



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 8:28pm. The following members were present: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Rhonda Fuller, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson 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 Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the agenda with the removal of Item #7: Consider and take action regarding Pavilion Noise Concerns and Potential Solutions, and Item # 10: Consider and take action concerning the request of a citizen for a Flock camera policy. 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.)*

None.

Department Reports for File included Finance (07-2026), Fire (07-2026), Library (07-2026), and Police (07-2026).

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting Minutes of 08/05/26. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Ordinances – First Reading (Final action may be taken by a motion to suspend the rules and waive the readings under City of Columbus Ordinance Sec 2-46)

3. Consider and take action on Ordinance No. 820-26: An Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance No. 817-26 and Recreate Section 2-390 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning the Ethics Committee. (CC 07/07/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to suspend the rules. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to waive the readings. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Fuller to adopt Ordinance No. 820-26: An Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance No. 817-26 and Recreate Section 2-390 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances Concerning the Ethics Committee. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

4. Consider and take action on the Mayoral Appointment of Ethics Committee members:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the Mayoral appointment of the Ethics Committee members. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

5. Consider and take action regarding changing the November 3, 2026 Council Meeting date due to the 2026 General Election:

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve changing the November 3, 2026, Council Meeting date to November 4, 2026, due to the 2026 General Election. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Consider and take action to approve sending an application for local historic designation of Fireman's Park to the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission for review. (CC 5/5/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve sending an application for local historic designation of Fireman's Park to the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission (HLPC) for review. Alderperson Rostad referred to pages 38-39 of the packet stating the depiction drawing does not show the exact location as previously outlined. David Bennett shared that the yellow color block on page 39 did not place well when moved into a different software. Rostad also asked for clarification that this designation was strictly for the buildings and not the circle drive, and doesn't hamper future park development as previously adopted. Bennett stated this designation is for the structures (the wall, the Pavilion and the Rest Haven) only, as designated within the boundary shown.

Council President Finkler asked for clarification that this is already recognized at the State level. Bennett verified. She asked if there would be any conflict between the two designations, and who will be the ultimate designee. Bennett shared that any changes to the Pavilion, for example, would have to go to the HLPC for a Certificate of Appropriateness, then it would go to the State Historical Society Preservation office and the two offices would have to agree. Brian Nagle spoke on behalf of HLPC to clarify that the two organizations work together hand-in-hand when those type of projects arise. Mayor Hammer asked if the State authority has ever pulled a designation. Libby Gilbertson cited that when the City of Ripon moved the Home of the Republican Party for an event, the State removed its designation. Motion carried on a 5-1 voice vote, with Alderperson Lawson voting Nay.

7. ~~Consider and take action regarding Pavilion Noise Concerns and Potential Solutions. (CoW 8/18/26)~~

8. Consider and take action on Recreation Program Fee Policy. (CoW 8/18/26):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve with the refund to match the previously adopted refund policy, and adding the verbiage that the 110% cost recovery is set as a goal. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

9. Consider and take action on the proposal from the Columbus Chamber Choir. (CoW 8/18/26):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the proposal presented by the Columbus Chamber Choir for use of the Pavilion for their concerts. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote, with Alderperson Roelke abstaining as she is a choir member.

**10. ~~Consider and take action concerning the request of a citizen for a Flock camera policy.~~
(CoW 8/18/26)**

11. Consider and take action on claims in the amount of \$367,309.06:

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to approve the claims in the amount of \$367,309.06. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

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

Mayor Hammer shared that Clerk Caine is attending the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association (WMCA) Conference this week and she gave him some August Primary election information to pass along. We currently have 3,291 registered voters with an additional 33 registered on election day. 1154 residents voted in the Primary for a 34.72% turnout. It was a good day.

Chief Weiner gave a big thank you to everyone that attended and helped out at National Night Out this year. It is a lot of work with a lot of effort by a lot of people, and it was one of the largest NNO's we have hosted here. Weiner also thanked the Marine Corp League for grilling the food, and the Cornerstone Club of Elba for serving the food. Thank you to Matt for coordinating the youth who staffed the rides and games to allow department members to interact with the public, and to the business community for their donations. We have monies to roll over to 2027. The petting Zoo was a huge hit, along with the fire demo and the taser demo. Weiner is also in the final stages of drafting the new e-vehicle ordinance.

Hammer added that the last Concert in the Park had a huge turnout. He attended the Historical Society's Open House and recommends checking it out.

Convene to Closed Session

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to convene into closed session per § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved at 8:49pm. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to reconvene into Open Session at 9:02pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn at 9:03pm. 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.