



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 04, 2025 at 6:40 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Amy Roelke called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Members present included: Council President Amy Roelke, Mayor Joe Hammer, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Ryan Rostad and Alderperson Molly Finkler. Alderperson Sarah Motiff was excused. Administrator Amundson and Clerk Caine attended via Zoom.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Committee Minutes for File

included Committee Minutes for file from CHLPC (01/22/2025), PFC (01/08/2025), Tourism (10/07/2024), (11/04/2024), (12/09/2024), (01/06/2025), and Department Reports from Police (01/2025, and Treasurer (12/2024).

Public Comment

None.

New Business

3. Discussion of Committees Restructuring:

City Attorney Paul Johnson, assisted Amundson in drafting an ordinance based on prior member comments received which eliminates the Committee of the Whole method currently used. All items would be required to go to a committee before coming to Council, and items that do not have a committee to be addressed to would go to a Committee of the Whole meeting before the Council meeting being considered on the same night. An item could be held over if more input is needed.

Terms for committee/commission members would be better aligned with seven members and three-year terms for each unless there's a State Statute that states differently. All committee members will be appointed in May by the Mayor, subject to approval by the council, and there would be a Council member on each committee with voting rights and a city staff member will be on each committee to serve as secretary without voting rights. The Senior Citizens Advisory Board suggested changing their name to Community Center Committee. There was further discussion on the Parks and Recreation Committee and other possible changes. Some committees were eliminated. PFC, Tourism, Joint Review Board and Cemetery have specific statute requirements. Alder Lawson suggested moving Park items in with Beautification, combining into one committee. Amundson will discuss this with the Beautification committee at their next meeting.

Committee agreed to move a cleaned up ordinance to the March 18, 2025 Common Council meeting.

4. Discussion regarding structure for Public Works Department:

Amundson crafted the available position as a lead staff position in Public Works. There were three applicants, and one candidate that applied stood out as a potential Public Works Director with his extensive background, but not necessarily a lead. The council would have to authorize Amundson to make an offer to this candidate as a Public Works Director. Rostad asked if this is legal since the job was posted differently. Attorney Johnson stated that the city is looking for the right person. After some discussion, members decided that the candidate should be offered a Public Works Director position and if they decline, then we regroup. Committee agreed to allow staff to move forward with the offer.

5. Convene into Closed Session as per section §§19.85(1)(e) for Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, specifically to discuss 1149 W. James Street

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Finkler to convene into closed session at 7:31pm. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

6. Reconvene into Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to reconvene into open session at 8:33pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to adjourn at 8:34pm. 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.