



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 07, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

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

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the agenda with the removal of Item #5: Consider and take possible action on 2026 Budget Ad Date for publishing. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

None.

New Business

1. Overview of 2026 City Budget:

Administrator Amundson presented the overview of the 2026 City Budget to the Committee members. Department Heads then gave an overview of their particular sections of the budget, sharing their expense requests for 2026, and capital plans/projects. Committee members asked questions throughout. Amundson followed up with an explanation of specific line items and proposed cuts by staff in order to balance the budget. There was also a thorough discussion of Stormwater Utility. Follow-up Committee/Council meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2025 to address budget cuts and approve the 2026 Budget Ad for publishing.

2. Discussion of Capital Improvement Plan:

Amundson shared that Greg Johnson from Ehlers will be in attendance at the October 21, 2025 Committee of the Whole and Council meetings to go through the borrowing plan for the 2026 projects and show financial projections and options for the City's Capital Improvement Plan. Discussion items included the plow truck order date and if quotes had been received yet, future water/wastewater needs, and Pavilion upgrades.

3. Discussion of 2026 Operating Budget:

There was no additional discussion regarding the 2026 Operating Budget.

4. Discussion regarding the 2026 Trash/Garbage/Recycling Assessment Fees:

Amundson reviewed the Garbage/Recycling Fee Assessment worksheet with members, showing a 2026 Annual Customer Charge of \$211.00, which is a \$6.00 increase over 2025.

5. ~~Consider and take possible action on 2026 Budget Ad Date for publishing:~~

This agenda item was removed.

6. Res. 9-25: A Resolution Exempting the Municipality from paying Columbia County Library Tax in 2026:

Clerk Caine shared that this is an annual resolution exempting the City from paying Columbia County Library Tax in 2026.

Convene to Closed Session

7. Convene to closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data for any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Specifically to discuss collective bargaining agreement proposal between the City of Columbus and Columbus Police Local WPPA #237 for the period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027:

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to Convene into Closed Session at 8:46pm with Police Chief Weiner remaining in the room. Motion carried on a 7-0 Roll Call vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to reconvene into Open Session at 8:58pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adjourn at 8:59pm. Motion carried on a 6-1 voice vote.

VOTING YEA: Mayor Hammer, Council President Finkler, Alderperson Lawson, Alderperson Meier, Alderperson Reid, and Alderperson Roelke. VOTING NAY: Alderperson Rostad.

*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.

Respectfully Submitted by
Susan L. Caine, Clerk