



Common Council Meeting - Amended Minutes

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Finkler called the meeting to order at 7:52pm. The following members were present: Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, Alderperson Trina Reid, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. Mayor Joe Hammer was excused and Alderperson Amy Roelke was absent.

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 the removal of Item #6: Consider and take action on the Mission, Vision, and Value Statements of the City of Columbus (07/15/25), and Item #7: Consider and take action on the claims of excessive assessment brought under section 74.37 of the Wisconsin Statutes for the following properties (CoW 7/15/25): a. 928 Farnham Street; Aquatic Center Apts. LLC, owner; b. 175 Fuller Street; Carriage Apts. LLC, owner; c. 25 Parkview Circle; JS Properties of Columbus LLC, owner; d. 15 Parkview Circle; Colonial Apts. LLC, owner; e. 1116 Waterloo Street; Waterloo Street Apts. LLC, owner; and f. 1150 Waterloo Street; Waterloo Street Apts. LLC, owner. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Henry Elling - 650 S. Charles Street, Columbus, WI - member of the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission. He attended on behalf of the commission to answer any questions of council regarding the Local Historic Designation of City Hall.

Consent Agenda

included the report from the Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission for the Local Historic Designation of City Hall, 105 N. Dickason Blvd., and Department Reports for File from Library (06/2025), and Police Department (06/2025).

Motion by Alderperson Meier, seconded by Alderperson Reid to approve the consent agenda. Alder Lawson asked Elling if he could give an overview to the Council on what the designation means for City Hall. Elling replied that the building is already on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The HLPC will review any future external modifications wishing to be made to the building. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

3. Consider and take action on Resolution No. 8-25 for the purchase of Lot 1 of CSM 5730 for \$400,000 (CC 7/1/15):

Amundson shared that the City has an accepted offer to purchase. The property is located on the north side of Hwy 73/Park Avenue with the intent to build a future Public Safety Building on the parcel. The funding source is the proceeds of the sale of the Dollar Tree on James Street.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve Resolution No. 8-25 for the purchase of Lot 1 of CSM 5730 in the amount of \$400,000. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

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

4. Consider and take action on approval of the agreement with Olena Investments LLC, conditioned on closing on the property (CC 7/1/15):

Amundson shared this agreement is with Olena Investments LLC, and grants the city the ability to build a future Public Safety Building/Municipal Building on this site. In the event the city does not use the property for City use and puts the property up for sale, Olena has the right to repurchase at the same terms as sold to the City with 1st refusal of any part, and if no building or improvements are made within five years of this signing, Olena has the right to repurchase at the same terms as sold to the city. We are also agreeing to work with Olena in regards to the development of Lots 2, 3 and 4 of CSM #5730, and agree to work together concerning street and utility construction in the area around the property.

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the Agreement with Olena Investments LLC, conditioned on closing on the property. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Consider and take action on membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council (CoW 7/15/15):

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to join membership in the National Volunteer Fire Council. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote. Voting Yea: Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, and Alderperson Rostad.

6. Consider and take action on the Mission, Vision, and Value Statements of the City of Columbus (CoW 7/15/15):

Removed from Agenda - no action taken.

7. Consider and take action on the claims of excessive assessment brought under section 74.37 of the Wisconsin Statutes for the following properties (CoW 7/15/25):

- a. 928 Farnham Street; Aquatic Center Apts. LLC, owner
- b. 175 Fuller Street; Carriage Apts. LLC, owner
- c. 25 Parkview Circle; JS Properties of Columbus LLC, owner
- d. 15 Parkview Circle; Colonial Apts. LLC, owner
- e. 1116 Waterloo Street; Waterloo Street Apts. LLC, owner
- f. 1150 Waterloo Street; Waterloo Street Apts. LLC, owner

Removed from Agenda - no action taken.

8. Consider & take action on claims in the amount of \$302,977.00:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to pay the Claims in the amount of \$302,977.00. Voting Yea: Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, and Alderperson Rostad. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Chief Weiner reminded all that National Night Out will be taking place on Tuesday, August 5th from 5:30pm until 8:00pm in Fireman's Park. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the Columbus/Fall River Food Pantry. Please be aware of the parking situation due to road construction. The High School parking lot will be available. He also shared that Tuesday, July 29th it will be Cops at Culvers Day. The Police Department and the State Patrol personnel will be at Culvers from 11:30am - 1:30pm, and 5:00 - 8:00pm working and assisting customers with their orders as they are available. Please come out and support the cause. Construction has begun at the Railroad tracks on Hwy. 73. Please remember to follow all of the signage and speed limits while traveling through the area and using the detours.

Amundson shared his appreciation and thanked the 4th of July Committee, volunteers and staff for an excellent holiday week and event. It was a great family celebration.

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.

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to convene into Closed Session at 8:07pm. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote. Voting Yea: Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, and Alderperson Rostad

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to reconvene into Open Session at 8:28pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Action from Closed Session:

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to take no action at this time on Items #9: Consider and take possible action regarding 1149 W. James Street demolition, and Item #10: Consider and take action on cold storage needs for the City. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adjourn at 8:30pm. 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.