



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Thom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Joe Hammer, Molly Finkler, Michael Thom, Reagan Rule, Brook Andler, and Sandy Curtis

Notice of Open Meeting

The meeting was posted appropriately.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Curtis to move the closed session after New Business #12 and to move New Business #10 to follow New Business #7.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Public Comment

Michelle Kaltenberg, Utility Business Manager, requested to be included in the closed session.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Rule to approve the consent agenda.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 7, 2024
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 21, 2024
3. Electrical Outage: November 16, 2024 - 210 Dix Street.
Electrical Outage: December 18, 2024 - Water Street Substation #1
Water Outage: December 28, 2024 - South Water Street
Water Outage: December 30, 2024 - Maple Ave
Water Outage: January 7, 2025 - Faith Drive & Faith Lutheran Church Lot Entrance
4. December 2024 - Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval
January 2025 - Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursements Report and Accounts Payable Report - Discussion/Approval

New Business

7. Resolution # 1-2025 Emergency Declaration for Water Plant #1 Repairs
Holbert discussed recent issues at the plant and need for repairs.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Rule to approve the Resolution.
Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

10. Columbus Wastewater Utilities 2025 Rate Case Study
Bridgot Gysbers of Ruckert-Mielke discussed the Sewer Rate Case Study and the two alternatives explored as part of the study.
Commission requested that an alternative be explored to review a rate structure that has Elba, Fall River, and Columbus customers all paying the same rate.

8. Task Order 2024-CU03R Wastewater Treatment Facility BioSolids Upgrade Design Services - 2026 Project
Dave Arnott of Ruckert-Mielke discussed the task order.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Finkler to approve the task order.
Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

9. Task Order – Ruckert-Mielke 2025 WQT Services
Dave Arnott discussed the Water Quality Trading Program and that we need to update our permit for this program.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Finkler to approve the task order.
Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

11. Approval of Rhyme Printer Leasing Contract for Wastewater and Utilities Offices
Jacob Holbert discussed the need for the service.
Motion made by Hammer, Seconded by Curtis to approve the proposal.
Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

12. Approval of Rhyme Managed IT Contract for Columbus Utilities
Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Rule to approve the proposal.
Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Closed Session

5. Convene to closed session under section 19.85(1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to discuss the compensation of the Business Manager and banked vacation benefits for two employees.
Motion made by Hammer, seconded by Curtis to adjourn to close session.
Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to reconvene to open session.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

13. Consider and take possible action on the compensation of the Business Manager.

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Andler to postpone discussion of the Business Manager salary to the 2026 budget process.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

14. Consider and take possible action on banked vacation benefits for two employees.

Motion made by Finkler, Seconded by Rule to direct Utility Director to work with staff on plan to use vacation and work towards policy compliance.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Reports

Holbert gave a brief overview of the information in the reports.

15. Directors Report

16. MEUW - December 2024 Live Lines

17. MEUW - January 2025 Live Lines

18. Commendation of Mutual Aide Letter and Memo from American Public Power Association

Reports

19. Emergency Funding - Water Plant #1

20. Funding Approval - Meister Park Forced Main Repair

21. Permission of Additional Bonding - Payment of Emergency Repairs to Water Plant #1

Adjourn

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to adjourn at 9:33 pm.

Voting Yea: Hammer, Finkler, Thom, Rule, Andler, Curtis

Special Joint Columbus Utility Commission & Columbus Common Council Meeting: February 4, 2025 7:45PM Council Chambers - City Hall; Following Common Council & COW Meetings.

Emergency Columbus Utilities Commission Meeting Following Joint Common Council & CUC Meeting: February 4, 2025 Council Chambers - City Hall

Next Columbus Utility Commission Meeting: February 20, 2025 6:00PM Council Chambers - City Hall

*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.