



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

<b>AGENDA SECTION</b>	WORK SESSION
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	MAY 4, 2026

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>Introduction of Heights Project Hub and Council Work Session Item Proposal Process (15 Minutes)</b>	
<i>Presenting Item: Aaron Chipich, City Manager and Jesse Hauf, IT Director</i>		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Information Technology	<b>BY/DATE:</b> Jesse Hauf / May 1st, 2026	
<b>CORE CITY STRATEGIES:</b> <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>		
_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_High Quality Public Spaces	_Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
_Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone	_Inclusive and Connected Community	

### BACKGROUND

The City Manager, with direction from the City Council, has requested the development of a strategic dashboard to monitor City projects and initiatives.

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

The IT Department evaluated several available solutions and determined that developing an in-house platform would be the most cost-effective and customizable option to meet the City’s planning needs. Advances in AI-assisted software development have significantly accelerated the pace of application development, making this approach feasible for the City of Columbia Heights despite limited IT resources.

The IT Department has developed Heights Project Hub, a strategic planning and collaboration platform that provides the following capabilities:

- City planning
- Project management
- Alignment with core strategies
- Agenda planning
- Council initiative tracking
- Public performance dashboard

This solution is made possible through the City’s continued investment in technology and builds upon prior improvements in information systems. It is fully integrated with the City’s authentication framework, allowing staff to access and use the platform seamlessly.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

City Manager Chirpich will introduce the project and outline a new process for Council Members to propose work session items. IT Director Hauf will provide a demonstration of the beta version of Heights Project Hub.

**Requested Council Action/ Discussion Topics / Key Questions**

*(Briefly state the specific action staff is requesting of the City Council, if any. For example: provide direction, discuss options, or review information.)*

This is an informational item, and staff are not seeking any specific input.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Heights Project Hub Screenshot