



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 07, 2025 at 6:40 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Members present included Mayor Joe Hammer, Alderperson Sarah Motiff, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Michael Lawson, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. ABSENT: Council President Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Molly Finkler were excused.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Motiff to approve the agenda with the change to move Item #9: Discussion and direction related to stormwater funding to follow Item #3: Discussion regarding preliminary Resolution for Special Assessments for Brookside Lane. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Committee Minutes for File included Library (11/19/2024), and PFC (11/16/2024).

Department Reports for File included Treasurer's Report (11/2024).

Public Comment: None.

New Business

3. Discussion regarding preliminary resolution for special assessments for Brookside Lane:

Engineer Leitha shared that this Resolution would mark the beginning of the process for the Brookside Lane public works improvements project with the intent to levy Special Assessments for lots abutting both sides of Brookside Lane west of Avalon Road and abutting the cul-de-sac on the west end of Brookside Lane. A Public Information Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2025 at the Columbus Community Center beginning at 6:30pm. Committee agreed to move forward to the January 21, 2025 Common Council meeting.

4. Discussion and direction related to stormwater funding:

As requested at the December 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting, the committee continued discussion regarding stormwater funding. Alder Motiff would like to see a stormwater fee enacted and the repeal of Ord. 782-23 in order to start increasing stormwater funding. Alders Lawson and Reid agreed, adding details they would like to see addressed such as rate differentials between residential and commercial. Committee members agreed to move forward with Public Information Meetings and to review Chapter 104 of the City Code at a future Common Council meeting.

5. Discussion of Beautification Committee's proposed mural at 125 N. Dickason Blvd:

Sherry Culhane presented the Beautification Advisory Board's Mural Project designed for the exterior courtyard wall of the Community Center. She also exhibited a small version of the design developed by herself and Laura Weichert. The costs of the project supplies will be covered by

Beautification Advisory Board funds and the mural should last at least 10 to 15 years. It will be painted by volunteers. Amundson shared that the rental of a scissor lift would be acceptable rather than scaffolding, and Volunteer Waivers have already been discussed with Beautification. Committee agreed to move approval forward to the January 21, 2025 Common Council meeting.

6. Discussion regarding Façade Grant Application for 139 N. Ludington Street:

Mike Kornmann, Community and Economic Development Director, shared that the project at 139 N. Ludington Street was already completed when the Facade Grant Application was received and reviewed by CDA (Community Development Authority). This is inconsistent with the policy of submitting information prior to the project starting. The property owner has adjacent properties to be updated, therefore the CDA is recommending approval of the grant application and reimbursement at 50% of the program guidelines. Committee members discussed the grant application policy and decided to deny the CDA's recommendation and not move the request forward to council.

7. Discussion of the City of Columbus Purchasing Policy & Procedures update:

Treasurer Larson shared that the City's Purchasing Policy and Procedures update would bring the construction project bidding requirements into alignment with State Statutes and increase the Department Heads and Administrator's responsibilities. It is recommended to increase the lowest purchasing limit authorization from \$1,500 to \$5,000; then, increase the current \$5,000 level to \$25,000 to match State policy (bidding requirements, construction, etc.). Over \$25,000 purchases would go to Common Council for approval, which can be adjusted. Anything over \$1,500 goes to Amundson for approval. These changes are warranted due to inflation and the implementation of miViewPoint accounts payable workflow.

The goal is to match up procedures with the purchasing policy authorization limits and permissions, differentiating when a purchase order is required versus a regular purchase. Ideally, the budgeting process is outlining what we want to purchase next year, what type of expenses we are going to have, and whether they fit into the budget rules. Larson asked for direction from Council if they are comfortable with the increased purchase level amounts. Committee agreed to move forward to the January 21, 2025 Common Council meeting with the final changes suggested by committee members made to the policy.

8. Discussion regarding Disposal of Assets Policy update:

Treasurer Larson is requesting guidance on changes needed to the Disposal of Assets Policy. Historically, the disposal income has stayed in the fund which purchased the original asset, and the income is normally used to purchase a replacement of the trade-in/sold asset. This process will continue under the revised policy presented, but will allow the Administrator flexibility to set up tracking for the approval and use of fund by department, not just asset replacement. The Treasurer will report the balance in the revenue account - Disposal of Fixed Assets - created for the sale proceeds to the Council as part of the monthly Financial Report. Committee agreed to move forward to the January 21, 2025 Common Council Meeting.

9. Discussion of the 2025 Fee Schedule:

A first draft copy of the updated Fee Schedule was presented to the Committee members. The most significant areas of change are in building permit fees and park reservation fees. The Annexation fees will also be reviewed. An updated draft copy will be presented at the January 21, 2025 Common Council meeting per committee.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Motiff to adjourn at 8:26pm. 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.