



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 7:19pm. The following members were present: Mayor Joe Hammer, Council President Molly Finkler, Alderperson Michael Lawson, Alderperson Trina Reid, Alderperson Amy Roelke, and Alderperson Ryan Rostad. ABSENT: Alderperson Marcus Meier.

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 Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

None.

Department Reports for File included Fire (09/2025), Library (09/2025), and Police (09/2025).

Consent Agenda included Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meeting Minutes of 10/07/2025, and 10/14/2025, and a Street Closing Application for the Columbus Fire Department for Safe Trick or Treat on October 31, 2025.

New Business

4. Consider and take possible action on 2026 Operating Budget (CoW 10/14/25):

Administrator Amundson shared that the 2026 Budget Ad was posted with the previously agreed upon changes discussed at the October 14, 2025, Special Common Council meeting. This is an opportunity to make any other changes deemed necessary. He and Mayor Hammer have discussed scheduling a Stormwater Utility Workshop with the Council members and the Utility Commission. Alderperson Rostad asked for clarification on the Clerk/Admin Training allotment, and the Community Center staffing hours which were explained.

Action was deferred to the November 4, 2025 Common Council meeting following the Public Hearing of the 2026 Budget.

5. Discussion of Employee Handbook:

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the revised Employee Handbook as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Consider and take action regarding the Tower Housing Project Request for Qualifications (RFQ) (CC 08/19/25):

CED Kornmann shared information pertaining to the request for qualifications for Concept #3 of the Tower Housing Project which will include a two-story apartment building for 55 and older, and 8 units of Twin Homes. The timeline provides review by the Development Review Team bringing their top three proposals to Council hopefully in December, 2025. Alderperson Larson asked as to where the request will be released. Kornmann replied that there have already been several requests from developers and it will also go to the WI League of Municipalities, and the American Planning Association WI Chapter.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve the Tower Housing Project RFQ as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

7. Consider and take action regarding Resolution 12-25: Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments under Municipal Police Powers pursuant to Sec. 66.0703, Stats., regarding 2026 Reconstruction of W. School Street (CoW 10/21/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to approve Resolution 12-25: Preliminary Resolution Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments under Municipal Police Powers pursuant to Sec. 66.0703, Stats., regarding 2026 Reconstruction of W. School Street. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

8. Consider and take action on the 2026 Dodge County Humane Society Stray Animal Contract (CoW 10/21/25):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to approve the 2026 Dodge County Humane Society contract in the amount of \$1,800 which covers up to five domestic stray dogs, as discussed. Motion carried on a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

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

9. Consider and take action on Claims in the amount of \$999,637.35:

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the payment of the claims in the amount of \$999,637.35.

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

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Amundson reminded everyone that Saturday, October 25th is Drug Take Back Day at the Police Department. Officers will be available from 9:00am until 11:00am for drop offs. The first Public Information meeting for the W. School Street Reconstruction Project will be on Tuesday, October 28th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers. Columbus will have a week of Halloween festivities happening beginning on Saturday, October 25th. Council members are invited to join the City Staff for Trick or Treating on Friday in front of City Hall. Amundson wished everyone a safe and Happy Halloween.

Mayor Hammer congratulated both the Columbus High School Football team for being Conference Champions, and the Columbus High School Marching Band for taking second place in the WSMA State Marching Band competition.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to adjourn at 7:34pm. 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.