



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 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 Rhonda Fuller, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. Alderperson Amy Roelke was excused.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson 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. Discussion Regarding Investment Advisory Services with Ehlers, Inc:

Tami Olszewski from Ehlers, Inc. presented on their Investment Advisory Services and talked about how they partner with their clients to tailor effective investing strategies that seek to maximize interest income based on risk parameters. She also included a sample portfolio based on the City's 2026 debt proceeds. Committee members agreed to move forward to the June 16, 2026 Common Council meeting.

2. Discussion on change in State law authorizing \$10 increase in court costs (\$38 to \$48) for each citation issued:

Police Chief Weiner shared that the State of Wisconsin passed and signed legislation in March 2026 that increases the current court cost assessed per ticket by \$10. The Eastern Columbia County Joint Municipal Court is currently running at a deficit and this increase could potentially reduce the need for additional operational funding from the municipalities. Weiner is asking for adoption of this increase. Committee members agreed to move forward to the June 16, 2026 Common Council meeting.

3. Discussion of Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - Public Input Strategy:

Intern Maria Zeien developed a Public Input survey for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The CORP is a planning document that assesses community specific outdoor recreational needs and establishes goals and recommendations for the City's parks system. The last update was in 2021, therefore this survey is needed in order to continue to be eligible for grants. In addition to this survey, a public forum will be scheduled. The survey will be available until July 8, 2026. The public forum will take place on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 6:00pm in City Hall

Council Chambers. Committee Members agreed to move forward to the June 16, 2026 Common Council meeting.

4. Discussion Regarding 2027 Budget Timeline:

Finance Director Kendra Riddle presented an initial 2027 Budget timeline to Committee members. The new accounting software, Workhorse, will be implemented the week of June 29, 2026. The initial 2027 Budget Draft is planned to present to Council the week of September 21, 2026.

5. Discussion of "Class A" Alcohol License Applications for Licensing period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 which includes: Jose Roberto Alvarado, Owner dba Blanca's Mexican Store, Chestor Bandits Store Inc dba Chestor Bandits Store, Columbus Market LLC, Dolgencorp, LLC dba Dollar General Store #10422, Kwik Trip, Inc. dba Kwik Trip #808, Liberty Square Gas Station, Inc. dba Refuel Pantry – Columbus West, Ultra Mart Foods, LLC dba Pick 'n Save #392, and Walgreen Co dba Walgreens #10396:

Clerk Caine shared that she has not received an application for a "Class A" Alcohol License from Jose Roberto Alvarado for Blanca's Mexican store, as of yet. Several attempts have been made to connect with him. Additionally, neither Liberty Square Gas Station, Inc. dba Refuel Pantry - Columbus West, or Ultra Mart Foods, LLC dba Pick 'n Save #392 have passed their fire inspections. Fire Chief Hazeltine spoke to this and shared what the violations are at both locations. The stores are aware of the end of the month deadline to contact Chief Hazeltine for their re-inspections. Committee Members agreed to move forward to the June 16, 2026 Common Council meeting.

6. Discussion of "Class B" Alcohol License Applications for Licensing period of July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 which include: Jamesco, Inc dba Cardinal Cage, Columbus Country Club, Inc. dba Columbus Country Club, Columbus Family Restaurant, LLC dba Columbus Family Restaurant, Hui Yang, Agent dba Hachi Hachi Sushi & Hibachi, Kestrel Golf Properties, LLC dba Kestrel Ridge Golf Course, Magnolia I. Fuentes, Owner dba Magnolia's Grill and Bar, MP's Town Tap. LLC dba MP's Town Tap, Tequilas Bar & Grill, LLC dba Tequilas Bar & Grill, and Wisco Cheese & Cheers Bistro dba Cheese & Cheers Bistro:

Clerk Caine shared that there are no violations that she is aware of, and all fees due to the city are paid in full. Also, each establishment has passed their Fire Inspection. Committee Members agreed to move forward to the June 16, 2026 Common Council meeting.

7. Discussion of Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage License Application for Licensing period of July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 for Columbus Transport Co., Inc. dba Kurth Brewery:

Clerk Caine shared that there are no violations that she is aware of, and all fees due to the city are paid in full. Kurth Brewery has also passed their Fire Inspection. Committee Members agreed to move forward to the June 16, 2026 Common Council meeting.

8. Discussion of Cigarette, Tobacco and Electronic Vaping Device Retail License Applications for the July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, licensing period which include: Chestor Bandits Store, Inc., Columbus Market, LLC, Dolgencorp, LLC - Dollar General Store #10422, Jamesco, Inc. - The Cardinal's Cage, Kestrel Ridge Golf Course, Kwik Trip #808, Liberty Square Gas Station, LLC - Refuel Pantry Columbus West, and Walgreens Store #10396:

Clerk Caine shared that these businesses all completed their tobacco licensing paperwork and fees are paid. Committee Members agreed to move forward to the June 16, 2026 Common Council meeting.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Mayor Hammer to adjourn at 7:04pm. 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.