



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 07, 2025 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 9:00pm. 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the agenda with a typographical correction to Item #5: "Consider and take action on Resolution 10-24" should read as "Resolution 10-25," and the removal of Item #7: Consider and take possible action on 2026 Budget Ad Date for publishing. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment None.

Committee Minutes for File included Library (08/19/25), PFC (07/23/25), and Recreation (08/18/25).

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Common Council and Council Workshop Minutes of 09/16/25, and approval of additional retailers, Holistic Life Chiropractic, and Oddfellows Tri-County Lodge, requiring a Temporary "Class B" Wine and Class "B" Beer Alcohol License listing in the Columbus Chamber of Commerce 2025 Wine Walk to be held on October 18, 2025. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

4. Consider and take action on Resolution 9-25: A Resolution Exempting the Municipality from paying Columbia County Library Tax in 2026 (CoW 10/7/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adopt Resolution 9-25: A Resolution Exempting the Municipality from paying Columbia County Library Tax in 2026. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Consider and take action on Resolution 10-24: A Resolution Declaring October 5th through 12th, 2025 Fire Prevention Week in the City of Columbus, WI:

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adopt Resolution 10-25: A Resolution Declaring October 5th through 12th, 2025 Fire Prevention Week in the City of Columbus, Wisconsin. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. This resolution will be publicly posted at City Hall.

6. Consider and take action on the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Columbus and the Columbus Professional Police Association local 237/Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) for the period of January 1, 2026, thru December 31, 2027 (CoW 10/7/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Columbus and the Columbus Professional Police Association local 237/Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) for the period of January 1, 2026, thru December 31, 2027. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

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

7. ~~Consider and take possible action on 2026 Budget Ad Date for publishing (CoW 10/7/25).~~

This item was removed from the agenda.

8. Consider and take action on Change Order #1 Fireman's Park Culvert Removal, in the increased amount of \$60,000 for path construction:

Amundson explained that at the time the original contract was awarded to Ruekert-Mielke these path connections were not factored into the actual costs. There is asphalt work as part of the project so this work can be completed cost effectively under the existing contract and available funding exists due to the awarded bid being less than the budgeted amount for the project.

Alderperson Lawson asked if this asphalt path will be ten feet wide without striping, and that was verified by Amundson.

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve Change Order #1 to the Fireman's Park Culvert Removal project in the amount of \$60,000 for path construction. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

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

9. Consider and take action on claims in the amount of \$341,920.45:

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve payment of the claims in the amount of \$341,920.45. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

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

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

Chief Weiner announced that Saturday, October 25, 2025 is the local Drug Take Back Day in the City. There will be officers manning the take back in front of the Police Department from 9:00 - 11:00am. There is also a secure drop box located in the lobby of the Police Department which is available 24/7.

Amundson congratulated Clerk Caine on her appointment to Director at Large for the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association (WMCA) for the next two-year term and announced she will be teaching a class on Election Day Set Up for the upcoming UW-GB Gubernatorial Clerk Training.

Mayor Hammer congratulated Sue Mathwich on her upcoming retirement from the Library after serving for 26 years.

Convene to Closed Session per § 19.85(1)(e), for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, specifically to discuss 103 N. Ludington Street.

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to Convene into Closed Session at 9:10pm, allowing CED Mike Kornmann and City Attorney Paul Johnson (via Zoom) to be in attendance. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

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

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to reconvene into Open Session at 9:38pm. Motion carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adjourn at 9:39pm. 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.

Respectfully Submitted
By Susan L. Caine, Clerk