



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 06, 2025 at 7:05 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. 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 Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the agenda with the change of moving Item #9: Discussion and direction related to a proposed Public Safety Building, to follow Public Comment. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment None.

9. Discussion and direction related to a proposed Public Safety Building (CoW 12/3/24; CC 7/1/25; CC 7/15/25):

Amundson reminded everyone that Bray Architects has completed a feasibility study and space needs analysis related to a new Public Safety building. Matt Wolfert of Bray Architects joined the meeting via Zoom and presented a brief overview and preliminary design, bidding, and construction timeline for the Public Safety Building project. After discussion, staff was directed to solicit two proposals, one from Bray Architects, one from Axiom Consultants(part of the Ruekert-Mielke family), with a Construction Management format, with a non-conservative timeline. Staff will move forward and bring the proposals back to a September, 2025 Common Council meeting for review.

Committee Minutes for File includes Cable (01/27/25), (02/24/25), Hillside Cemetery (03/24/25), (04/14/25), HLPC (02/26/25), (04/30/25), (05/28/25 Amended), Library (06/17/25), Recreation (06/09/25).

Department Reports for File includes Treasurer's Report (06/2025).

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the Consent Agenda which included Council & Staff Workshop Minutes of 06/24/2025, Committee of the Whole and Common Council Minutes of 07/01/2025 and 07/15/2025, and approval of Temporary Alcohol Beverage License for South Central Library System Foundation for their Annual Cornerstone Awards on 10/23/25 at the Fireman's Park Pavilion.

Ordinances – First Reading (Final action may be taken by a motion to suspend the rules and waive the readings under City of Columbus Ordinance Sec 2-46)

5. Consider and take action regarding Ordinance 807-25: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 114-47 of the City Code of Ordinances Concerning Appointment of Zoning Administrator (PC 07/10/2025):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to suspend the rules per Sec. 2-46. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to waive the readings of Ordinance 807-25: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 114-47 of the City Code of Ordinances Concerning Appointment of Zoning Administrator, per Sec. 2-46. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adopt Ordinance 807-25: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 114-47 of the City Code of Ordinances Concerning Appointment of Zoning Administrator, as recommended by the Plan Commission. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

6. Consider and take action regarding Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance 2025-3: An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City Code of Ordinances regarding B2 to B3 for 105 Dix Street - KO Properties of Columbus LLC (PC 7/10/2025):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to suspend the rules per Sec. 2-46. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to waive the readings of Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance 2025-3: An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City Code of Ordinances regarding B2 to B3 for 105 Dix Street - KO Properties of Columbus LLC, per Sec. 2-46. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adopt Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance 2025-3: An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City Code of Ordinances regarding B2 to B3 for 105 Dix Street - KO Properties of Columbus LLC, as recommended by the Plan Commission with the following conditions: 1. Petitioner to provide evidence of a shared parking lot easement for both parcels that is recorded at Columbia County; 2. A shared driveway easement for both parcels that is recorded at Columbia County; and 3. Approval from the City Council for a shared driveway. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. Ordinance will be signed when conditions are met.

7. Consider and take action regarding approval of Certified Survey Map for 105 Dix Street – KO Properties of Columbus LLC (PC 7/10/2025):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve the Certified Survey Map for 105 Dix Street - KO Properties of Columbus, LLC as recommended by the Plan Commission, with conditions regarding parking easements and shared driveway approvals as outlined in the review letter from the City Engineer. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

8. Consider and take action regarding the Business, Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E). (CDA 07/21/2025):

Amundson shared that CED Kornmann has worked hard to develop this program and he is recommending approval as drafted. Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the Business, Retention and Expansion Program as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

10. Consider and take action on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement with Columbus School District for the construction of a shed on City property. (CoW 08/06/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the MOU Agreement with the Columbus School District for the construction of a shed on City property by the tennis courts with an amendment of 30 days for the written termination notice versus the 90 days presented. Alderperson Reid recommended the use of ground anchors. It was noted that the school district is assuming all responsibilities for the shed and equipment stored. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

11. Consider and take action on Claims in the amount of \$446,618.56:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the Claims in the amount of \$446,618.56. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Police Chief Weiner gave a wrap up report on National Night Out (NNO). There was an issue with a food truck vendor who had already been paid in advance for their participation, but because of a miscommunication with their staff they were charging for the food items that evening. The vendor did stop charging when they were notified of the situation. The vendor was able to credit back anyone who had charged their food and they generously refunded the fees they were originally paid by the city. Weiner will be rolling that amount towards next year's event. Overall, it was an outstanding event and we had a great turnout. He thanked the business community for their support, the Marine Corps Detachment led by Jeff Krakow, for cooking up the hamburgers and brats, the Cornerstone Club of Elba for serving the food, the DPW for cleaning and setting up the park, Lifestar, Fire, Utilities, Library and other city departments for their contributions, and especially the community for coming out and supporting our city law enforcement department and staff.

Amundson shared his appreciation to everyone that helped at National Night Out. The WI Department of Transportation will be installing the final lift of asphalt on Ludington Street on August 12 - 14th, with pavement marking on Thursday and Friday next week, weather pending.

Mayor Hammer was not able to attend National Night Out, but shared his gratitude to the City Police and Fire Departments. He also thanked Council President Finkler for running the prior Council meeting on his behalf. Thank you to those who attended the Public Information Meeting for the potential Tower Drive Development, as well.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler to adjourn at 8:19pm. 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.