



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:40 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:36pm. The following members were in attendance: Mayor Joe Hammer, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Ryan Rostad and Alderperson Molly Finkler. ABSENT: Council President Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Sarah Motiff.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Department Reports for File included CFD (12/2024), Library (12/2024), Lifestar (11/2024), & Police (12/2024).

Public Comment: None.

New Business

2. Discussion of Zion Lutheran Conditional Use Permit:

CED Director Mike Kornmann shared that this Conditional Use Permit application discusses the expansion of the school in Phase I, and the addition of a gymnasium in Phase II. The access through the site to Fuller Street would be removed creating the need for a fire hydrant in the center of the site. The City Engineer, Jason Leitha shared his review in an attached letter in the packet. There are several conditions in the CUP as outlined in the Council Memo. Plan Commission is recommending approval of the CUP with the outlined conditions. Committee agreed to move forward to a future Council Meeting.

3. Discussion regarding Committees, Committee Structure and Meeting dates:

Administrator Amundson and City Attorney Paul Johnson are seeking direction regarding the following: Reducing the need/frequency of the Committee of the Whole meetings; Aligning committees similarly in role, design, and function; Streamline and/or add committees that may be needed; Move Council meetings to Wednesday – eliminating conflict with elections with some other tangible benefits. Amundson shared the start of a proposal, asking for feedback with needed ordinance changes. After a lengthy discussion, Committee members asked to bring this item back to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

4. Discussion regarding Date Changes for future Council meetings on February 18 and April 1, 2025:

After a brief discussion, Committee members agreed to move forward to the February 4, 2025 Council meeting.

5. Discussion regarding Redevelopment Options for Tower Drive – Vandewalle Professional Services:

CED Director Kornmann shared the Redevelopment Options for Tower Drive Proposal by Vandewalle. The plan would be to have City staff hold a public information meeting that will include visuals for citizens to respond to and provide their ideas. Vandewalle will provide the visuals based on market-based development concepts. The other tasks will be to create and document baseline information in order to develop an RFP to market to developers. This is a TIF 7 eligible expense which would not exceed \$12,500, with an anticipated time frame of 90-150 days. Committee agreed to move forward to the February 4, 2025 Common Council meeting.

Closed Session

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Finkler to convene into Closed Session at 8:38pm per section §19.85(1)(e), stats. 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 103 N. Ludington Street.

Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

Voting Yea: Mayor Hammer, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Rostad, and Alderperson Finkler.

Reconvene into Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to Reconvene into Open Session at 8:56pm.

Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

Voting Yea: Mayor Hammer, Alderperson Reid, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Rostad, and Alderperson Finkler.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Finkler to adjourn at 8:56pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

*These are Draft Minutes to be approved at a future Common Council Meeting.
Susan L. Caine, Clerk