



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 07, 2026 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:48pm. The following members were present: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Rhonda Fuller, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment *(Public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Speakers must begin by stating their name and address for the record. To ensure that all individuals have an opportunity to be heard, the presiding officer may enforce the time limit and may call speakers to conclude their remarks when their time has expired.)*

None.

Committee Minutes for File included: ECCJMCC (11/24/25), Library (05/19/26), PFC (05/12/26), Public Spaces (05/11/26), and Recreation (04/20/26).

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Consent Agenda which included Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2026 and a Mayoral Appointment of Mark Rhode to the Board of Review which expires in 2031. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Ordinances – First Reading (Final action may be taken by a motion to suspend the rules and waive the readings under City of Columbus Ordinance Sec 2-46)

4. Consider and take action on Ordinance No. 817-26: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 2-390(a) of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning the Composition of the Ethics Committee. (CoW 07/07/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to suspend the rules. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to waive the readings. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adopt Ordinance No. 817-26: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 2-390(a) of the City of Columbus Code of

Ordinances Concerning the Composition of the Ethics Committee as amended during the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 7, 2026, to seek five committee members from the public, filling any vacancies with individuals already serving as other City Committee Chairs. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Consider and take action on Ordinance No. 818-26: An Ordinance to Create 98-77(5) of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning Parking in the Business District. (CoW 07/07/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to suspend the rules. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to waive the readings. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to adopt Ordinance No. 818-26: An Ordinance to Create 98-77(5) of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning Parking in the Business District as stated in the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 7, 2026, giving the Police Chief permission to install parking restrictions on the east side of Water Street in the future, if needed. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

6. Consider and take action on Class "A" Alcohol License Application for Licensing period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 for Jose R. Alvarado, Owner dba Blanca's Mexican Store. (CC 06/16/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to grant a Class "A" Alcohol License for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, effective July 8, 2026 to Jose R. Alvarado, Owner dba Blanca's Mexican Store located at 146 W. Mill Street, Suite #6, Columbus, WI. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

7. Consider and take action on Appointment of Additional 2026 – 2027 Election Inspectors. (CoW 07/07/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to appoint Elizabeth Gilbertson, Ryan Rostad, and David Stira as additional Election Inspectors for the 2026 - 2027 term. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote, with Alderperson Rostad abstaining from the vote.

8. Consider and take action regarding the adoption of a Public Participation Plan for the update of the City of Columbus Comprehensive Plan. (PC 06/11/2026):

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler to adopt the Public Participation Plan presented by CED Kornmann, and recommended by the Plan Commission, for the update of the City of Columbus Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

9. Consider and take action on Claims in the amount of \$648,718.28:

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve payment of the Claims in the amount of \$648,718.28. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

10. Consider and take action on Legal Services agreement with Reuter, Whitish & Evans. (CoW 4/21/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the legal services agreement with Reutter, Whitish & Evans as presented.

Amundson shared that staff reviewed proposals received and interviewed three firms. Reuter, Whitish & Evans are the most cost-effective, quoting their initial fees to remain for the first two years of the agreement. They have the most amount of local municipal attorney experience, and the committee was very impressed with their prosecution approach and history. Working on a

November, 2026 transition plan from Boardman & Clark to Attorney Dan Evans who will be our assigned lawyer. Alderperson Rostad asked what term was offered. Amundson shared that it is an initial three-year term with an option for rollover at the end of the term. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Amundson thanked the volunteers of the 4th of July Committee, the Police and Fire Departments for their work in hosting the 4th of July event. He attended a Dodge County EMS Service meeting on July 6th whose purpose was to begin to explore a Dodge County-wide EMS service. The discussion was about long-term sustainability throughout the county with no immediate changes expected.

Mayor Hammer also thanked the 4th of July Committee for all of their hard work for a successful and safe celebration. He also thanked the Columbus Police department for their efforts throughout the weekend. He announced that the next Summer Concert in the Park will be taking place on July 15th.

Convene to Closed Session

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to move into Closed Session at 7:02pm per §19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved,

and per §19.85(1)(f), preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems, specifically to discuss the conduct of specific public employee(s).

Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Fuller, Seconded by Council President Finkler to reconvene into Open Session at 8:35pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to adjourn at 8:36pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.