



Committee of the Whole Minutes

Tuesday, December 03, 2024 at 6:40 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Amy Roelke called the meeting to order at 8:38pm. The following members were present: Council President Amy Roelke, 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 Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Motiff to approve the agenda. Voting Yea: Council President Roelke, Mayor Hammer, Alderperson Motiff, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Rostad, and Alderperson Finkler. Motion carried.

Committee Minutes for File included Beautification (10/14/24), Library (10/15/24) and PFC (10/16/24).

Department Reports for File included the Treasurer's Report (10/2024).

Public Comment

None.

New Business

3. Discussion of final plat for Cardinal Heights:

Administrator Amundson shared that this discussion will not be taking place at this meeting. Staff is working through potential changes to the final plat which will likely then require it to go back to the Plan Commission for final review. As a result, staff anticipates an amendment to the Development Agreement to be presented at the December 17, 2024 meetings for approval to extend the deadline for the final plat approval to 2025. The developer is planning on construction beginning in April, 2025.

4. Discussion on Renewal of Athletic Field Use Agreements:

Amy Jo Meyers, Recreation Director, presented the changes in the re-worked athletic field use agreements to the committee members. These changes were brought forward to the softball group, the baseball group, and the soccer group. Alder Lawson asked Meyers if she had any outstanding concerns. She replied that the changes reflected in the red-lined versions of the agreements covered what was needed in the update. Committee agreed to move forward to the December 17, 2024 Common Council meeting.

5. Discussion of Stormwater Ordinance Re-Creation:

Amundson reminded committee members that this ordinance re-creation does not relate to the Stormwater referendum. This is in terms of how the city's zoning and code is placed on development projects related to stormwater.

Engineer Lietha shared that these changes are related to specific technical standards which is making the code more robust. There is an added tier system for applications, and infield developments, making it a more standardized ordinance. There is an added permit section as well. The stormwater maintenance agreement was also built into it. Committee agreed to move forward to the December 17, 2024 Common Council meeting.

6. Discussion regarding posting city buildings prohibiting firearms:

Amundson placed this back on tonight's Committee of the Whole Agenda to clarify for staff what council's intent is moving forward. Currently, the city has to notify someone in writing if we don't want them to enter our municipal buildings with a weapon.

Alder Lawson approves keeping the City ordinance as is and posting city properties with signage. Alders Motiff and Reid also support the same. Alder Rostad asked what the reasoning was for making the city ordinance stricter than State law. Attorney Johnson shared the history and previous councils' concerns. Johnson also shared that this law could be posted building to building, not including all of them. Alder Finkler asked if there had been any incidents prompting this discussion. Amundson shared no, it developed through election related discussions and planning. Johnson suggested that if you wanted to remove this prohibition for a certain event, that could be voted on an as-needed basis. Committee agreed to move forward to the December 17, 2024 Common Council meeting.

7. Discussion regarding city phone services:

Amundson shared that AT&T is our current provider and Digital Bay is our current phone system operator. Staff has received four proposals from various phone companies and is recommending to award service to Crexendo as they are the low-cost provider for this service. This would move the phone system from the current analog system to digital. Committee agreed to move forward to the December 17, 2024 meeting.

8. Discussion of potential 2025 Stormwater Referendum question for the Spring Election ballot (CoW 11/19/24):

Amundson shared a presentation highlighting the previous City of Columbus referendum question on the April 2022 ballot which received a 40% Yes, 60% No vote. There have not been many communities that have taken this to a referendum. Amundson asked if council decides to move forward with a stormwater referendum, what role will council members play? What is expected of staff? The deadline for the county is to have information finalized of the question for the ballot by January 21, 2025. However, with the City's scheduling of meetings, staff would need to have the resolution and all question details ready for approval at the January 7, 2025 meetings. Other ideas were shared about how to receive feedback from the residents. A Public Information Meeting was scheduled for 5:30pm on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 in Council Chambers. Committee agreed to move forward to the December 17, 2024 meeting.

Convene to Closed Session:

Convene to closed session per section 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is likely to become involved.

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Finkler to go into Closed Session at 9:40pm.

Voting Yea: Council President Roelke, Mayor Hammer, Alderperson Motiff, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Rostad, and Alderperson Finkler. Motion carried on a 7-0 Roll Call vote.

Convene to Open Session:

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to Reconvene into Open Session at 9:55pm.

Voting Yea: Council President Roelke, Mayor Hammer, Alderperson Motiff, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Rostad, and Alderperson Finkler. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn at 9:55pm.

Voting Yea: Council President Roelke, Mayor Hammer, Alderperson Motiff, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Rostad, and Alderperson Finkler. Motion carried on an 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.