



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Amy Roelke called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:45pm. The following members were present: Council President Amy Roelke, Alderperson Sarah Motiff (via Zoom), Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Ryan Rostad and Alderperson Molly Finkler. Attorney Johnson also attended via Zoom.

Mayor Joe Hammer was excused

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Department Reports for File included Fire (01/2025), and Library (01/2025).

Public Comment:

David Stira and Brian Nagle announced that they have purchased the Tremont Building with the intent to convert the second and third floors into apartments and the first-floor street level into two commercial spaces.

New Business:

2. Discussion of Washer Extractor for Fire Department:

Fire Chief Scott Hazeltine shared that the Washer Extractor stopped working a few weeks ago. When inspected, it was found that the control panel had gone bad. This machine washes the firefighters gear and removes carcinogens in the process. It was manufactured in 1993 and the replacement parts are no longer available. Hazeltine provided bids in the packet and found after they were presented in the packet that a 110V electrical outlet is available to use, so there is no additional cost to change that out. Alderperson Rostad asked why this item came to the Committee members for discussion as it falls under the spending threshold. Amundson shared it was not a previously budgeted item. Alderperson Lawson asked if the purchase could be expedited due to the health concern. Amundson shared the Committee could allow the purchase to move forward with the item coming back to the 03/04/2025 Council agenda for a vote. Committee approved that the order be placed for the washer extractor and to move the item forward to the March 4, 2025 Council meeting.

3. Discussion of Task Order 2025-01 with Ruekert Mielke for 2025 Street Maintenance Program:

Engineer Leitha was present to discuss Task Order 2025-01 for the 2025 Street Maintenance Program. Since 2025 is an odd year, the mileage has to be verified to WisDOT. The City has 28 miles of streets included in the rating funding. This task order will cover the 2025 crack seal, slurry seal, county aid project, update the street inventory ratings in the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) as required by WisDOT, and submit grant applications for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) for the planned 2026 reconstruction of West School Street. There is also an additional grant at the county we will be applying for. If awarded both, we can only accept one. Committee agreed to move forward to the March 4, 2025 Council meeting.

4. Discussion regarding development of a Snow and Ice Control Policy:

The policy presented is how we normally handle the process of snow and ice removal in the city between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am. Alderperson Lawson verified that this was being discussed because even though this is our policy, we do not have this policy documented. Amundson agreed, and added that a snow emergency is issued whether there is 2" or 8+" of snow forecasted because the storms can be unpredictable. Alderperson Rostad shared the policy used to be 'no parking on city streets between November 1 to April 1, from 10pm until 6am', and asked why that had changed. Also discussed was parking on the street while cleaning your driveway perhaps being addressed differently - without citation. Committee agreed to move forward with development of a policy after further discussion with the Department of Public Works.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn at 7:06pm. 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.

Draft by Susan L. Caine, Clerk