



Special Committee of the Whole Meeting - Amended Minutes

Wednesday, April 02, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the Special Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:01pm after all present spent thirty minutes in the tornado shelter in City Hall for a tornado warning. The following members were present: Council President Amy Roelke (via Zoom), Mayor Joe Hammer, Alderperson Sarah Motiff, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Ryan Rostad and Alderperson Molly Finkler.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Motiff to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Committee Minutes for File included minutes from the Library (02/18/25), and PFC (02/20/25).

Public Comment

Tanya and Zach Freter - 1360 Waterloo Street, Columbus, WI spoke regarding the garden on their property which is encroaching City property. They originally planted the garden in 2016. They shared pictures and a brief history of the garden.

New Business

2. Discuss encroachment of garden at 1360 Waterloo Street onto City property:

City Attorney Johnson shared that this land was referred to as part of Caldwell's Addition in 1960 and was dedicated to the city for street purposes. Once dedicated, the City is charged with using it and selling and/or donating are not options. There was discussion of issuing a Temporary Limited Easement (TLE) with specific conditions which Johnson confirmed would cease upon sale of the property, i.e. when the current owners move. If the WI Dept. of Transportation would require use, that would also end the TLE. Amundson reminded members that if a motion is placed during the Common Council meeting, it could be done in good faith knowing a drawn up agreement would be forthcoming. Committee agreed to move forward to the April 2, 2025 Common Council meeting.

3. Discussion Related to Social Media Policy:

Amundson asked members if personal attacks should be allowed on social media posts. There have been repeated comments targeting specific staff members. Staff would like to discuss creating a social media policy to establish its social media accounts as a limited forum. Johnson shared that the account was originally designed to be informational only and now it allows comments, but not from the city. After addressing various options, this item was moved to a future Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion. Mayor Hammer's last comments for the evening were directed to those who are bashing our staff on social media, stating that our staff is directed by council to do a job, and they are doing their job. There are ordinances and those laws

need to be followed, so if you have a complaint, you can contact the Police Chief, the City Administrator, himself or your Alder. Bashing staff on social media is not acceptable. Committee agreed to move this forward to a future meeting for further discussion.

4. Discussion regarding authorization to begin recruitment for a Finance Director and approval of job description:

Amundson shared that Krystal Larson will be retiring at the end of June 2025. As an employee with the City of Columbus, she has changed the position of Treasurer into what it is today in regard to budget creation, the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, and policies and procedures within the Treasurer's office. This proposal would create a Finance Director/Treasurer position. Committee agreed to move forward to the April 2, 2025 Common Council meeting.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. 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.