



Common Council Meeting - AMENDED Minutes

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:54pm. 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.

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 Rostad, 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.)*

None.

Department Reports for File included CAEMS (08-2026), Finance (08-2026), Library (08-2026), and Police (08-2026).

Consent Agenda

2. Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Consent Agenda which included Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting Minutes of 09/01/26. 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)

3. **Consider and take action on Ordinance 823-26: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Art. VII of Chapter 98 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning Electric Scooters, Electric Bicycles and Bicycle Regulations. (CoW 09/01/26):**

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

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

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to adopt Ordinance 823-26 with the Police Chief's amendments, if brought forward. Chief Weiner commented that since school has started he has noticed that several children are riding skateboards to and from school which is not addressed in this ordinance. The only addition he would like to make is to

include skateboard restrictions in what has been identified as the downtown block and require anyone on a skateboard under 16 years old, to be wearing a helmet. He shared that by state statutes, skateboards are not to be ridden on the street but they are allowed on public right-a-ways, including sidewalks. Alderperson Lawson asked about adding "bicycles" to Sec. 98-211 2(e)(1) Riding on Roadway. Mayor Hammer shared that Dr. Brian Nagle was not able to attend the meeting but he shared his support for the passage of the Ordinance 823-26 with Sec. 98-221 and 98-222, especially the helmet regulation, via an email. Hammer also asked for clarification on (h)(3) which is referencing (g)(8) which does not exist and should be (h)(9). Education via social media and through the school will be key.

Alderperson Rostad amended his motion to include Alderperson Lawson's amendment, seconded by Alderperson Finkler. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. An updated copy will be given to Clerk Caine for filing.

New Business

4. Consider and take action on the 2027 Dodge County Humane Society Stray Animal Contract. (CoW 09/15/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to approve the 2027 Dodge County Humane Society contract with Option 1, a lump sum payment of \$2,000 which covers up to 5 domestic stray dogs only, and addresses any dogs in excess of the first five being charged at \$450. The Humane Society must have approval by the city before accepting any animal. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

5. Consider and take action to approve the Columbus Police Department's request to start fundraising efforts for a K9 unit. (CoW 9/15/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to approve the Columbus Police Department's request to begin fundraising efforts for a K9 Unit. Alderperson Rostad asked if the funds could stay with the Police Department until their goal is reached; that they be carried forward in the K9 fund.

Motion was amended by Finkler and seconded by Reid to include a carry over of funds until the Police Department has met their goals. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Consider and take action on revised Administrative Assistant Job Description and Police Clerk Job Description updated to Public Safety Clerk. (CoW 09/15/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the revised Administrative Assistant job description and the Public Safety Clerk job description, which will replace the former Police Clerk position. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

7. Consider and take action on claims in the amount of \$1,283,031.62:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve payment of the claims in the amount of \$1,283,031.62. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Administrator Amundson shared that a press release will be going out on Wednesday September 16, 2026, regarding a Public Information meeting being held on September 24, 2026, from 6 - 8pm in the Community Center on the Public Safety Building, the initial wants of Police and Fire and looking at design. There will be a special council meeting on September 29, 2026. Also, on October 7, 2026, there will be another Public Input opportunity beginning at 5:00pm at the Community Center which will include tours of the City Hall, Police Station and Fire Station with a wrap up with a moderated Q & A Session back at the Community Center with the Public Safety Building consultant team and city staff.

Mayor Hammer thanked everyone on council and staff for their continued efforts as we enter the budgeting season.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Fuller to adjourn at 8:13pm. 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.