

Department of Community and Economic Development

Monthly Activity Report

JUNE 2026

Permits issued year to date:

- Zoning / Misc. permits: 40
- Building permits: 86

Online permitting:

- Fence, sign, and driveway permits are in use as online applications.
- Permit routing (workflow) process in development. Formalizing permit upload process to city GIS and Parcel folders. <https://www.cityofcolumbuswi.com/2357/Licenses-Permits>
- Online Street Opening and Driveway forms are complete.
- Commercial Site Plan and New Dwelling forms are in the works.

Planning and Zoning:

- Created draft public participation plan for updating of comprehensive plan – housing chapter
- Participated in a zoning rewrite coordination meeting and further reviewed draft language. The rewrite is on track to be completed in December. A draft zoning map was created, reviewed and updated for a future Plan Commission meeting.
- Working with HLPC to provide input regarding historical preservation elements in the zoning code rewrite.
- Participated in a Hwy 151 technical advisory committee meeting lead by the Wisconsin DOT. Study area is Columbus to Waupan
- Created a draft participation plan for the updating of the comprehensive plan

Development and Housing:

- Tower Drive property closed on May 14th. CSM to Plan Commission in July. Site plan review submittal expected after the Fourth of July
- Lennar has constructed a model home and five others have been erected and are in various stages of finishing. In addition, two basements have also been poured.
- Reviewed current TIF Development agreements and coordinated with Finance Director
- Completed marketing materials with Flyer View for business attraction
- Created marketing documents for properties near Enerpac. Utilized drone photos provided by the Police Department
- Coordinated Development Team meetings

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- Met with several citizens regarding permits and zoning guidance
- Coordinating projects related to WHEDA financing and possible TIF assistance request for downtown redevelopment. May amend the parking code ahead of full code adoption at end of year
- Creation of a draft feasibility report for 1149 West James Street
- Coordinated building inspection/enforcement issue with building inspection team
- Completed Connect Communities downtown annual report

Media analytics:

- **Media Releases:** A highlight of the sale and proposed plan for the Tower Drive development was featured on wisconsinnews.com, dailydodge.com and WBEV radio.
- **City website:** Had about 4,900 new users in June along with 11,733 visits and an engagement rate of 50%. There were 95 web pages out of over 800 who had at least 1 visit. The top 3 pages from June include the City's home page that accounted for 3,165 visits, the aquatic center page had 2,795 visits, and the community calendar page had 542 visits. The top 14 pages had at least 100 visits.
- **City Facebook:** Increased by 58 new followers for a total of 3,923. The page had 104,344 views in June, along with 2,235 link clicks. Posts were shared 118 times.
- **City YouTube:** Recorded 6 meetings averaging 28 views with nearly 13 minutes of view duration. In June, an average of nearly 31% of each recorded meeting was watched. Monthly Council meetings averaged 47 views across 4 meetings with an average view duration of nearly 20 minutes. About 36% of Council meetings are viewed. The Plan Commission had 13 views, and the Utility Commission had 24 views. Recorded meetings are accessible via the Agendas & Minutes button on the City website homepage and are shown by a TV icon next to select meetings.
- **Tourism website:** Paused Google Ads.
- **Tourism Facebook:** Increased by 5 new followers for a total of 1,053. The page had 1,244 views and 809 impressions.

Training and professional development:

- Participated in Connect Communities reporting training
- Participated in a TIF law change webinar
- Attended WEDA/WEDC Academy for downtown development

Miscellaneous

- Participated in the city attorney RFP interviews