



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 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 Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

None.

New Business

1. Discussion regarding Ordinance 812-25 Concerning the Removal of Snow around Fire Hydrants:

Finance Director Kendra Riddle shared that this was discussed at the December 2, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting as part of the Snow and Ice Emergency Control Policy. City attorney Johnson prepared the draft ordinance presented, however it is recommended by staff that Committee Members move this concern forward to residents to be an act of good will within the adopted snow emergency policy. Committee members did not move this discussion forward to the Common Council at this time.

2. Discussion of the restoration of the 1925 American LaFrance Firetruck to running condition:

Fire Chief Hazeltine shared that there is interest in repairing the 1925 American LaFrance Firetruck back to running condition. Currently, the restoration fund (LGIP) balance has \$30,846.93 in it which will cover the estimated quote of \$15,300 received from Owen Franz in Slinger for the repairs. Franz mistakenly started repairs and has incurred about \$3,000 so far. Hazeltine asked him to wait until Council could approve them. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 16, 2025 Common Council meeting.

3. Discussion of the Appointment of the 2026 – 2027 Election Inspectors:

Clerk Caine shared the current listing of citizens requesting application for the 2026 - 2027 Election Inspector roster. There will be additional requests during the next two years as needed. It was noted that Jeffrey Van Fleet was included on this request as it was submitted to the packet before he passed away on December 9, 2025. His service and dedication to the City's election process will be greatly missed. There was also the addition of Henrietta Jordan, Peter Kaland, Cynthia Schroedl, and Candace Lauby to this application. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 16, 2025 Common Council meeting.

4. Discussion regarding Resolution 15-25, accepting certain improvements at Cardinal Heights:

Community and Economic Development Director, Mike Kornmann shared that passage of Resolution 15-25 accepts some of the public improvements within the Cardinal Heights Plat. There is a punch list of items that still need to be completed and those items are not included in the resolution. The remaining improvements are expected to be completed after winter. The impact of the resolution allows for the City to provide snowplowing on O'Brien Court and this will also benefit the one resident currently living on the street. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 16, 2025 Common Council meeting.

5. Discussion regarding a reduction of the letter of credit for Cardinal Heights:

Kornmann shared that this reduction of the Letter of Credit was requested by the developer. The process began with the engineer (Ruekert-Mielke) making a recommendation to the Council concerning the letter of credit, which is included in the packet. The Council can then take action on the request and when the developer provides the lien waivers, the City Administrator can grant final approval of the reduction. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 16, 2025 Common Council meeting.

6. Consider and take action to end cable TV broadcasting operations in 2026:

David Bennett shared three recommendations regarding ending cable TV broadcasting operations in 2026, those being 1. at the end of 2025, 2. at the middle of 2026, or 3. at the end of 2026. Bennett explained the outcome of each end date and stated that Franchise Fees are paid out to the City regardless of Council's decision. It was noted that the CableCast Contract will need to be renewed if we continue cable services into 2026. Staff will continue to record and post city meetings on our website. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 16, 2025 Common Council meeting.

7. Discussion regarding 2026 City of Columbus Fee Schedule:

Finance Director, Kendra Riddle shared the updated 2026 Fee Schedule based on Department Heads' feedback and updates. The changes were highlighted in the copy presented. Alderperson Meier asked if the Fee Schedule can be amended once approved. Riddle stated that it could with Council approval. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 16, 2025 Common Council meeting.

Convene to Closed Session pursuant to § 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 or is likely to become involved.

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to convene into Closed Session at 7:13pm. Motion carried on a 7-0 Roll Call vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to reconvene into Open Session at 7:15pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adjourn at 7:17pm. 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.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan L. Caine, Clerk