



Common Council Meeting - Amended Minutes

Wednesday, April 02, 2025 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the Common Council Meeting to order at 8:04pm. Members present included: Alderperson Molly Finkler, Mayor Joe Hammer, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Sarah Motiff, Alderperson Trina Reid, Council President Amy Roelke (via Zoom), and Alderperson Ryan Rostad.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noticed as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

1. Special Committee of the Whole and Common Council Minutes of 03/18/2025:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Finkler to approve the Consent Agenda which included minutes from the Special Committee of the Whole and Common Council Minutes of 03/18/2025. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

2. Consider and take action on the encroachment of garden at 1360 Waterloo Street onto City property (CoW 4/2/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to have staff draft an agreement that grants a temporary limited easement (for the current owner of 1360 Waterloo Street) for the entirety of the adjacent City property with limitations on what can be done on the property: no structures, no expansion of the garden, etc. in exchange for the current owners maintaining the grass area to expected city standards. Alder Rostad asked that in the agreement that when the current owners sell, that the land be brought back to a consistent state of yard, replanting the grass, at their expense. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. Attorney Johnson will draw up said agreement.

3. Consider and take action on Zion Lutheran Conditional Use Permit (CUP). (PC 01/19/25, 03/13/25):

Kornmann shared that overall, this project allows for the expansion of the school, with additional parking and an eventual teardown of some of the older buildings.

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to approve the Conditional Use Permit recommended by the Plan Commission for Zion Lutheran with the suggested conditions presented which included: Address items listed in the City Engineer's review letter, Grantee obtain staff approval of a site plan that meets code requirements and the conditions in the Conditional Use Permit, Grantee follow all municipal ordinances including storm water management, If any changes are made to the site, obtain an amended Conditional Use Permit, provide a fire hydrant in the center of the site and other requirements provided by the Fire Chief, screen refuse from public view, obtain building, sign, and other permits as required by ordinance, with the realization that the Conditional Use Permit is in effect as long as all conditions of the permit are met, and provide a service drive on Fuller Street until development occurs to the west. Alder Rostad feels that a condition should be added that clarifies that Zion Lutheran School will finance the Fuller Street area being brought up to city standards at the point of any future sale. Finkler added that Zion has stated that they will be maintaining the area right along.

Alderperson Finkler amended her original motion to include an update to condition #9 to include that the service drive will only remain as such until development occurs and then it has to be brought up to current standards by Zion Lutheran. Alderperson Lawson seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Presentation of Annual Report by Columbus Utilities (UC 3/20/25):

Administrator Amundson shared the highlights from the 2024 Annual Columbus Utilities Report.

5. Consider & take action on claims in the amount of \$249,254.99:

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Motiff to approve payment of the Claims in the amount of \$249,254.99. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Voting Yea: Alderperson Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Motiff, Alderperson Reid, Council President Roelke, and Alderperson Rostad.

6. Consider and take action regarding authorization to begin recruitment for a Finance Director and approval of job description (CoW 4/2/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to authorize staff to begin recruitment for a Finance Director and approve the job description with the updates mentioned at the Special CoW meeting. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Voting Yea: Alderperson Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Motiff, Alderperson Reid, Council President Roelke, and Alderperson Rostad.

Report of City Officers – Police Chief, City Administrator, Mayor

Police Chief Weiner shared that Saturday, April 26th will be the Spring Drug Take Back day held at the front of the Police Station from 9:00am until 11:00am. The 2025 Budget allowed for replacement of the officers' badges and the new design showcases City Hall. Weiner spoke about the recent community use of social media and the criticism of the city's employees. Unfortunately, a majority of it was on pages that the city has no control over. There has been a lot of false information posted by non-staff regarding supposed citations that were never issued. We should be supportive of law enforcement and staff and the excellent service they provide to our community. On a different note, the department is also going to look into updating the current Snow Policy with staff.

Amundson recognized both Sarah Motiff as her Alderperson term comes to an end and Stephanie Masché, our Human Resources Administrator on her retirement, and thanked them both for their service to the city and he is grateful for their time and efforts. He reminded members if there is an ordinance that they feel needs to be reviewed, to please present it to the Mayor or himself so it can be brought to an agenda for future discussion.

Mayor Hammer thanked Clerk Caine for all of her work through the election process. He also welcomed Kendra Riddle as our new Human Resources Administrator. He thanked Sarah Motiff for her service of four years as a District 1 Alderperson and wished her the very best going forward. He also welcomed

Marcus Meier who was in attendance as he will be the next Alder for District 1. Hammer congratulated the Columbus Cardinals Archery Team who won at State and are on to the Nationals.

Convene to Closed Session

Convene to closed session per §19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, specifically City Administrator Annual Review.

Motion made by Alderperson Motiff, Seconded by Alderperson Finkler to move into Closed Seesion at 8:36pm. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote. Voting Yea: Alderperson Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Motiff, Alderperson Reid, Council President Roelke, and Alderperson Rostad.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Motiff, Seconded by Alderperson Finkler to reconvene into Open Session at 9:16pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Motiff to adjourn at 9:16pm. 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.