



# Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

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## Roll Call

In the absence of Council President Finkler, Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present included: Mayor Joe Hammer, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. Council President Molly Finkler was excused.

Administrator Amundson joined via Zoom.

## Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

## Approval of Agenda

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

## Public Comment

Gloria Cain residing at 638 N. Lewis Street #5, Columbus, spoke on the feral cat population in the trailer park and asked council to consider contracting with the Columbia County Humane Society to assist with the excess number of cats.

## New Business

- 1. Discussion and consideration of a Resolution authorizing participation in preparation of an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Columbus, the City of Verona, the Village of Cross Plains, the Village of DeForest, the Village of McFarland, and the Village of Waunakee pursuant to Wis. Stat. §66.0301 for information technology support:**

Amundson shared that the Village of DeForest is leading this collaboration. The intent of the resolution is to bring the group together to develop the structure of this consortium and identify opportunities to pool resources in order to improve IT service delivery in a more cost-efficient manner. The group is looking at an Innovation Grant to help with funding. Committee members agreed to move forward to the February 17, 2026 Common Council Meeting.

- 2. Discussion of Revision to the Fund Balance Policy:**

Finance Director, Kendra Riddle shared that the last update to the Fund Balance Policy was in 2013. Committee members asked for verification that committees would still need to follow the Purchasing Policy \$25,000 rule, and if any requests over 10% of their current budgeted expenditure amount that would be requested from their Fund Balance would have to come to Council for approval. Riddle shared that they would. Committee members agreed to move forward to the February 17, 2026, Council meeting.

### **3. Discussion of Possible Implementation of New Accounting Software:**

Riddle explained that the current accounting software platform, Caselle, charges the City over \$20,000 per year for support, and the quality of their support to staff has been terribly lacking, causing several issues. Moving to Workhorse for the City's accounting software would save the city approximately \$16,300 per year. Workhorse is a proven system designed for municipal accounting. It no longer provides a Utility product, but our Utilities Department is moving to the Caselle Cloud system which Riddle will have access to. Riddle also explained that the accounting process differs between the City and Utilities. Alderperson Rostad asked if staff needed to secure three bids for this product instead of just the two. Amundson shared that the other two companies he knows of are more expensive than Workhorse. Staff shared that they have met in person with Workhorse and are comfortable with this change. Members agreed to move forward to the February 17, 2026, Council meeting.

#### **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 the Cemetery Secretary position.**

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to move into 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 the Cemetery Secretary position at 6:55pm.

Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

#### **Reconvene to Open Session**

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to reconvene into Open Session at 7:31pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adjourn at 7:32pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by  
Susan L. Caine, Clerk