



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 06, 2025 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. The following members were present: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, 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 Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Jackson Frederick - 125 W. James Street, Apt. 1 - spoke on the importance of rural public transportation and how the City of Columbus would benefit from offering a shuttle bus from the Amtrak station to the Sun Prairie Park and Ride on a regularly scheduled basis.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Common Council Minutes of 04/15/2025, Mayoral Appointments of Anne Donahue to the Police and Fire Commission, and Craig Groth to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Temporary Class "B" Beer and "Class B" wine Alcohol Licenses to St. Jerome's (Bingo events) and Odd Fellows Food Truck Fest. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

4. Consider and take action on Temporary Limited Easement (TLE) agreement with Zachary Freter and Tanya Lester (CoW 4/2/25):

Amundson shared that the property owners are in agreement with the Temporary Limited Easement (TLE). It is recommended that we eliminate the portion regarding keeping the sidewalk free from snow and ice as we are already in the area removing snow.

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to approve the Temporary Limited Easement agreement with Zachary Freter and Tanya Lester eliminating the portion in Item #4 regarding keeping the sidewalk free from snow and ice as required by City ordinance. Alderperson Meier supported this motion however he feels the 4" lawn height requirement should be adjusted to meet the current code height of 12". Alderperson Finkler amended her motion to also include this change to the presented agreement. Alderperson Reid seconded. Alderperson Rostad mentioned that there are trees located on this property that were planted as a memorial and would be in favor of striking Item #4 in its entirety in order to prevent

damage to said trees. No additional action by Council was taken in regards to the suggestion, but the owners have been made aware of the special meaning of the trees on the property. Amended motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. Staff will update the agreement and get a signed copy to the property owners.

5. Consideration and possible action regarding the authorization of the Mayor and Clerk to execute the contract with Vandewalle and Associates for the zoning and subdivision re-write ordinance:

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the contract with Vandewalle and Associates for the zoning and subdivision re-write ordinance. Alderperson Meier asked for the background of the previously approved contract. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Consider and take action on Claims in the amount of \$594,949.06:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to pay the Claims in the amount of \$594,949.06. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

There was nothing to report.

Convene to Closed Session

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to convene to Closed Session per § 19.85(1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investment of public funds, or conducting other public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, specifically to discuss 1149 W. James Street at 7:45pm. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler to reconvene into Open Session at 8:27pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to adjourn at 8:27pm. 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.