

CITY OF COLUMBUS

ORDINANCE 799-25

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CITY COUNCIL CONDUCTS ITS BUSINESS

The Common Council of the City of Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin does hereby ordain as follows:

1. Sec. 2-41. – Introduction of Business, is repealed in its entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-41. – Introduction of Business.

- (a) Except as provided in (b) below, all matters, including without limitation, ordinances, resolutions and reports, shall first be reviewed by a City Commission or Committee prior to being placed on the City Council agenda for final action. The Mayor, Council President and City Administrator shall be responsible for referring the matter to the appropriate Committee including referrals as set forth in (b) below. Any Council member desiring to introduce a matter shall provide notice in writing, along with supporting documentation, to the Mayor, City Administrator and Council President for referral to the appropriate Committee.
 - (b) The Common Council, sitting as a Committee of the Whole, will hear all matters concerning public works, personnel, finance and other matters for which referral to a committee is not appropriate. The Committee of the Whole shall meet prior to a regularly scheduled Council meeting and the Committee of the Whole may refer matters to the Common Council to be addressed immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting. The Council President shall act as the Chair of the Committee of the Whole. If the Council President is not available, the Mayor shall serve in that capacity.
 - (c) **Reintroduction Restricted Unless Otherwise Provided by City Ordinance.** No proposed ordinance or resolution having once been defeated may again be introduced in the same manner or substantially same manner until 30 days after the date when the ordinance or resolution was defeated.
2. Sec. 2-48(a) – Committees, is repealed in its entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-48(a) – Committees.

- (a) The Council is authorized to create committees to assist in the governance of the City. Unless required by statute, or as otherwise set forth in this Code of Ordinances, each committee shall have 7 members, and each member shall be a resident of the City of Columbus. Each member shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Common Council and shall serve for a three-year term. Each committee shall have 1 council member as a voting

member. The Council member shall be appointed by the Mayor at the Council's first meeting in May each year to serve a one-year term. Each committee shall have a president and vice president which shall be elected by the members of the committee at its first meeting in May each year, or as soon thereafter as the committee may meet. Each committee shall have a member of City staff acting as a liaison to the committee and to further act as secretary of the committee. Four voting members present shall constitute a quorum for each committee session.

3. Sec. 2-49 – Financial Matters, is repealed and of no further legal effect.
4. Sec. 2-51. – Citizen's Right to Address Council, is repealed in its entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-51. – Citizen's Right to Address Council.

- (a) Any person desiring to address the Common Council shall complete a sign-in sheet prior to the meeting being called to order by the presiding officer. The sign-in sheet shall identify the person's name, address and a brief explanation of the topic upon which they desire to speak. At the end of public comment, the presiding officer may verbally check with the audience to see if any other member of the public wishes to speak but did not have the opportunity to first sign in. The presiding officer shall announce the topic upon which each member of the public intends to speak before the person begins speaking. If the presiding officer determines that the comments are off-topic, abusive or otherwise out of line, the presiding officer may order the citizen to modify their comments, order the citizen to cease speaking, order the citizen to leave the Council chambers or take other such steps as may be necessary to ensure the efficient conduct of the Council's business.
- (b) If the Mayor, Council President or City Clerk receives written communication concerning a topic that is on the agenda for the upcoming meeting, the written communication shall be included in the packet of information distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. The written communication shall not be read into the record at the meeting of the Council. If written communication is received by the Mayor, Council President or City Clerk that is not concerning an item on the immediate agenda, the Mayor, Council President and City Clerk shall confer to determine if the written communication is a matter of general interest that should be shared with all members of the Council and if so, shall include the communication in the packet. "Items of general concern" shall include, but not be limited to, communications from the Wisconsin League of Municipalities or other government or civic entities or advertisements for upcoming events within the City. If a written communication is received after the packet has been distributed, it shall be included in the packet for the next meeting.
- (c) The presiding officer, in their sole discretion, may establish a time limit for persons speaking at public comment.

5. Sec. 2-261 through Sec. 2-265 – Police and Fire Commission, are repealed in their entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-261. – Police and Fire Commission.

- (a) The Police and Fire Commission shall consist of 5 citizens of the area served by the Columbus Fire Department. Three Commissioners shall constitute a quorum and no more than 3 shall belong to the same political party. The Mayor annually between the last Monday of April and the first Monday of May appoint in writing one member for a term of five years. The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings.
- (b) The powers and duties of the Commission shall be those prescribed in Wis. Stats. §62.13(1) through (5) except any provision thereof which is not applicable to cities of the fourth class.

6. Sec. 2-286 through Sec. 2-287 – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, are repealed in their entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-286. – Recreation Committee.

- (a) The Recreation Committee is established for the purpose of providing community residents with a resource for communicating with their peers and elected representatives concerning City recreation programs. The Committee shall advise the Council and the Recreation Director in matters of particular concern and impact to residents in the City of Columbus concerning recreation programs.

7. Sec. 2-375 through Sec. 2-378 – Columbus Area Aquatic Center Advisory Board, are repealed in their entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-287. – Columbus Area Aquatic Center Committee.

- (a) The construction of the Columbus Area Aquatic Center as a family friendly facility would not have been possible without the generosity of the citizens of the greater Columbus area. The creation of this Committee seeks to recognize the important role members of the greater Columbus community had in fundraising efforts by giving the community an additional avenue to stay involved with the operation of the aquatic center.
- (b) The Committee shall advise the manager of the aquatic center and City Council on matters important to the aquatic center from the perspective of the greater Columbus community. Such matters may include, but are not limited to, policies, rates, program ideas, fundraising ideas and the general needs of the community relative to the aquatic center.

8. Sec. 2-300 through Sec. 2-302 – Beautification Advisory Board, are repealed in their entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-300. – Public Spaces Committee.

- (a) It is preferred that the members of the Public Spaces Committee have experience in the fields of art design, fund raising, community organization, landscaping and/or plant and tree management. In making appointments to this Committee, the Mayor should attempt to appoint business owners or employees of businesses located within the City, and representatives of local civic groups.
- (b) The Public Spaces Committee may advise on matters including, but not limited to, public art installations and locations, installation of banners and murals, design and installation of outdoor furniture and furnishings, holiday/seasonal lighting and other decorations around the City, landscaping and the planting of trees, shrubs, flowers and other plantings within the City limits on City owned properties, rights-of-way and other public spaces. The Committee may advise the Council in matters of particular concern and impact to residents in the City of Columbus concerning the park system.

9. Sec. 2-311 through Sec. 2-312 – Senior Citizen’s Advisory Board, are repealed in their entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-311. – Community Center Committee.

- (a) The Community Center Committee is established for the purpose of providing community center participants with a resource for communicating with their elected representatives. The Committee shall advise the Council and the Community Center Manager in matters of particular concern and impact to managing facilities and activities at the community center.

10. Secs. 2-336 through 2-339 concerning the Investment Board are repealed.

11. Sec. 2-361 through Sec. 2-370 are repealed in their entirety and recreated to now read as follows:

Sec. 2-361. – Community Development Authority.

- (a) Wis. Stats. §66.1201
- (b) The findings and declarations made in Wis. Stats. §66.1201 are in all respects adopted, restated and incorporated herein. There exists a need for blight elimination, slum clearance, urban renewal and community development programs and projects and housing projects in the City; a housing and community development authority functioning within the City constitutes an effective and efficient means for preventing and eliminating slums and blighted areas and preventing the reoccurrence thereof and for the elimination of insanitary or unsafe inhabited dwelling accommodations, commercial buildings and to provide safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations, and the necessity for said authority is hereby declared as a matter of legislative determination.
- (c) The Community Development Authority is a separate body politic for the purpose of carrying out blight eliminations, slum clearance, urban renewal programs and projects and housing projects; which Authority shall be known as the Community Development Authority of the City of Columbus.

- (d) The Mayor shall with the confirmation of the Common Council, appoint 5 resident persons having sufficient ability and experience in the fields of urban renewal, community development and housing, as commissioners of the Community Development Authority. Each commission shall serve for a term of 5 years.
- (e) The Community Development Authority shall have all powers, duties and functions set forth in Section 66.1201, Stats. The Community Development Authority shall act as the agent of the City in planning and carrying out community development programs and activities approved by the Mayor and Common Council under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. As to all community development programs and activities undertaken by the City under this Act, the Community Development Authority shall proceed under all applicable laws and ordinances not inconsistent with the laws of this state. The Community Development Authority shall adopt a set of Bylaws which shall, among other things, establish the general policy duties and provide for the appointment of the chair person and secretary. The initial Bylaws and subsequent amendments must also be approved by a majority vote of the Common Council.
- (f) Bonds issued by the Community Development Authority are declared pursuant to Wis. Stats. §66.1201 to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose and to be public instrumentalities and, together with interest thereon and income thereof are exempt from taxes.

12. Sec. 26-01 establishing the Columbus Cable Commission, is repealed.

13. Secs. 86-241 through 86-242 concerning the Street Light Committee are hereby repealed.

14. **Severability.** If any portion of this Ordinance or its application on any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any other provision herein or its application shall not be affected.

15. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and posting as required by law.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2025.

CITY OF COLUMBUS

By: _____
Joseph Hammer, Mayor

By: _____
Susan L. Caine, Clerk