodges – LATV, Paul Ringnell – Forest Lake Times, Wayne Gillitzer, Thomas Look, Jesse Rossler.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call To Order - Regular Meeting – 7:02 P.M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Motion - Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes 10/12/16
4. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions
5. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted
6. Motion – Approval of the Hennepin Technical College 2017 OSHA Training Contract
7. Motion – Approval of the Minnesota Public Employees Insurance Program 2017 Group application

There were no additions to the consent agenda.

**Motion by Daly to approve the consent agenda items 3-7. Seconded by Peterson.
Motion carried unanimously.**

C. PRESENTATIONS

8. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

James Watson presented the Planning Commission Report. The planning commission had 3 topics to discuss with the Council.

190th Lane (Vacant Lot PIN#30-32-22-34-0035) Variance Request

The Planning Commission held a public hearing to receive testimony regarding a vacant lot on 190th Lane in Columbus. This property has one building site. The property owners are planning to build a home on this site. However, the DNR's ordinary high water level line is within 45 feet of the building site, and the current shore land ordinance requires 75 feet between a structure and the high water level (OHWL-904.7) line. The Planning Commission is recommending that the Council grant the property owners a variance to build a home 45 feet from the ordinary high water level (OHWL-904.7) line. Council member Krebs stated that he visited the property and it is his belief that the Council should grant the variance.

Motion by Krebs to approve (PC-16-126) variance request for 190th Lane (Vacant Lot PIN#30-33-22-34-0035) from the 75-foot required shore land setback from the ordinary high water level (OHWL-904.7) line to a 45-foot shore land setback to build a home. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Storage Question

The Planning Commission is asking for direction from the City Council on certain storage units that are being used around the City. The type of storage unit is called a Conex. The Planning Commission is asking whether or not this type of storage unit should be allowed in Columbus, and if it is to be allowed; for how long, in what area of the property, etc. The Council discussed concerns with the unit's color(s) as well as the number of units stored on a property. The consensus was that such storage units must be a color that is harmonious with surrounding structures, not have any logos, must be stored behind a person's house, and lastly, a property owner is permitted 1 storage unit on 5 acres or less, and 1 additional unit for each additional 5 acres. City Attorney Bill Griffith will draft an Ordinance reflecting this consensus to present to the Council at a later date.

Drainage Plans for Accessory Buildings and/or Impervious Surfaces

The Planning Commission is asking the City Council for direction on whether or not drainage plans should be a requirement when adding accessory buildings or impervious surfaces to a property. This question was raised because a structure placed relatively close to the property line could affect the drainage of a neighboring property (per City Ordinance, all structures or surfaces on one's property must be set back at least 20' from the property line). At the moment, Columbus does not require drainage plans for such occasions. City Attorney Bill Griffith commented that it is Minnesota State Statute that a person cannot alter their property in such a way that affects the drainage of a neighboring property. The Council discussed that by requiring a drainage plan, the cost of building a new structure or surface would increase. City Engineer Dennis Postler noted that obtaining a drainage plan could cost between \$500 and \$1500, depending on complexity of the situation. The Council came to a consensus that they do not want to require a drainage plan for accessory buildings or impervious surfaces. However, they also stated that during the approval process the City of Columbus should take extra care to make sure the property owner understands that it is against Minnesota State Statute to alter one's property in such a way that the drainage of a neighboring property is affected.

9. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

No report.

10. RICE CREEK WATERSHED APPOINTMENT LETTER

The City of Columbus received notification from the Rice Creek Watershed District that a position on the Board of Managers is now open, as Patricia Preiner's term is up. City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko stated that Mrs. Preiner is interested in running for the position

again. The City Council agreed send a letter to the Rice Creek Watershed District showing their support for Mrs. Preiner's appointment.

Motion by Peterson to draft a letter to the Rice Creek Watershed District showing the City Council's support for Patricia Preiner to seek another term with the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers. Seconded by Krebs. Motion carried unanimously.

11. BUSINESS DISTRICT SIGN PETITION

The City received a petition (dated October 13, 2016) for the installation of a sign at the intersection of Hwy 97 and Hornsby and the intersection of Hornsby and 152nd Ave directing traffic to their businesses. They are also asking for a light on the intersection of Hwy 97 and Hornsby. The petition was raised because business owners have found it can be difficult for customers to locate the Business District due to a lack of signage and lighting. The Council agreed to allow Business District wayfinding signage, however the City will not pay for it. In addition, the City Council agreed they will not pay for the light. City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko will draft a letter to the petitioners relaying this decision.

D. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS

12. ENGINEER REPORT

Amended Resolution 16-19 (change in PH date)

City Engineer Dennis Postler is requesting an amendment to Resolution 16-19, which is receiving a report and calling a Public Hearing for the improvement of 159th Avenue and Xingu Street from Kettle River Boulevard to 162nd Avenue (City Project 2017-1). The amendment would extend the date for the report and Public Hearing by two weeks, from October 26th to November 9th.

Motion by Krebs to accept Amended Resolution 16-19, changing the Public Hearing date from October 26th to November 9th. Seconded by Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

County 54 Trail Questions

Anoka County is requesting direction on a question regarding the addition of a sidewalk to the west of the new CSAH 54 (West Freeway Drive). The County has suggested that the trail should begin at a gravel access road for Running Aces, and the Council agreed this would be a good location. The council also discussed what the name of the new CSAH 54 would be. The new CSAH 54 will eventually meet with the old CSAH 54, and the County is wondering how these two roads should be named going forward. The Council agreed that the new CSAH 54 should keep the name CSAH 54 (West Freeway Drive) and the old CSAH 54 will be given a new name.

13. ATTORNEY REPORT

Heidelberg Street

City Attorney Bill Griffith introduced a discussion about Heidelberg Street. There has been a question regarding a gate on a property on Heidelberg Street, as to whether or not the gate was on public or private property and thus who should be responsible for maintenance. After some research, Griffith discovered that Heidelberg Street itself is private, not a public road. Also, there is an existing maintenance agreement between the property owners on that street. Jim Windingstad stated that the only maintenance that has been done on the road is plowing during the winter. Griffith commented that the City can either continue to maintain the road through a statutory user agreement, or stop maintaining the road all together. The owner of the property with the aforementioned gate, Wayne Gillitzer, spoke to the Council and stated that if the City would like to continue maintaining the street, he would like them to find a different location to pile snow up and turn around. In the end, the City Council decided that they would not like to continue maintaining the road, and Wayne Gillitzer expressed his approval with this decision.

Motion by Krebs to send notice and background information to adjoining property owners that Heidelberg street is a private driveway and will no longer be maintained by the City. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously.

14. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

Council Member Krebs

No report.

Council Member Duraine

No report.

Council Member Daly

Council Member Daly attended the most recent Park Board meeting and reported that they are working on a new chain-link fencing being put in at Columbus Park.

Council Member Peterson

On Tuesday October 25th Council Member Peterson attended the carp barrier dedication on Martin and Typo Lakes. He mentioned that the City of Linwood will be covering all maintenance costs for the barriers.

Mayor Povolny

No report.

16. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

No Report.

17. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko reported that early/absentee voting is well underway, and Columbus has had good turnout. The City has processed roughly 140 absentee ballots, and expects a large crowd on Election Day. In addition, the City will be open for voting on Saturday November 5th from 10:00am – 3:00pm, and an extra hour (from 4:00-5:00pm) on Monday November 7th.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts:	\$	5,332.70
Disbursements:	\$	74,309.72
Balance:	\$	2,843,354.40

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Planning Commission Meeting 11/02/16
Calendar of Meetings

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Seconded by Daly. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Hughes, Public Communications Coordinator