



Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 06, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Finkler called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present included: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad.

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.

Committee Minutes for File

included Hillside Cemetery (03/24/25), (04/14/25), HLPC (03/25/25), Library (03/18/25), Public Spaces (03/10/25), (04/14/25).

Public Comment

John Trava - 321 N. Spring Street - spoke in favor of the city allowing chickens and asked members to consider changing current code to allow for an increase in the number of chickens allowed based on lot size and neighbor proximity.

2. Mayor Proclamation honoring the Columbus Archery Team.

Mayor Hammer read and presented a Proclamation declaring May 10, 2025 Columbus Archery Day in honor of the Columbus Archery Team achieving an historic sweeping victory at the 2025 NASP Wisconsin State Bullseye Tournament and securing their placement in the National competition on May 10, 2025.

New Business

3. Discussion regarding Chicken Ordinance, Sec. 14-19 of the Municipal Code

Alderperson Roelke brought this discussion to the meeting regarding the possibility of amending the chicken ordinance to allow for residents to own more than four hens. Chief Weiner shared his recent experience in dealing with residents who also have roosters on their property, or who have not submitted their application for a license. He has reached out and heard back from thirteen other area municipalities and the average number of allowable hens is four, with no roosters. Alderperson Lawson asked if any of those municipalities based the number of chickens allowed on lot size. Weiner replied there were none. Several options were discussed by members with the decision to leave the code as is with the exception of increasing the number of allowable hens from four to eight. Committee members agreed to move forward the revised Ordinance to the May 20, 2025 Common Council meeting.

4. Consideration and possible action regarding referring ordinance review of 114-95 Outdoor Storage of Vehicles.

Aldersperson Meier brought this item to this meeting agenda. After a brief discussion, members agreed to move to the Plan Commission for review.

5. Consideration and possible action regarding referring ordinance review of Chapter 18-571 through 18-580 Property Maintenance

Kornmann shared that the Property Maintenance section of the municipal code is in Chapter 18, the building code. The maximum lawn height is currently at twelve inches which is not necessarily the standard the city should have. In addition, there are other parts of this chapter needing review. This chapter is not part of the zoning code and therefore not part of the zoning re-write. He is suggesting that the Plan Commission can provide a review and possible revision of the entire chapter, or smaller section as directed by Council. Amundson reiterated that Chief Weiner and Kornmann should work together on a blight presentation for the CDA. After further discussion, members decided to forward the blight portions to the Community Development Authority (CDA), and the lawn height issue to the Plan Commission for review.

6. Discussion of Electronic Cigarettes/Vaping Ordinance

Chief Weiner presented a draft copy of an ordinance regulating electronic smoking devices and electronic smoking device paraphernalia to committee members which will allow our Police Department to be more efficient with guidance in dealing with this issue. Aldersperson Meier asked if there is a penalty included for anyone selling to someone under the age of 21 years old. Members agreed that the penalties should include Sec. 66-180 (g) and perhaps be increased. Attorney Johnson will amend with the changes discussed including the ability to enforce the ordinance with the retail outlets that sell these products, and focus on one set of penalties for violators and one set of penalties for sellers with the enhancer. Members agreed to move forward to the May 20, 2025 Common Council meeting. Attorney Johnson will prepare an ordinance for review by council.

Adjourn

Motion made by Aldersperson Roelke, Seconded by Aldersperson Meier to adjourn at 7:26pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. A five minute break was taken before beginning the Common Council meeting.

*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.