



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Council President Finkler called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. 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.

Notice of Open Meeting

Noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

None.

New Business

1. Presentation by Ehlers regarding 2026 borrowing for Capital Projects:

Greg Johnson with Ehlers Public Finance Advisors presented two financing plans for Committee members to consider based on the updated Capital Improvement Plan with a focus on the next five-year period. The first one addressed the City and Stormwater financial needs, and the second one focused on Water, Electric and Sewer needs. Johnson shared how various financing programs could be utilized for the city's needs.

2. Discussion of Employee Handbook:

Finance Director, Kendra Riddle shared the revised version of the Employee Handbook with members and recommended approval of the presented document. Once approved, the Department Heads that have Addendums to add will submit their requests for future review at the November 4, 2025 Common Council meeting. After questions and review, Committee members agreed to move forward to the October 21, 2025 Common Council meeting.

3. Discussion of 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:

Administrator Amundson shared that this is the start of the process allowing Ruekert-Mielke to move forward with the reconstruction of West School Street project slated for 2026. Communications with the Columbus School District have been ongoing and will continue through next year. There is a Public Information Meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 in City Hall beginning at 6:30pm. The public is encouraged to attend. Committee Members agreed to move Resolution 12-25 forward to the October 21, 2025 Common Council meeting.

4. Discussion of the 2026 Dodge County Humane Society Stray Animal Contract:

Clerk Caine shared with members that this is an ongoing renewed contract with the Dodge County Humane Society to assist our community with up to five stray dogs. The contract amount of \$1,800 has not increased over last year. The Humane Society does have to notify our authorities before accepting any dogs on our behalf. Committee members agreed to move forward to the October 21, 2025 Common Council meeting.

Adjourn

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adjourn at 7:18pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by
Susan L. Caine, Clerk