



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 05, 2026 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the Common Council meeting to order at 8:14pm. The following members were present: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke and Alderperson Ryan Rostad.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler 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.*)

Katie Nichols - 649 W. School Street - was present for questions regarding the Tourism Grant Application request for the Columbus Chamber Choir.

Committee Minutes for File included: CAEMS (09/10/25), Library (03/17/26), Recreation (03/09/26)

Consent Agenda

2. Mayor Hammer mentioned that there is a correction to Item #3 in the April 21, 2026 Common Council Meeting Minutes should read "*Alderperson Finkler received five (5) votes.*" Clerk Caine will correct.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to approve the consent agenda which included Common Council Meeting Minutes from 04/08/2026, Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting and Council Workshop Minutes from 04/21/2026, and Common Council Meeting Minutes from 04/28/2026, and a request to move the Mayoral Appointments of Council Members to Committees/Commissions, to an agenda item to precede Item #6 under New Business for discussion. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Ordinances – First Reading (Final action may be taken by a motion to suspend the rules and waive the readings under City of Columbus Ordinance Sec 2-46)

4. **Consider and take action on Ordinance No. 814-26: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 2-31 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning Composition of the City Council. (CoW 05/05/26):**

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to suspend the rules. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to waive the readings. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to adopt Ordinance 814-26: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 2-31 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning Composition of the City Council with the changes from the Committee of the Whole meeting.

" language found in Sec. 2-31(2)(b) to allow for completion of applications through the online interest form found on the city website, stating their intent; and, Sec. 2-31(2)(c) and Sec. 2-31(2)(d) could be combined for all applicants."

Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Consider and take action on Ordinance No. 815-26 An Ordinance to Amend Section 2-41(b) and to Create Section 102-58(h) of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances. (CoW 05/05/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to suspend the rules. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to waive the readings. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adopt Ordinance 815-26: An Ordinance to Amend Section 2-41(b) and to Create Section 102-58(h) of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances. Alderperson Roelke amended her motion, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad with amending the verbiage Sec. 102-58(h) to read "*The Common Council delegates all matters concerning public works not otherwise assigned to another committee, to the Utility Commission to be discussed, and for the Commission to make recommendation concerning such issues to the Common Council.*" Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

3. Mayoral Appointments of Council Members to Committees/Commissions: Alderperson Rostad has had constituent feedback and questions how the Mayor can appoint himself to serve on the Utility Commission having been a former employee of Utilities for many years and there possibly being a conflict of interests. Mayor Hammer shared that according to the ordinances, the Mayor and an Alder are representing council on the Utility Commission. Alderperson Lawson questioned if the Hillside Cemetery Association still exists. Amundson shared that the association does still exist and until the by-laws are changed and adopted a council member must still be appointed to their association.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Mayoral Appointments as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Mayoral Announcement of District 1 Council Vacancy:

Mayor Hammer announced there is a vacancy under District 1 for a Council member. As stated in the new ordinance if you have interest in filling the position you can complete the online application form on the City website. Council will be addressing interested parties at the May 19, 2026 Common Council meeting.

7. Consider and take action on naming to be Public Works and Utilities Department. (CoW 05/05/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to naming the combined Public Works and Utilities departments to be the Public Works and Utilities Department. Alderperson Lawson asked for clarification between "Department of" and named "Department." Amundson stated that the preferred titling would be as stated in the motion. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

8. Consider and take action on Recreation Department Support Fund Policy. (RC 04/20/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Recreation Department Support Fund Policy. Rostad asked Admin for clarification on funding rollovers. Amundson shared that since this is now its own fund within the budget, the funds will automatically roll over each year.

Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

9. Consider and take action on the Recommendation to Reduce Pavilion Deposit for Non-Profit Organizations. (RC 04/20/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the reduction in Pavilion deposits for non-profit organizations. Alderperson Lawson asked about the difference in the weekend charge (\$1,000) between a resident versus a non-profit resident. Due to Recreation Director Meyers absence, Amundson asked if there was anything time-sensitive to this, that this item could be moved to a later meeting when she returns. Alderperson Rostad shared that no, except, he felt there may be in defining the charge distinction between non-profit resident versus non-profit non-resident. There was a lot of discussion at the Recreation meeting before coming to this decision. Motion carried on a 4-1 Voice Vote, with Alderperson Lawson voting Nay.

10. Consider and take action to approve sending an application for local historic designation of Fireman's Park to the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission for review. (HLPC 04/22/26):

David Bennett shared that HLPC has identified the Fireman's Park Complex as a potential site for historic designation. There are three contributing structures; the Pavilion, the Rest Haven and the stone wall in front of the Pavilion. These three structures are currently listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places as the Fireman's Park Complex. The purpose of bringing this to council is because the city is the owner of the Fireman's Park Complex and HLPC is seeking a blessing to submit their application to begin the official review process for local designation.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad to approve. Alderperson Lawson spoke against, stating that including the entire park does not make sense. Alderperson Finkler questioned what the benefit would be for the complex to have this designation. Alderperson Roelke asked how this specific grouping came to be. Alderperson Lawson is concerned that the local designation could have an impact on the city's plans to further enhance the park. Alderperson Rostad asked if the designation is revocable. Bennett explained the process to rescind the nomination. Kornmann reminded all that, if approved, council is giving HLPC the blessing to initiate the process, and if HLPC approves, the complex would have local historic designation. Alderperson Rostad suggested postponing this council decision. Libby Gilbertson, a representative of HLPC, spoke and shared some of the background of the Historical Registration process. Hammer stated that if council members have questions they could get them to Bennett who could take them back to the HLPC at their next meeting.

Motion failed with a 1 - 4 Voice Vote, with Alderperson Reid voting Yea, all others voting Nay.

11. Consider and take action on the application for 2026 Tourism Grant by the Columbus Chamber Choir. (TC 04/06/26):

Mayor Hammer shared that three members of the Tourism Commission are also members of the Columbus Chamber Choir who is applying for the Tourism Grant, so they need to have the Council vote on their application.

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Reid. Motion carried on a 4-1 Roll Call vote, with Alderperson Roelke voting Nay.

- 12. Consider and take possible action concerning Merit Pay recommendations for the positions of Admin & Billing Clerk, Maintenance Worker II, Deputy Treasurer, Police Department Administrative Manager, Communications & Economic Development Coordinator, Maintenance Worker I, Recreation Director, City Clerk, Director of Community and Economic Development, Finance Director, Police Lieutenant, Police Chief, and City Administrator. (CoW 05/05/26):**

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to approve recommendations for merit pay from closed session. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

- 13. Consider and take action regarding Resolution 11-26: Authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to execute any documents related to the sale of parcel 1114.1, located on Tower Drive. (CC 02/17/26):**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to approve Resolution 11-26. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

- 14. Consider and take action on Claims in the amount of \$429,015.03:**

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve payment of the claims in the amount of \$429,015.03. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Amundson shared that on May 19, 2026, we will be holding a joint Plan Commission and Common Council meeting at 5:15pm, as the next step in the zoning rewrite process. The regular meetings will follow at their normal times. The final Aldermanic District Walk will be taking place on May 7, 2026, through District 2. We will start at City Hall at 5:00pm.

Clerk Caine thanked members for the opportunity to attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference during the week of May 18, 2026.

Mayor Hammer wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke at 9:01pm. 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.