



## Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 08, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

---

### Roll Call

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

Alderperson Michael Lawson was excused.

### Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

**Open Public Hearing to hear public comments regarding the 2026 W. School Street Preliminary Assessment Report (*Please Note: City residents can address the 2026 West School Street Reconstruction Project for up to three minutes.*)**

President Finkler opened the Public Hearing at 6:32pm. The following residents and owners shared comments regarding the 2026 W. School Street Preliminary Assessment Report:

Judy Manteufel - 352 S. Ludington Street; Sarah Motiff - 344 S. Charles Street; Randy & Teresa Vick - 552 W. School Street; Chris Ducat - 414 W. School Street; Al & Lori Galston - 347 S. Charles Street; Deb Henning - W5038 Cowgill Road, Rio, WI; Tyler Grams - 641 W. School Street; Gary Tucker - 353 W. School Street; Jennifer Jungenberg - 335 W. School Street.

Motiff requested a decrease in their assessment amount considering the location of their lot in relation to the project reconstruction. Another resident shared the same concerns as their driveway is split and was replaced about six years ago through a former reconstruction project. Others had questions regarding sidewalks, tree removal, and water and sewer line replacements which City Engineer Jason Leitha addressed.

### Close Public Hearing

President Finkler closed the public hearing at 7:38pm.

### Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke 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.*)

Kelly Crombie - 1082 Park Avenue - spoke on the RFP related to legal services and asked Council to consider allowing a split of duties between a law firm and on-staff legal counsel.

## **New Business**

### **1. Consider and take action regarding Wisconsin Department of Transportation Functional Classification System for Columbus Fall River:**

Community and Economic Development Director, Mike Kornmann, shared the WI Department of Transportation (WI DOT) Columbus-Fall River Functional Classification map with the members. Our map shows the roads in the Columbus-Fall River urban area and is periodically updated by the WI DOT. Kornmann is asking members to approve the updated map through a resolution. Committee members agreed to move forward to the April 8, 2026 Common Council Meeting.

### **2. Discussion of Request for Proposals (RFP) related to legal services:**

Administrator Amundson shared that City Attorney, Paul Johnson is planning on retiring at the end of 2026 and additionally, the firm he works for, Boardman-Clark will be reducing their municipal clients. Amundson presented a draft of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit firms that may be interested in providing legal services to the city. Opening the language in the RFP to allow consideration of splitting time between a firm and a city employee would create a known legal expense at a local level of service while providing a firm to handle more in-depth legal issues. Alderperson Rostad asked when the current contract will expire. Amundson shared that it is an annual renewal with a 30-day notice of non-renewal. Amundson also shared that staff would like to extend the contract to a three or five-year term going forward. Committee agreed to move forward to the April 21, 2026 Common Council meeting with additional language discussed.

### **3. Discussion regarding the award of bid for W. School Street Reconstruction to Forest Landscaping & Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$2,755,700:**

No action taken at this time.

### **4. Discussion regarding Task Order No. 2026-04 with Ruekert-Mielke for construction-related services for the W. School Street project:**

No action taken at this time.

## **Convene to Closed Session**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to 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 Utility Director's compensation at 7:54pm. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

## **Reconvene to Open Session**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to reconvene into Open Session at 8:19pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

## **Adjourn**

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn at 8:21pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Susan L. Caine, Clerk