

**City of Columbus
City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
05.11.2022**

The 05.11.22 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at the City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Robert Busch, Janet Hegland, Shelly Logren and Sue Wagamon; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, Public Communications Coordinator Connor Keith and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

Also in attendance: Jackson Auge, Anoka County Assistant County Engineer Jerry Auge, Planning Commissioner Barb Bobick, Planning Commission Chairman Ron Hanegraaf, Colton Millette, Jayson Millette, Nick Millette, Tim Przybilla, Will Przybilla, Benjamin Reber and Jackson Reber

1. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order – Regular Meeting – 6:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Motion – Agenda Approval with Additions

4. Motion – Approval of the 04-13-2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

5. Motion – Approval of the 04-13-2022 City Council Closed Meeting Minutes

~~**6. Motion – Approval of the 11-22-2021 City Council Meeting Minutes**~~

~~**7. Motion – Approval of the 12-29-2021 City Council Meeting Minutes**~~

8. Motion – Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Hegland to approve Consent Agenda items 3-5 and 8. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

3. PRESENTATION

9. Public Open Forum

No participation.

10. Planning Commission Report

Bobick recapped the 05/04/2022 Joint Planning Commission and City Council Meeting. A non-binding concept review was discussed regarding Equipment Transport, Inc., an in-house service operation for repairs and maintenance for their heavy haul and sand/gravel trucking divisions occupying lots Nos. 6 and 7 on the Waldoch Business Development at Lake Street and 137th Avenue. Attempts to be neighborly by minimizing and containing sound, light and dust were included in the proposal. Questions were raised by Bobick about if 137th could handle this type of business, to which Windingstad had indicated that the road is going to be upgraded to a 10-ton standard with turn lanes and shoulders of 2 or 3 feet at Waldoch's expense. During the Planning Commission meeting, Anoka County shared that Lake Drive could handle 7,800 vehicles per day, which does not exclude the business from operating in this area. All members of the combined meeting shared their thoughts and concerns to the applicants presenting the non-binding concept review with Logren indicating she felt the business in this area is minimally invasive.

Bobick also detailed the Personnel Committee’s report that took place during that meeting.

Preiner said he had been contacted by a neighbor of the proposed business location and inquired if there was discussion about installing a berm on the west side of the property. Bobick said there was discussion about some sort of sound-reducing structure, both on the west and the north sides of the property. Mursko indicated that the company currently plans on building a solid wooden fence not only on the western property line, but around the entire property.

Mursko asked Jerry Auge the maximum load allowed on a county highway before adding a lane in either direction. Auge said the County follows city standards, which are anywhere between 15,000 and 18,000 vehicles for a two-lane road. A three-lane road (two lanes in either direction and a center left-turn lane) are rated to handle approximately 21,000 vehicles. Therefore, Lake Drive would need to see an increase in usage before the County considers expanding the road to a four-lane highway.

11. 2023-2025 Urban County Requalification HUD Programs

Mursko explained the 2023-2025 Urban County Requalification HUD Programs, detailing how the County administers HUD funds from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). In order to participate in these programs as a part of Anoka County, the City must opt-in to be under the County’s umbrella. Otherwise, the City can opt-out to work directly with the state and federal governments. Mursko recommended the City opt into the programs to have Anoka County initiate these programs on the City’s behalf.

Motion by Preiner to approve the “opt-in” and remain a participant with Anoka County in the 2023-2025 Urban County Requalification HUD Programs. Seconded by Logren. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

4. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

12. Engineer’s Report

Bittner requested approval for a letter supporting for the grant application that Anoka County is submitting with the City as a partner to fund the improvements to the intersection of Lake Drive and Kettle River Boulevard. The City Engineer provided a draft letter for the City Council to review.

Motion by Wagamon to approve sending a letter of support in pursuit of HSIP funding for County Road 23 (Lake Drive) and County Road 62 (Kettle River Boulevard) intersection improvements to Anoka County to include with the grant application submittal. Seconded by Hegland.

Busch inquired if this motion was contingent on getting the funding if the City and County were to close Camp 3 Road. Bittner clarified that this motion did not authorize the project itself, simply the grant application.

Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Bittner presented a request for a reduction for the letter of credit for the St. Clair Lakes project from Lighthouse Management Group, the receiver of the development. The reduction is in the amount of \$125,378.66, which represents the value of materials on site. Bittner recommended approval. Due to the receivership, Griffith also examined at the request to ensure the receiver was operating under the

existing permits. That was confirmed by Josh Clark of Lighthouse Management Group. At that time, Griffith informed Clark the City would have to review all contracts they wish to have signed. The assignment and closing is potentially taking place at the end of the month.

Motion by Preiner to approve the request of Josh Clark of Lighthouse Management Group to reduce the letter of credit for the St. Clair Lakes Project from \$615,480.75 by \$125,378.66 and leave a remaining letter of credit balance of \$490,102.09. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon -aye; Hegland – aye; Busch -aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

13. Attorney's Report

Griffith provided an update on the Small Cities Legislation, sharing that though the City's bill is not in the Senate's tax bill, Senator Karin Housley, the bill's lead author, and Senator Michelle Benson are working diligently to have it added to either the omnibus or another tax bill. Griffith continued, sharing the Small Cities Transportation Funding has been moved to be made permanent by Senator Jeff Howe. Since Howe's bill was included in the Senate's big tax bill, there's a better chance of this legislation being passed and benefitting the City directly with funding.

Griffith also previewed a memo about broadband funding, highlighting a number of programs the City could apply for, including the dollars coming from the federal government to the state for general broadband funding. Since every state is receiving its share of this funding, Griffith and his office will work to attain funds from the Minnesota allocation.

Griffith shared that Hegland had asked if the hiring of a facilitator to work on the Sunrise Water Management Organization (SRWMO) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) would be in the authority of the board or Anoka Conservation District (ACD), the entity that provides administrative support to the board. Griffith felt the best thing Hegland could do as vice-chair is to bring back a request for a motion that, if the ACD doesn't feel it's in their purview, then the board can delegate that signing authority to Hegland or another authority as appropriate.

14. Mayor and City Councilmembers' Reports

Logren had no report.

Wagamon welcomed the Boy Scouts in attendance before discussing the Commercial/Industrial Zoning District on Lake Drive. She brought up the proposal at the previous night's workshop of a moratorium to allow the City to resolve a discrepancy in what it would allow in that area.

Motion by Wagamon to direct the City Attorney to draft a moratorium on the Commercial/Industrial District on Lake Drive with the direction from the City Council discussion. Seconded by Hegland.

Hegland clarified that this was a moratorium on any additional contractor shops for trucking firms. Mursko shared that the Council wants to look at the uses that are currently allowed in this district with the possibility they may want the zone broken down into smaller, different parts. Griffith equated this proposed moratorium to the one already existing in the Rural Residential zone prohibiting new home businesses in that it only impacted one line item. This moratorium could highlight specific listings currently in zoning ordinance the Council wants to limit.

Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch -aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland presented a memo she composed regarding the Columbus Lions Club and detailing their rental of the Columbus Community Center for their monthly pancake breakfasts, starting in September. Since the Lions have conducted a successful pancake breakfast fundraiser benefiting the City in that space in the past, Hegland felt they should be considered for a priority reservation. Rules would be detailed in the contract including clean-up stipulations and that the Club would provide their own supplies beyond the stove, sanitizer and refrigerator, which they would be required to maintain and replace as the equipment's sole users.

Wagamon inquired why the City would waive reservation fees for the space. Hegland clarified that it would be because the Lions Club disperses their proceeds back into the City, the Columbus public and neighboring communities. Busch vouched for the Lions, referencing their recent Easter event as a way they reinvest in the community.

Since the City is not collecting rent, Logren asked what the penalty would be if the Lions did not clean the area to satisfaction. Hegland said that in the past, there was not a stated standard of expectations as would need to be created but going forward the City would likely require the space cleaned to professional standards. Logren continued, asking what the penalty to the City could be if it had to stop the event for various reasons, such as the septic system malfunctioning. Hegland Logren also recommended that any auxiliary baked goods sales should take place in the dining area instead of the hallway between the Community Center and Council Chambers.

Motion by Hegland to direct the City Attorney to draft the Lions Club Rental Agreement for future Community Center use. Seconded by Preiner.

Griffith indicated that he and his office would draft the rental agreement rather than a resolution as adopting the rental agreement accomplishes the end goal.

Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch -aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland provided an update on the Personnel Committee, sharing that the interim accountant's contract was extended through June 6, 2022. Regarding the open Associate Planner position, four candidates were scored and have been scheduled for interview on Thursday, May 12 and Friday, May 13, 2022. Candidates approved by Mursko and Windingstad will be forwarded to the Personnel Committee for second interviews on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Should the Committee elect to extend an offer to one or more of the candidates, then the City Council would need to have a Special Meeting.

Motion by Hegland to approve calling a Special City Council meeting for Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the final candidates for the Associate Planner and/or Assistant Planner, along with a discussion of the accounting contract.

Hegland shared that should the Personnel Committee determine they do not have any viable candidates or accounting contract options not be ready, the meeting could be canceled.

Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch -aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland provided an update on the search for a new Animal Control service after receiving a notice of closure by North Metro Animal Control (NMAC). Mark Anderson, owner of NMAC, recommended

Companion Animal Control, LLC (CAC), located in Bayport, MN, because of their quality work and they are already working in Washington and Isanti Counties in communities that Columbus shares borders with. A meeting with CAC is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17.

Busch indicated that he has a meeting with Senator Benson and MN Representative Cal Bahr on Thursday, May 19, 2022 outside the scope of his role as a Councilmember, but that he would like to discuss Columbus business with them and would follow up with the City Attorney on how to best do that. Busch continued, sharing that he had attended a fire board meeting on May 5 where he learned that 118 calls to the Forest Lake Fire Department (FLFD) were from Columbus (21 of which were cancelled before FLFD arrived), plus seven calls for additional aide. FLFD currently has 27 fire fighters on staff, with eight stationed at the Columbus station. FLFD wants to hire approximately two more fire fighters to add to the eight, who's current average age is 40 years old. Busch finished his report by thanking the Boy Scouts for attending the meeting, as he is an alumnus of Troop 414.

Mursko detailed FLFD's need to replace Engine No. 2. The Fire Board recommended an advance purchase of the new pumper truck since it is already in the City's budget for 2023. The City had budgeted \$750,000 for the new engine, but current quotes are coming back \$64,000 overbudget if an order is placed by May 31, 2022, after which bids increase by \$56,000 on top of the \$64,000 (totaling \$120,000 overbudget). The Fire Board recommends the advance purchase for a 2023 purchase of a new engine deliverable in 2024.

Hegland inquired if this advanced purchase would create any hardships for the City's capital fund for equipment budget. Mursko said that since it is a 2024 capital outlay, the City does have an extra year to make up the \$64,000, which means the \$110,000 the City has been setting aside for this account will probably need to be increased.

Motion by Preiner to approve the purchase before May 31, 2022 of a new Engine No. 2 in the amount of \$809,952 for delivery in 2024. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

15. Public Works' Report

No report.

16. Public Communications Coordinator's Report

No report.

17. City Administrator's Report

Mursko brought up the land sale to Love's Travel Stop & Country Stores in 2021. At the time of the land transfer, the Council indicated it was going to use 20 percent (\$70,000) of the proceeds to pay back the inter-loan to the City's General Fund. While budgeting, the Council said it wanted to allocate \$20,000 of the proceeds to the Blacktop/Gravel Fund and the remaining \$50,000 to the General Fund. Currently, the money is still in the City's general ledger and the auditor is requiring an official transfer to the general fund as described.

Motion by Preiner to approve the internal fund cash transfer balance of \$70,000 as allocated in the memo dated 05.09.2022 effective 12.30.2021. Seconded by Logren. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye.

Busch requested verification that this payment was being backdated to 2021, which Mursko confirmed.

Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

18. Planning Commission Meeting 05.18.2022 at 6:30 p.m.

19. City Council Meeting 05.25.2022 at 6:30 p.m.

20. Calendar of Meetings

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hegland to adjourn. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator