



# Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

## Roll Call

In the absence of Mayor Hammer, President Finkler called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. Members present included: Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. Mayor Joe Hammer was excused.

## 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 with removal of Item #3: Consider and take action on City of Columbus Merit Pay Policy. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

## Public Comment

None.

**Department Reports for File** included CAEMS (12-2025), CED (12-2025), Fire (10-2025, 11-2025, and 12-2025), Library (12-2025), Police (12-2025), and Recreation (12-2025).

## Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting Minutes of 01/06/2026. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

## New Business

### 3. ~~Consider and take action on City of Columbus Merit Pay Policy (CoW 01/06/26):~~

Removed from agenda. No action taken.

### 4. Consider and take possible action on Task Order 2026-01 with Ruekert Mielke for trail design in an amount not to exceed \$17,585 (PS 1/12/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve Task Order 2026-01 with Ruekert-Mielke for Trail Design in an amount not to exceed \$17,585. Alderperson Lawson questioned about the easement documentation. An amended Motion was made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to add the verbiage of "Development of property legal descriptions or easement documents beyond those listed in the scope above" under Task Order 2026-01, Item 4.A. Motion carried in a 6-0 Roll Call vote. Voting Yea: Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Roelke, and Alderperson Rostad.

**5. Consider and take possible action on Task Order 2026-02 with Ruekert-Mielke for Pickleball Court Design in an amount not to exceed \$46,331:**

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve Task Order 2026-02 with Ruekert-Mielke for Pickleball Court Design in an amount not to exceed \$46,331. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Voting Yea: Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Roelke, and Alderperson Rostad

**6. Consider and take action on Resolution 2-26: Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing in the City of Columbus, Wisconsin - City (CoW 01/20/26):**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adopt Resolution 2-26: Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing in the City of Columbus, Wisconsin - City. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**7. Consider and take action on Resolution 3-26: Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing in the City of Columbus, Wisconsin - Utilities (CoW 01/20/26):**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adopt Resolution 3-26: Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing in the City of Columbus, Wisconsin - Utilities. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**8. Consider and take action on claims in the amount of \$3,013,943.54:**

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve payment of the claims in the amount of \$3,013,943.54. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote. Voting Yea: Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Roelke, and Alderperson Rostad.

**Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor**

Amundson announced that there will be two Public Information Meetings on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. The first one will begin at 3:30pm in the Council Chambers for the Tower Drive Reconstruction project. Representatives from Wisconsin DOT will be on hand for the presentation and an open house. The second meeting will follow at 6:30pm at the Columbus High School and will be about the proposed Public Safety Building. This will be an informal opportunity for the public to provide input on key features, aesthetics and aspirations. City Leaders and project representatives will be on hand to share details, answer questions and listen to feedback.

**Convene to Closed Session**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to convene into Closed Session at 7:24pm, with an ask to have Chief Weiner, Recreation Director Meyers, Finance Director Riddle and Human Resources Generalist Schlagel stay for their relevant discussions regarding §19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically the salary ranges for the Police Department Administrative Manager, Community Center Manager, and Public Works Director.

In addition, motion included convening into Closed Session 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 regarding a former employee. Motion carried by a 6-0 Roll Call vote. Voting Yea: Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Roelke, and Alderperson Rostad.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to reconvene into Open Session at 8:08pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adjourn at 8:08pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.