



Committee of the Whole Meeting - AMENDED

Tuesday, December 02, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Molly Finkler called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present included: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. Alderperson Meier was excused.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

None.

New Business

1. Discussion of Columbus Snow and Ice Emergency Control Policy:

Administrator Amundson shared that the Police Department and Department of Public Works Director, Duane Millard have worked through this policy to update and align it with the ordinances in place. A snow emergency will go into effect when 3" of snow occurs. Also, communication and public notice was addressed. There were questions regarding snow clearance and parking from Alderperson Rostad. Millard clarified that a snow emergency is about plowing, but more importantly, public safety. Rostad also asked for clarification regarding keeping fire hydrants clear in a snow event - Is it through ordinance or policy; is it up to adjacent property owners to keep them clear? Amundson also stated that leaf collection will continue December 3 along with remaining snow removal. Public Parking was also discussed. Mayor Hammer questioned Appendix "A" in regards to the date to check staff CDL licenses. He feels it should maybe be moved back to September, annually. Committee members agreed to move forward the Columbus Snow and Ice Emergency Control Policy to the December 2, 2025 Common Council meeting.

2. Discussion of the assigned/take-home squad program policy:

Chief Weiner shared the history of the LESO Program with all present and explained how it ties into the recruitment and retention plan of the Columbus Police Department. The Assigned/Take Home Squad Program Policy would begin with the two current Lieutenants who would be following the policy on a trial basis for one year before the other squads would be issued to the remaining officers. Weiner shared some of the details that the officers would have to follow within this program and reminded everyone that these LESO Program vehicles have been purchased and outfitted with zero tax dollars. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 2, 2025 Common Council meeting.

3. Discussion of 2026 Budget for Eastern Columbia County Joint Municipal Court:

Mayor Hammer shared that this is an annual document from the Eastern Columbia County Joint Municipal Court that requires governing body approval. No monies for the ECCJMC Budget comes from the City of Columbus. Committee members agreed to move forward to the December 2, 2025 Common Council meeting.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to adjourn at 7:25pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan L. Caine, Clerk