



# Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 03, 2026 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

## Roll Call

Mayor Joe Hammer called the meeting to order at 6:52pm. Members present included: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Marcus Meier, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. Guests included City Attorney, Paul Johnson, and Greg Johnson and Ariana Schmidt from Ehlers, Inc.

## 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 Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad 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.)*

None.

**Committee Minutes for File** included Library (01/20/2026).

## Consent Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve the Consent Agenda which included the Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting Minutes of 2/17/2026. 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 813-26 to Repeal Sections 30-51 through 30-53 of the City Code and to Create Sections 30-51 through 30-54 of the City Code Concerning the Management of Hillside Cemetery:

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

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

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adopt Ordinance 813-26: An Ordinance to Repeal Sections 30-51 through 30-53 of the City Code and to Create Sections 30-51 through 30-54 of the City Code Concerning the Management of the Hillside Cemetery with

fees removed from Sec. 30-52(4)(b)(2) and changing the contact for arrangements to rent the Chapel, to the City Admin and Billing Clerk at City Hall. (Sec. 30-52(f)(2). Alderperson Rostad shared opinion that the Cemetery Association should still follow their by-laws and proper posting of their meetings moving forward. Motion carried on a 5-1 Voice vote with Alderperson Reid voting "Nay."

## **New Business**

**4. RESOLUTION NO. 5-26 PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF APPROXIMATELY \$5,280,000 ELECTRIC AND WATERWORKS SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2026A (CoW 1/20/26):**

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to adopt Resolution 5-26: A Resolution Providing for the Sale of Approximately \$5,280,000 Electric and Waterworks System Revenue Bonds, Series 2026A.

Greg Johnson with Ehlers, Inc. introduced Ariana Schmidt. Schmidt shared a review of the Pre-Sale packet tables presented in the revenue bond reports and how future city debt in relation to water and electric utilities will be affected. Reports showcased the fact that a rate revenue increase on the water utility will have to be considered in the future. If approved, the sale will take place on April 8, 2026 with presentation at the Common Council meeting on that date.

Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

**5. RESOLUTION NO. 6-26 PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF APPROXIMATELY \$5,830,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTES, SERIES 2026B (CoW 1/20/26):**

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adopt Resolution 6-26: A Resolution Providing for the Sale of Approximately \$5,830,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026B.

Greg Johnson with Ehlers, Inc. was available to answer questions from Council members and share the details regarding the pre-sale report of the \$5,830,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026B. The report showcased the City's Capital Improvement Plan for funding City capital projects, storm water projects and for 2026, sewer projects, through a tax impact analysis. If approved, the sale will take place on April 8, 2026 with presentation at the Common Council meeting on that date.

Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

**6. Consider and take action to approve Façade Grant applications (CDA 2/16/26):**

David Bennett shared that there are four applications that the CDA feels should receive grants even though an additional \$28,140 over the 2026 budgeted amount of \$32,500 Façade Grant Fund balance, would be required from the CDA's fund balance in order to fulfill the requests. The projects include: \$25,000 for façade improvements to 140 E. James Street, \$25,000 for façade improvements to 152 N. Dickason Blvd., \$7,342.75 for new signage at 153 N. Ludington Street, and \$3,297 for a new awning at 135 N. Ludington Street. Council members were in agreement of discussing an increased budget amount in 2027 for such grant awards.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the Façade Grant Applications from the Community Development Authority (CDA), as presented. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

**7. Consider and take action regarding tasking the Community Development Authority to provide a feasibility report on the development opportunities for 1149 W James Street (CoW 3/3/26):**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to task the CDA with providing a feasibility report to the Common Council on development opportunities for 1149 W. James Street. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**8. Consider and take action on claims in the amount of \$1,235,001.88:**

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve payment of the claims in the amount of \$1,235,001.88. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

**Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor**

Administrator Amundson had nothing to report.

Mayor Hammer shared he had attended the American Public Power Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C. last week representing Columbus Utilities, and it was a great experience.

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to adjourn at 7:24pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by  
Susan L. Caine, Clerk