



Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 6:35 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Roll Call

Mayor Hammer called the meeting to order at 8:08pm. 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.

Interim Finance Director/HR Administrator Kendra Riddle took the minutes for Clerk Caine who was attending the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association Conference.

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 Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the agenda with the change of Item #7 to read: *Consider and take action regarding authorization to fill vacancies for Administrative and Billing Clerk, Human Resources Generalist, and Public Works Maintenance II positions (Cow 8/19/25)*. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment: None.

Department Reports for File

included CFD (06/2025), Library (07/2025), and Police (07/2025).

Consent Agenda

2. Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to approve the Consent Agenda which included Joint Plan Commission/Common Council, Committee of the Whole, Common Council and Council Workshop meeting minutes of 08/06/2025. 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 regarding Ordinance 808-25: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Certain Provisions of Chapter 102 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances concerning the Columbus Utility Commission (COW 8/19/25):**

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to suspend the rules per Sec. 2-46. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to waive the readings of Ordinance 808-25: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Certain Provisions of Chapter 102 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances concerning the Columbus Utility Commission. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adopt Ordinance 808-25: An Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Certain Provisions of Chapter 102 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances concerning the Columbus Utility Commission with the deletion of "and communications" from Sec. 102-58 as shown:

"The common council delegates general management, control and supervision of any and all of the property pertaining to the water, sewer, stormwater, ~~and electric, and communications~~ utilities. All property owned by any of the utilities shall be vested in the City of Columbus. The commission shall protect all property under its charge and management from all unnecessary damage or loss, keep the water, sewer, stormwater, ~~and electric and communications~~ systems and appliances in good repair, procure at the expense of the city all materials necessary to operate the water, sewer, stormwater, ~~and electric and communications~~ systems, and employ all labor necessary in the operation, management and extension of the systems."

Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

4. Consider and take action regarding Tower Drive Housing Project:

Kornmann shared that there was good public feedback at Zion Lutheran Church on July 31st and at National Night Out. We also received several good emails back through the link on the website. Kornmann provided a third option for residents to consider which has 1-2 story 55-year old and older apartment building with approximately 30 units and 8 to 10 zero lot line homes. Alderperson Lawson would like the city to issue a Request for Proposal/Request for Qualifications for this project. Kornmann shared that there are many different arrangements that could be considered. Alderperson Finkler does not want analysis and likes Concept #3. She feels that the RFQ should just include the one concept so we can move forward. Alderperson Meier would like to see the emails that were received in order to make an informed decision.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Lawson to create an RFP and propose an RFQ for concept number three. Motion carried with a 5-1 voice vote. Alderperson Meier voted Nay.

5. Consider and take action on the Mission, Vision, and Value Statements of the City of Columbus (CoW 7/15/25):

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Reid to approve the City of Columbus, Wisconsin's Mission, Vision and Value Statements as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Consider and take action on Job Descriptions for Administrative and Billing Clerk, Deputy Treasurer, and Human Resources Generalist (CoW 8/19/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the job description for the Administrative and Billing Clerk with the addition of "*Assists with Columbus Utilities as needed*"; and the job description for the Deputy Treasurer with the deletion of Water & Light duties listed and the Human Resources Generalist. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

7. Consider and take action regarding authorization to fill vacancies for Administrative and Billing Clerk, Human Resources Generalist, and Public Works Maintenance II positions (CoW 8/19/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to authorize staff to fill the vacancies for the Administrative and Billing Clerk, Human Resources Generalist, and Public Works Maintenance II positions. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

8. Consider and take action on Task Order 2025-05 with Ruekert-Mielke, Inc for 2026 W. School Street Reconstruction in the amount of \$167,600 (CoW 8/19/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Roelke, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve Task Order 2025-05 with Ruekert-Mielke, Inc. for the 2026 W. School Street Reconstruction project in the amount of \$167,600. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

9. Consider and take action on award of bid to Kopplin & Kinas Co, Inc. in the amount of \$240,978.80 for asphalt work at Waterloo lift station, Meister Park lift station and parking lot, and Warner Park parking lot and infrastructure support of proposed park shelter (CoW 8/19/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to reject the bids from Kopplin & Kinas Co., Inc. as presented. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

10. Consider and take action on ordering 2026 Ford Police Interceptor squad from Napleton Columbus in the amount of \$44,399.50 (CoW 8/19/25):

Motion made by Alderperson Lawson, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford Police Interceptor squad from Napleton Columbus in the amount of \$44,399.50. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

11. Consider & take action on Claims in the amount of \$424,955.83:

Motion made by Alderperson Meier, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve and pay the claims in the amount of \$424,955.83. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Report of City Officers – City Administrator, Mayor

Amundson thanked the staff and residents for enduring the Park Avenue/Ludington Street road reconstruction. We are fortunate that James Street, Park Avenue/Ludington Street and Farnham/89 have all been reconstructed during the last eight years.

Mayor Hammer reminded all that even though a majority of the road project is complete to please continue to support the businesses affected along the route.

Convene to Closed Session

Convene to closed session per § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Alderperson Meier to convene into Closed Session at 8:33pm. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Reconvene to Open Session

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Rostad to reconvene into Open Session at 8:39pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider and take action to approve a settlement agreement concerning a former employee:

Motion made by Alderperson Rostad, Seconded by Council President Finkler to approve the settlement agreement concerning a former employee. Motion carried on a 6-0 Roll Call vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council President Finkler, Seconded by Alderperson Roelke to adjourn at 8:40pm. 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.

Respectfully Submitted by
Susan L. Caine, Clerk