



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The following members were present: Mayor Joe Hammer, Alderperson Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, Alderperson Trina Reid, Council President Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad.

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 Council President Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Special Committee of the Whole and Common Council meetings of 04/02/2025, Mayoral Appointments and Department Reports from the Fire Department (03/2025), Library (03/2025), Police Department (03/2025), and Treasurer (02/2025) for file. After verification of committee vacancies, appointment dates, and committee sizes, the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

4. Consider and take action on election of Council President:

Mayor Hammer read the rules and called for nominations for the Council President position. Alderperson Meier nominated Alderperson Finkler, Alderperson Reid nominated Alderperson Roelke, and Alderperson Lawson nominated himself for Council President. Hearing no more nominations, nominations were closed and a secret ballot election took place.

Alderperson Finkler received three (3) votes.

Alderperson Roelke received two (2) votes.

Alderperson Lawson received one (1) vote.

Alderperson Finkler was declared the winner and the next Council President for the City of Columbus.

5. Consider and take action on Social Media Policy (CoW 4/2/25):

The Social Media Policy was discussed at the prior Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 2, 2025. Administrator Amundson then met with a staff team and presented the updated draft copy to council which moves our social media accounts to a limited public forum. This would enable the City to turn off comments and sets up a process for moderating and removing comments, if needed. Alderperson Meier asked Attorney Johnson about blocking a commentor from a social media page and shared about a lawsuit against a municipality in Honolulu. Johnson stated that not allowing comments would minimize this risk and the more control the city has over public forum, the better off we will be. There are currently no Supreme Court cases on this subject. Alderperson Rostad asked Recreation Director Meyers how her pages would be affected. She shared that the algorithms should not be affected. They use links to interact with the residents and receive feedback. Amundson stressed that if the policy is approved as it stands, staff will make every effort to disable comments on each platform. A majority of members felt okay with informational only pages.

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the presented social media policy with the removal of the last section titled "Blocking". Attorney Johnson asked for clarification on which section regarding blocking Alderpersons Meier/Finkler were referring to for removal. Alderperson Reid would also like to add a sentence that clarifies that our sites are for "information only" referencing the "Official and Acceptable Use" section and adding "for informational purposes only", as shown:

*"Only information that pertains to City business or operations shall be posted to City Social Media Sites **for informational purposes only.**"...* Reid made a motion for such, seconded by Meier. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The original motion by Meier/Finkler which now included the amended wording, carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Consider & take action on Claims in the amount of 650,933.95:

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the Claims in the amount of \$650,933.95. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Amundson attended the Fire Department's Pancake Breakfast and said it was a great meal and a great effort by the Fire Department to host it for the community. Mayor Hammer thanked the Fire Department and volunteers that made it such a success. He announced that there are two vacancies on the Public Spaces Committee available. Hammer wished all of our citizens and city employees a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adjourn at 7:07pm. 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.