

COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY MINUTES

CALLED MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Chairman William Roundtree called to order the meeting to discuss proposed items for the FY 2026-27 fiscal year budget to be presented to the city for consideration.

Director of Golf Jim Arendt noted that the Golf Authority had already approved a preliminary budget plan, but additional items needed to be addressed, including possible pay adjustments for the next fiscal year.

The budget projects a potential revenue total of more than \$2.87 million for Bull Creek Golf Course and more than \$769,000 for Oxbow Creek, he said. The \$2 price increase approved at the last Authority meeting, applied across about 58,000-60,000 rounds played per year, will add about \$106,000 in revenue at Bull Creek and about \$48,000 at Oxbow Creek.

When anticipated maintenance, operations, labor costs and Godwin Creek expenses are added together, about \$535,308 is available to cover cost allocation and other approved expenses at Bull Creek. Maintenance, operations and labor expenses projected at Oxbow Creek leave about \$91,020 remaining for allocation costs and other expenses there, Arendt said.

The director will recommend three separate \$1 fee increases to help cover all costs and project a “break-even year” financially at the golf facilities.

Another area of finances needing to be addressed in the budget, he said, is the cost of restructuring and repositioning employee pay with the retirement next summer of longtime Superintendent Steve Brown.

He proposed that upon Brown’s retirement, Assistant Superintendent Charles Lewis be promoted to Superintendent with a projected pay raise to \$80,000 annually; a new Assistant Superintendent be hired at a salary of \$55,000; a part-time spray technician be hired at a pay rate of up to \$26,000, based on an hourly pay plan; an Ambassador Captain be hired at a part-time pay totaling about \$20,000 a year; and that a new position of Director of Agronomy be created beginning the last six months of the FY26-27 fiscal year, a position supervising all the maintenance and turf management operations at all golf facilities, with a salary impact of up to \$55,000 for that six-month period.

After lengthy discussion of the proposed plan, a motion by Tommy Nobles, seconded by Ken Davis, was approved that would pay Charles Lewis \$75,000 annually with a compensation review in one year.

A motion by Ken Davis, seconded by Gerald Miley, was approved to pay the new Assistant Superintendent \$55,000 a year.

A motion by Gerald Miley, seconded by Richard Mahone, was approved to pay a part-time spray technician \$23.50 an hour.

A motion by Gerald Miley, seconded by Tommy Nobles, was approved to create a post of Ambassador Captain at a part-time rate totaling up to \$20,000 a year.

A motion by Gerald Miley, seconded by Alonzo Jones, was approved to create the post of Director of Agronomy at a salary of up to \$55,000 for the six-month period of January-June 2027.

Director Arendt also informed the Authority he is exploring options for replacing the rental golf car fleet when the current 3-year lease on 104 carts expires. The goal is to move to electric carts when the new Bull Creek clubhouse is built, and two cart manufacturers – E Z Go and Yamaha – have already provided demonstration carts to test in anticipation of the conversion to electric.

Meanwhile, the director said he is proposing a \$70,000 addition to the budget to lease the gas cart fleet for the additional time needed before the new clubhouse completion allows conversion to electric.

A motion by Alonzo Jones, seconded by Stephanie Leohr, was approved to add the \$70,000 cart rental costs to the budget proposal.

Tommy Nobles said the city has completed the process of approving the bridge bid submitted for replacement of the missing structure at Oxbow Creek. The bid of \$215,000 as presented by the city was approved by the Authority following a motion by Gerald Miley, seconded by Alonzo Jones.

Nobles also reported that the bid submitted to the city for renovation of the Oxbow Creek Clubhouse follows the plan previously presented to the Authority for that project. Nobles made a motion, seconded by Stephanie Leohr, for the Authority to accept the bid as presented.

Both the bridge and clubhouse renovation are being funded as part of the most recent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax that provided up to \$5 million for those projects, plus a new bridge and a new clubhouse to be constructed at Bull Creek Golf Course.

A motion to adjourn, made by Ken Crumpler and seconded by Ken Davis, was passed unanimously.

Attending this meeting were Chairman William Roundtree, Vice Chairman Richard Mahone, Ken Crumpler, Stephanie Leohr, Tommy Nobles, Alonzo Jones, Ken Davis, Gerald Miley and Secretary Jim Houston.