



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall—Council Chambers, 3989 Central Ave NE
Monday, September 28, 2026
6:00 PM

MINUTES

Mayor
Amada Márquez Simula
Councilmembers
Connie Buesgens
Rachel James
Justice Spriggs
Laurel Deneen
City Manager
Aaron Chirpich

The following are the minutes for the Meeting of the City Council held at 6:00 pm on Monday, September 28, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3989 Central Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Márquez Simula called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Márquez Simula; Councilmember Buesgens; Councilmember Deneen; Councilmember Spriggs; Councilmember James

Also Present: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager; Mitchell Forney, Community Development Director; Jesse Hauf, IT Director; Scott Lepak, City Attorney; Antonia Alvarez Berger, City resident; Isaac Contreras, NAHREP Representative; Selma Dahir, Anoka County Mobile Crisis Clinician; Mietek Konczyk, Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) President; Jeremy Marder, Heights Theater General Manager; Dr. Khu Thao, Canvas Health Chief Executive Officer; Leon Wang, Flag Artist.

MISSION STATEMENT

Columbia Heights is a vibrant, healthy, and connected City. We are here to actively support the community, deliver equitable services, build and strengthen connections, improve upon our past, and uphold our successes. We strive to be better and ensure Columbia Heights is a great place for everyone, today and in the future.

A. Columbia Heights City Council and Staff Norms

While we are accountable to each other for these norms, the Mayor and City Manager will help us adhere to them with respectful reminders and reinforcement as needed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember James, to approve the Agenda as presented. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITION, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GUESTS

A. Latine Heritage Month: September 15 – October 15, 2026 Proclamation

Accepting Proclamation: Antonia Alvarez Berger

Mayor Márquez Simula proclaimed September 15, 2026 to October 15, 2026, as Latine Heritage Month and read the City's proclamation.

Antonia Alvarez Berger, City resident, accepted the Proclamation. She explained that she is an organizer with the Latino community. She asked for the name of a Latino leader in the United States. She noted several Latino leaders and explained that Latinos make a significant economic contribution to the Country. She added that Latinos are under attack, which is why people need to continue to organize together.

The Singing Resistance Singers sang a song.

B. We Are Family Flag Presentation

Presenting: Leon Wang

Mayor Márquez Simula stated that Leon Wang created the We Are Family Flag and presented it in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Wang explained that it is an honor to be invited to the meeting. He noted that Ms. Alvarez Berger is a fierce advocate in the community. He explained the artwork for the flag. The reason for choosing the "We Are Family" message is to provide a direct voice for the immigrant and extend it to the greater community.

C. Heights Theater Centennial + Heights Theater Day Proclamation

Accepting Proclamation: Jeremy Marder, Heights Theater General Manager

Mayor Márquez Simula proclaimed October 08, 2026, as Heights Theater Day, and Councilmember Deneen read the City's proclamation. The Heights Theater will celebrate its centennial with eight days of special programming from October 1 through October 8, 2026, culminating with its 100th birthday on October 8, 2026.

Heights Theater General Manager Jeremy Marder expressed his gratitude for how welcoming the community has been to him. He thanked the City for the Proclamation.

D. National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation

Accepting Proclamation: Dr. Khu Thao, Canvas Health Chief Executive Officer, Selma Dahir, Anoka County Mobile Crisis Clinician

Mayor Márquez Simula proclaimed September 2026 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and Councilmember Spriggs read the City's proclamation.

Canvas Health Chief Executive Officer Dr. Khu Thao thanked the City for the Proclamation because it sends a message that mental health is important and that no one should suffer alone. The mission of Canvas Health is to provide hope, healing, and recovery to the individuals they serve. She thanked the City and Police Department for partnering with them. The mobile crisis team operates 24/7 and is open every day of the year, and they have master's level mental health providers who meet people where they are in the community. She added that they provide services online. She emphasized the importance of working together as a community to make an impact.

E. Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10, 2026 Proclamation

Accepting Proclamation: Members of the Columbia Heights Fire Department

Mayor Márquez Simula proclaimed October 4-10, 2026 as Fire Prevention Week, and Councilmember James read the City's proclamation.

The Fire Department accepted the Proclamation and noted that the Open House is on Saturday, October 10th from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.

F. Polish American Heritage Month: October 2026 Proclamation

Accepting Proclamation: Mietek Konczyk

Mayor Márquez Simula proclaimed October 2026 as Polish American Heritage Month, and Councilmember Buesgens read the City's proclamation.

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) President Mietek Konczyk accepted the Proclamation and thanked the City for the recognition. Polish Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the rich history, culture, tradition, and contribution of Polish Americans to the community and Country. The City has been welcoming to people from many backgrounds.

G. Presentation From National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals

Presenting: Isaac Contreras, NAHREP

National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP) Treasurer for the Twin Cities Chapter, Isaac Contreras noted that they are the largest Latino business organization in the United States and represent more than 50,000 real estate practitioners across more than 100 chapters nationwide. He introduced what NAHREP is and who they represent. The US Latino economy represents more than \$4.2 trillion in GDP. Nearly 70% of new homeowners are expected to come from the Latino community. In Minnesota, Hispanic homeownership has grown more than 60% since 2010. More than 50% of the City's residents are Hispanic or Latino. In the fourth quarter of 2025, nearly 28% of all residential purchases in the City were made by Latino homebuyers. He explained that immigrants come to the US for opportunity and a better future. He explained that NAHREP

understands that economics drives policy and noted that they have a direct connection to the families who are defining the next generation of homeowners. He explained that NAHREP would like to be part of discussions as a partner to the City.

CITY COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Report of the City Council

Councilmember James mentioned that she participated in voter registration at Columbia Heights High School and was a candidate for the League of Women Voters Forum. She highlighted the Columbia Heights Homecoming. The Parks Department hosts an Imagine a Park event. She noted that she attended the groundbreaking event at Sullivan Lake Park.

Councilmember Buesgens stated she volunteered with Blooming Sunshine Garden. She added that she attended the candidate forum, the park design meetings, and the Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

Councilmember Deneen noted that she watched the candidate forum. She added that she attended the design a park meeting and door-knocked with some local and State-level campaign teams. Early voting is happening now at the County Center, and early voting at City Hall begins October 16th.

Councilmember Spriggs stated he watched the candidate forum and attended the Multicultural Advisory meeting.

Mayor Márquez Simula stated she attended the Sustainability Commission meeting, the Regional Council of Mayors meeting, and met with Latino community members with the Police Department to help build trust and open conversation. She added that she had coffee with the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Latino. She explained that she attended an election training and had a weekly meeting with the City Manager. She shared that the Heights Theater turns 100 years old. The League of Women Voters School Board Candidate Forum is on Thursday night at 6:00 pm, and a HeightsNext Fall Street Cleanup is on Saturday at 9:00 am starting at the library. Heights Theater has offered a \$3 off coupon for people who come and help clean and will be showing the Pinocchio movie right after the cleanup.

Report of the City Manager

City Manager Chirpich stated that there are a few openings on the Planning Commission and the City is looking for applicants to fill two vacancies. The application deadline is Sunday, October 4th, and interviews with the City Council will be on October 13th. The first Planning Commission meeting will be on November 4th, and applications can be found on the City's website.

City Manager Chirpich noted that the groundbreaking at Sullivan Lake Park occurred and the work has begun. The park is expected to open in late October, and additional park amenities will be coming in the spring of 2027.

City Manager Chirpich stated absentee voting for the November 3rd election began on September 18th. Residents can request an absentee ballot by visiting mnvotes.gov/absentee or by visiting the Anoka County Visitor Center to vote in person. Early voting in City Hall will be available starting October 16th.

8. City Manager Response to September 14, 2026, Community Forum Concerns

City Manager Chirpich mentioned that a resident raised concerns about declining health at Highland Lake within Kordiak Park and identified stormwater runoff as the likely major pollutant and provided the Council with a report discussing several potential stormwater improvements. The report was completed in 2019, and it provided several different improvements that the City could do. The resident had explained a potential solution to a lot of the stormwater runoff. One of the challenges with the suggested solution is that it would be a diversion of water from the lake onto the Minneapolis Waterworks property and would require significant collaboration with Minneapolis. The project references smaller projects that could be embedded into street reconstruction projects within the watershed.

City Manager Chirpich stated a resident spoke about concerns related to the rental density program and identified the block they live on and noted that it was larger than other blocks and asked if the City would consider changing the boundary lines to distribute rental density fairly in the area. The City Attorney provided staff with guidance. He explained how the boundaries are derived and read a portion of the Ordinance. The City Attorney advised not to set a precedent by changing the boundary due to a request by a resident. The resident brought to light something that was not conceived when the map and program were created: having a large block could have a concentration of rentals on one end of it and reach the density cap in one area. Staff is not recommending a change to the boundary.

City Manager Chirpich noted that a resident shared concerns related to semi-trucks and other commercial vehicles parking along various roadways within the street, specifically the Huset Park area. Vehicles are remaining for more than four days, are leaking oil, and are idling at night. There are Ordinances in place about parking duration. Staff is researching what other cities are doing. Staff acknowledges that it is an issue and intends to bring back the issue to the December work session.

City Manager Chirpich stated that there were several residents who expressed opposition related to municipal consent for the general layout of the Central Avenue redevelopment project. There were concerns regarding lane configurations, roundabouts, and business disruptions. The intent of the comments was to get it on the record. The Council approved the general layout for municipal consent. There are going to be more opportunities to work with people who have concerns.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Paul Ramacher, City resident, stated he disagreed with staff's recommendation not to split the block for the rental density. He explained that he has been a resident in the area for years, whereas City staff and the City Attorney do not know the area. He proposed splitting the block into 32 houses. There have been about five houses that have gone up for sale, and only one of them is not a rental. The neighborhood is overcrowded with rental properties, and there is no parking in the area. He explained that the boundary lines need to have common sense. He asked the Council if they would want to have a neighbor who cuts down trees to put in parking for the residents in the rental property, or a neighbor who does not mow the lawn and requires the City to be contacted, or a neighbor with 10 to 20 residents in the home plus all of the vehicles, or have a neighbor who parks vehicles in the yard, or

have a neighbor who throws late-night parties. He noted that the Council has an opportunity to make it better. He asked the Council to listen to the residents who live in the community. He asked the Council to make a vote on the item.

Mayor Márquez Simula explained that the Council would not be able to take a vote during the meeting because it needs to be posted for three days and researched by staff. Mr. Ramacher asked what the next steps were. Mayor Márquez Simula replied that staff would provide follow-up information at the next Council meeting. Mr. Ramacher mentioned that a Councilmember put the item on an agenda for a work session. City Manager Chirpich replied that the next two work sessions are dedicated to budget review and the next regular work session is in December. He explained that policy change flows through the work session. If the Council is interested in taking the item further and considering it, they will get it into the workflow. The last time there was a discussion on density caps, the Council had a conversation about expanding the percentage.

Mr. Ramacher emphasized the need for a resolution for the issue.

Doug Jones, City resident, shared photos with the Council. He stated he has been involved with the water quality on Silver Lake for many years. This summer he worked in conjunction with the Rice Creek Watershed to move 14,685 carp. There is a real problem on Silver Lake. Three years ago, milfoil was introduced to the lake, and 15% of the lake was treated, but it had no impact on the lake. The next year, 100% of the lake was treated, and the milfoil was eliminated. The residents paid for the cost of the treatment in conjunction with some funds from the City, Anoka County, and St. Anthony. The lake has been in terrible shape this summer because of the carp. He noted that they are hoping to remove the curly leaf pondweed and other invasive species next year. The water quality committee has been introducing native plants that were approved by the DNR and will be planted next year. The carp have been detrimental because they eat the roots of the native plants. The DNR has blocked a way for carp to get into the pond area to lay their eggs. By doing so, the carp will lay eggs in the lake, and sunfish will help keep the carp population under control by eating the eggs. He asked the Council to include \$3,000 in the budget for the Lake Association to use to treat the lake. He requested that the City install one or two weirs on the lake because the water from Prestemon Park is not treated. He noted drainage sites that drain untreated water into Silver Lake and explained that the weirs would make a huge improvement to the quality of Silver Lake.

City Manager Chirpich explained that all of the lakes are being looked at and the Council had a brief discussion about participating in these kinds of projects and who to collaborate with.

Sheryl Brown, City resident, thanked the Council for the work they do. She expressed her concern about people being able to vote safely without fear or intimidation. She added that she is concerned about whether local officials and law enforcement have thought about or trained for any adverse scenarios that may arise on November 3rd or after. She asked if there were plans in place for City officials and police to work with County officials and sheriffs if any safety concerns arise at the polls.

Mayor Márquez Simula replied that Ms. Brown's concern is on the City's radar and election staff are aware. She encouraged people to vote early and noted that the election judges are well trained.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Márquez Simula requested that agenda Item 7, "Adoption of Resolution 2026-057, Designating Election Judge Salaries and Election Judges for the November 3, 2026, General Election," be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Deneen, seconded by Councilmember Spriggs, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with Item 7 removed for further discussion. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

1. Approve September 8, 2026, City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to approve the September 8, 2026, City Council Work Session meeting minutes.

2. Approve August 24, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to approve the August 24, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

3. Award Replacement of the Digital Sign at Top Valu II Liquor Store to Albrecht Sign Company, Not To Exceed \$50,000

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to award replacement of the digital sign at Top Valu II Liquor Store to Albrecht Sign Company, not to exceed \$50,000.

4. Laserfiche Software License Renewal

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to approve the three-year renewal of Laserfiche software licensing through OPG-3, Inc., with annual increases of 3%, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

5. Adopt Resolution 2026-061, Approving LELS Captain and Deputy Chief Labor Agreement

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich / City Manager

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-061, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-061, approving LELS Captain and Deputy Chief Labor Agreement.

6. Renewal of Canvas Health Social Worker Contract 2027

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to authorize the City Manager and Police Chief to enter into an updated agreement with Canvas Health to continue to provide two full-time health professionals. Cost of 2027 contract is \$141,000 annually.

7. Pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion “Adoption of Resolution 2026-057, Designating Election Judge Salaries and Election Judges for the November 3, 2026, General Election.”

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-057, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Motion to approve Resolution 2026-057, designating election judges and setting election judge salaries for the 2026 General Election.

8. Rental Occupancy Licenses for Approval

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to approve the items listed for rental housing license applications for September 28, 2026, in that they have met the requirements of the Property Maintenance Code.

9. License Agenda

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move to approve the items as listed on the business license agenda for September 28, 2026, as presented.

10. Review of Bills

Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager

MOTION: Move that, in accordance with Minnesota Statute 412.271, subd. 8 the City Council has reviewed the enclosed list to claims paid by check and by electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$1,616,569.36.

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

7. Adoption of Resolution 2026-057, Designating Election Judge Salaries and Election Judges for the November 3, 2026, General Election

City Manager Chirpich noted that the current Resolution lists who the election judges are, with room to include additional election judges. He mentioned that Councilmember Deneen’s husband is serving as an election judge, which is why the item was pulled. The City Attorney advises that she abstain from the vote.

Motion made by Councilmember Spriggs, seconded by Councilmember James, to waive the reading of Resolution No. 2026-057, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion made by Councilmember Spriggs, seconded by Councilmember James, to approve Resolution 2026-057, being a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Heights,

designating election judge salaries and election judges for the November 3, 2026, General Election. 4 Ayes, 1 Abstain, Motion Carried 4-1. Ayes: Spriggs, James, Buesgens, Mayor Márquez Simula. Abstain: Deneen.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Ordinances and Resolutions

11. Resolution to Approve DNR Grant Required Restrictive Covenant for Sullivan Lake Park

Presenting Item: John W. Stutzman, Parks and Recreation Director

City Manager Chirpich stated that the City has entered into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for \$350,000 in Land and Water Conservation Fund funding for improvements at Sullivan Lake Park. The grant supports improved accessibility, a new play area, seating, shade opportunities, and lighting infrastructure. As a condition of the grant, the City must place a restrictive covenant on the park property. The covenant requires the property to be permanently maintained for public outdoor recreation. Any conversion to another use would require written approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Spriggs, to waive the reading of Resolution No. 2026-58, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Spriggs, to approve Resolution 2026-58, being a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Heights, authorizing execution of the Declaration of Restrictive Covenant required for the Sullivan Lake Park Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

12. Amendment of Prodeo Bond Agreements

Presenting Item: Mitchell Forney, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Forney stated that in 2019, the City of Columbia Heights issued Charter School Lease Revenue Bonds for the Prodeo Academy Project, with the proceeds loaned to Friends of Prodeo Inc. to finance the acquisition, demolition, construction, and equipping of the charter school facility located at 4141 University Avenue Northeast. The Series 2019A Bonds remain outstanding, while the related Taxable Series 2019B Bonds matured in July 2024 and are no longer outstanding.

Community Development Director Forney mentioned that Prodeo Academy is proposing to acquire additional charter school facilities in the City of Saint Paul. The proposed financing for the St. Paul Project requires the consent of the City and the holders of the bonds, for which 100% of the bondholders have agreed to the proposed transaction. This leaves the final step in amending the bond agreement documents to reflect the changes necessary for the new project.

Community Development Director Forney noted that ultimately, the proposed amendments and St. Paul Mortgage add a new collateral/liquidity deposit obligation but do not change the stated bond yield, maturity, scheduled principal or interest payments, or priority of the original collateral package. In particular, the proposed amendments add the St. Paul Project into the bondholder security package, but only through a new second-lien mortgage (the St. Paul Mortgage) rather than by changing the original collateral (the school facility located in Columbia Heights). In addition, there is a requirement to fund a newly established Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$750,000, and replenishment of any deficiency of such amount. The First Supplemental Indenture allows the Trustee to transfer amounts in the Stabilization Fund to the Bond Fund in the event of any deficiency in the Bond Fund to pay debt service on the Series 2019A Bonds. Therefore, the addition of the Stabilization Fund improves the payment waterfall from the holders' perspective.

Community Development Director Forney stated that because the City is the issuer of the Series 2019A Bonds, the proposed amendments require City Council approval and execution of the First Amendment to the Loan Agreement and First Supplemental Indenture. The City is not providing additional financing for the St. Paul Project or assuming additional financial liability as part of the proposed amendments. The resolution expressly maintains the Series 2019A Bonds as special, limited obligations of the City, payable solely from the revenues and other sources identified in the bond documents, and does not create a charge against the City's general credit or taxing powers.

Community Development Director Forney explained that the City's Bond Counsel has determined that the proposed amendments will not adversely affect the exclusion of interest on the Series 2019A Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes, satisfying a requirement of the original bond documents.

Motion by Councilmember Deneen, seconded by Councilmember James, to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-060, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion by Councilmember Deneen, seconded by Councilmember James, to adopt Resolution 2026-060, being a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Heights approving the execution and delivery of amended bond documents in connection with the City's charter school lease revenue bonds (Prodeo Academy Project), series 2019A. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

13. Approval of Resolution 2026-059 Authorizing an Increase to the Economic Development Authority's Tax Levy

Presenting Item: Mitchell Forney, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Forney stated that at the September 1st EDA meeting, the EDA discussed and passed resolutions setting its budget for 2027. EDA Resolution 2026-27 requests that the City, on behalf of the EDA, raise the EDA tax levy from \$394,800 in 2026 to \$416,000 in 2027. Since the EDA tax levy is under the administration of the City

Council, the City must annually approve the EDA tax levy. During review of state statute, staff identified an additional public hearing process that is required when a city increases its EDA levy. Resolution 2026-059 is the first step in this process, which is highlighted in section 469.107 sub. 2 of state statute.

Community Development Director Forney mentioned that the EDA has requested a levy increase in order to add additional funds to its current and future initiatives. Since the EDA levy is a City tax levy, the increase is added to the city's overall budget. The \$21,200 increase in the EDA levy contributes to the overall increase in the City's gross tax levy for 2027. This contributes to the direct reinvestment of the funds into the city. The EDA will distribute the funds to various programs and initiatives through its goal setting in 2027.

Councilmember James expressed gratitude for the levy increase and noted that the EDA has done incredible work with the façade improvement grants, the business programs, and helping people who were impacted by Operation Metro Surge. The money goes back into the community.

Motion by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Buesgens, to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-059, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Spriggs, to approve Resolution 2026-059, being a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Heights, authorizing a tax levy increase by the city for economic development purposes. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

14. Resolution 2026-053 Adopting A Proposed Budget For The Year 2027, Setting The Proposed City Levy, Approving The HRA Levy, Approving A Tax Rate Increase, And Establishing A Budget Hearing Date For Property Taxes Payable In 2027

Presenting Item: Joseph Kloiber, Finance Director

Finance Director Kloiber stated that, as required under the city charter, the city manager provided the City Council with a proposed 2027 budget and tax levy on August 24, 2026. This was also published on the City's website the next day. The principal factors influencing the 2027 budget were reviewed with the City Council at the September 8, 2026, work session. The proposed budget includes a 5.3% increase in the City's gross tax levy, which combines a 4.1% increase for local taxpayers' share of the levy and a 9.6% increase in the share paid by the Metro Area Fiscal Disparities subsidy.

Councilmember Deneen thanked the Finance Department and staff for the work that they do.

Mayor Márquez Simula expressed understanding of wanting lower taxes and explained that she believes City employees should get paid for the work that they do and noted that

health insurance costs have increased. She thanked staff for working hard to minimize taxes increasing significantly.

Finance Director Kloiber noted that the City has worked on a long-term plan instead of going year-by-year, which has paid off.

Motion by Councilmember Spriggs, seconded by Councilmember Deneen, to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-053, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion by Councilmember Spriggs, seconded by Councilmember Deneen, to adopt Resolution 2026-053, being a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Columbia Heights, adopting a proposed budget for the year 2027, setting the proposed city levy, approving the HRA levy, approving a tax rate increase, and establishing a budget hearing date for property taxes payable in 2027 of December 14, 2026, at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Buesgens, to adjourn. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Chirpich, City Manager