



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Finkler called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present included: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke and Alderperson Ryan Rostad.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment *(Public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Speakers must begin by stating their name and address for the record. To ensure that all individuals have an opportunity to be heard, the presiding officer may enforce the time limit and may call speakers to conclude their remarks when their time has expired.)*

None.

New Business

1. **Presentation by Ruekert-Mielke and discussion regarding considerations for implementing the Stormwater Utility:**

Jason Leitha and Sam Bowman with Ruekert-Mielke were present to share an update on the Storm Water Utility. He also discussed the impacts Storm Water Utility has on the community and what Columbus currently has for infrastructure. Funding and project priority challenges and solutions were also shared. He reminded members that the City does not need to go to a referendum to adopt a fee. He also shared a review of the Fuller Street project. Bowman shared reasoning for enacting a user fee for funding through either the Maintenance Focus, the Balance Program (recommended), or the Aggressive Capital Program, and also explained how the billing system would effect property owners. She then outlined how the process would proceed. Committee members agreed to move forward to a future Utility Commission meeting for review.

2. **Discussion regarding Transportation Funding Resolution 12-26: A Resolution in Support of a Comprehensive, Sustainable Transportation Funding Solution in the State of Wisconsin:**

Amundson shared that the resolution was shared by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. It is a Legislative advocacy effort that they are asking members to consider. If passed, we will share it with them to include in their efforts to find funding solutions related to transportation within the state. Committee members agreed to move forward to the May 19, 2026 Common Council meeting.

3. Discussion regarding Resolution 14-26: A Resolution Recognizing June as Pride Month in the City of Columbus, Wisconsin:

Mayor Hammer shared his thoughts and concerns. Government recognizing a specific group could lead to other groups requesting recognition and he asked for members to take that under consideration. Committee members agreed to move forward to the May 19, 2026 Common Council meeting.

4. Discussion regarding a Conflict of Interest Policy:

Amundson shared that a couple of Council members had brought this forward for consideration. The policy created is taken from Wisconsin statutes. He asked if it is moved forward, under number three we would want to add in a reference to the Code of Conduct our Council and Committee members complete when they are appointed or elected into their positions and per our attorney in number six, in 'Recusal', we should cross off "members with a conflict" and it should read "members who determine they have a conflict must abstain from discussion..." Amundson also shared that one of the reasons he brought this forward is that some of the conflicts that have been discussed, or have been discussed with him, do not apply to this. The State statute defines what a conflict of interest is. Alderperson Lawson questioned the difference between "dependent children" versus an adult child. He also questioned if an employee would have a conflict of interest while working within a local service organization. Committee members agreed to move forward to the May 19, 2026 Common Council meeting.

5. Discussion Regarding RAMP Credit Card and Expense Software:

Finance Director Riddle was tasked with finding multiple revenue sources for the city and has found credit cards that give the city a "cash back" return on investment. She reached out to the State of Wisconsin, American Express, and Farmers & Merchants Bank. The RAMP program is her recommendation even though it has a user cost, but we receive 1.5% back on every purchase, and it integrates with Workhorse software which we will be implementing in July. Alderperson Lawson and Alderperson Rostad both questioned if the four quotes received, since not truly comparable as stated in the purchasing policy, were enough. Lawson shared that he works for a company that does credit card transaction processing so he will abstain from voting on this item. A majority of Committee members agreed to move forward to the May 19, 2026 Common Council meeting. Alderperson Lawson abstained.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn at 7:17pm. 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.