



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:21pm. Members present included: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. Jason Leitha and Sam Bowman from Ruekert-Mielke were also in attendance.

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 Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler 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.

Department Reports for File included CAEMS (04-2026), CED (04-2026), Fire (03-2026), (04-2026), Library (04-2026), Police (04-2026), Recreation (March - April 2026), and Treasurer (04-2026).

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting (with correction) Minutes of May 5, 2026; the Common Council Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2026; Approval of a Temporary Alcohol License for CHLPC's Summer Concert Series on 06/17/26, 07/15/26, & 08/12/26; Approval of Fireworks Permit – Spectrum Pyrotechnics – Fireman's Park, Columbus 4th of July Celebration on 07/04/2026 (rain date: 07/05/2026); Approval of Temporary Class "B" License for the 4th of July Organization, Inc. for 07/01/2026 - 07/05/2026; and Approval of Temporary Alcohol License for Columbus Crawdads Baseball Club for games between 05/25/26 - 08/02/26. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

7. Consider and take action on RES.12-26: A Resolution in Support of a Comprehensive, Sustainable Transportation Funding Solution in the State of Wisconsin. (CoW 05/19/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to adopt Resolution 12-26. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

8. Consider and take action regarding Resolution 13-26 accepting certain improvements in Cardinal Heights. (CC 12/16/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to adopt Resolution 13-26. Alderperson Rostad questioned Condition #4. *No storage of materials or equipment will be allowed on the street*, stating that the City does not enforce that anywhere else in the City where a build is occurring. Kornmann shared that this was referring to trusses, pre-fabricated walls, shingles, HVAC systems, etc. Leitha shared this was a City Engineer add to the resolution for enforcement as needed to ensure residents can access their property. Alderperson Roelke announced she will be abstaining from this vote. Motion carried on a majority voice vote with Roelke abstaining.

9. Consider and take action on a Letter of Credit Reduction for Cardinal Heights to be reduced to \$45,000. (CC 12/16/25):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the Letter of Credit Reduction for Cardinal Heights to be reduced to \$45,000. Alderperson Rostad asked how \$45,000 was arrived at. Leitha shared that \$45,000 was derived from various items that remain (their value), in addition to items that need to be completed, such as the storm water basin, or any potential repairs. Motion carried on a 4-0 Roll Call vote, with Alderperson Roelke abstaining.

10. Consider and take action on RES.14-26: A Resolution Recognizing June as Pride Month in the City of Columbus, Wisconsin. (CoW 05/19/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adopt Res.14-26. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

11. Consider and take action on an amendment to the lease agreement with Columbus Country Club. (CoW 01/20/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to approve the amendment to the lease agreement with Columbus Country Club. Alderperson Lawson verified that this is the most recent design that went out to bid. Amundson stated this design was also shared with the Club members. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

12. Consider and take action on the award of bid for the construction of pickleball courts to Holtz Builders, Inc. for \$309,143.31. (CC 1/20/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to award the bid for construction of pickleball courts to Holtz Builders, Inc. for \$309,143.31. Alderperson Lawson asked for clarification on whether or not this vote was only approving the bid, or did it also include the process for naming rights. Amundson shared that Recreation Director Meyers and himself will begin meeting with prospective sponsors if this award is approved as written. If there are concerns they will have to come back with a budget amendment at a later date. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

13. Consider and take action on the Conflict of Interest Policy. (CoW 5/19/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy with the removal of the word "dependent" children, and the addition under number three to reference the Code of Conduct our Council and Committee members complete when they are appointed or elected into their positions, and per our attorney in number six, under 'Recusal', crossing off "members with a conflict," changing it to read "members who determine they have a conflict must abstain from discussion..." Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

14. Consider and take action Regarding RAMP Credit Card and Expense Software. (CoW 5/19/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve the purchase of the RAMP Credit Card and Expense software. Motion carried on a 4-0 Roll Call vote with Alderperson Lawson abstaining.

15. Consider date change for Common Council Meeting to accommodate National Night Out on August 4, 2026:

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to change the date of the first August, 2026 Council Meeting to Wednesday, August 5, 2026, to accommodate National Night Out. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

16. Consider and take action on claims in the amount of \$465,112.86:

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve payment of the Claims in the amount of \$465,112.86. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

17. Consider and take action on the appointment to fill the District 1 Council Vacancy (CoW 05/05/26):

Mayor Hammer invited the candidates to approach Council with their presentations individually with Nathan Barnes being asked first. Followed by Rhonda Haberman, Sarah Motiff and Paul Pyfferoen. After the candidates were presented and questioned by Council members, Amundson read the rules of election according to code.

"A member of the City Council shall nominate a person to fill the vacant City Council seat. The nomination shall be seconded by another member of the City Council." He also reminded members that there is no limit on the number of candidates nominated. "After all nominations have been moved and seconded, the members of the City Council shall vote on the nominations. In the event of a tie, the Mayor shall cast the tie-breaking vote."

Mayor Hammer then opened the floor for nominations.

Alderperson Rostad nominated Rhonda Haberman, seconded by Alderperson Finkler.

Alderperson Reid nominated Sarah Motiff, no second received.

Alderperson Lawson nominated Nathan Barnes, no second received.

Hammer asked three times for further nominations. Receiving none, nominations were closed.

Rhonda Haberman was appointed as Alderperson for District 1 with a 5-0 Roll Call vote, with Alderpersons Roelke, Reid, Rostad, Lawson and Finkler all voting Yea.

Mayor Hammer thanked all candidates for submitting their application and their commitment to the City of Columbus, and declared by majority vote that Rhonda Haberman has been declared the new Alderperson District 1 for a term to begin June 2, 2026 until April 20, 2027.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Amundson shared the Mayor's thankfulness to have four interested candidates and he hopes the other three can stay engaged and involved with the city. We currently have a couple of vacancies on committees and we would love to have your involvement.

Mayor Hammer recently attended the MEUW, Municipal Electricity Utility of Wisconsin's Legislative Day in Madison at the Capital. The focus was on affordability, reliability, and the water rate. He also gave a City Hall tour to the St. Jerome's third graders which was a lot of fun. Hammer congratulated the graduating seniors in the city and surrounding area.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn at 8:12 pm. 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.