

**City of Columbus**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Alternative Meeting Format**  
**MN Statute, Section 13D.021**  
**09.14.2022**

The 09.14.22 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Robert Busch, Janet Hegland, Shelly Logren and Sue Wagamon; Associate Planner Frank Koenen (via teleconference), City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, Public Communication Coordinator Connor Keith and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

Also in attendance: Cindy Angel, Myron Angel, Planning Commissioner Bob Berens, Planning Commissioner Barb Bobick, Planning Commission Chairman Ron Hanegraaf and Natalie Ryder (via teleconference)

**A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

1. Call to Order – Regular Meeting – 6:35 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

**B. CONSENT AGENDA**

3. Agenda Approval with Additions
4. Approval of the 08-24-2022 City Council Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of the 08-10-2022 City Council Meeting Minutes
6. Approval of the Constitution Week Proclamation
7. Approval of 2022 Election Judges for 2022 General State Election
8. Pay Bills as Posted

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

**C. PRESENTATION**

9. Public Open Forum

Berens of 16726 W. Iverson St. NE presented to City Council to voice his support for creating a position on City Staff for a compliance officer. Berens said that as a member of the Planning Commission, he has found the City has difficulty enforcing different aspects of its code, which he has witnessed firsthand regarding his property and its value being impacted by some of his neighbors.

**10. Planning Commission Report**

Bobick presented to the Council to summarize the Planning Commission’s meeting on September 7, 2022, which focused on Commercial Design Standards, the Commercial/Industrial (C/I) moratorium and Residential Zoned Business moratorium.

The conversation about the Commercial Design Standards focused on masonry products, decorative lighting, building minimums specifically in the Highway Commercial District, corporate branding, drive-

throughs, security fencing and parking. The Planning Commission voted to recommend Commercial Design Standards 1-9, with added language to Standard No. 4 to shade decorative lighting brighter than a half foot-candle, to City Council to create a draft ordinance.

During the conversation concerning the C/I moratorium, the Planning Commission reached the conclusion for the City Attorney to draft edited definitions for the district and removing flexibilities for contractor offices and will compile recommendations for the Planning Commission and City Council.

The Residential Zoned Business discussion focused on traffic, sights/sounds/odors and permitting. Proposed classifications of Home Occupation Nos. 1 and 2 both received edits and feedback from the Planning Commission, specifically regarding deliveries and inspections.

Wagamon requested clarification regarding the discussion about veneer and if it should be included and what the purpose of considering it masonry would be. Koenen said his concern was that masonry is typically considered a building process in which stone or brick is laid or put together, while veneer is a different process and applied. Koenen's focus is eliminating ambiguity in the future.

Mursko felt it is important to declare that veneer should be applied to a masonry base versus a stick-built building so that design standards are still met. Hegland asked what is meant by a "stick-built building." Busch said veneer is simply a covering over the actual structure. The veneer is masonry, but it does not make the structure masonry. Griffith said that most Cities that have freeway districts have provided for masonry construction in the base construction, with exceptions for multi-family homes, so the City can ensure higher quality and durable buildings in these areas. Logren asked what the Council wanted the City's standard to be and said that she wanted the quality that masonry provides.

Busch suggested naming the standard as "brick-and-mortar." Griffith expressed concern about that idea, as it doesn't provide flexibility, which could lead to builders avoiding putting brick on the front of a building as opposed to having brick be a façade on a tip-up building.

Preiner asked Griffith if what is important to the City is that buildings are constructed with masonry products to produce projects with high taxable value. Griffith confirmed that is the case. Mursko clarified that the ordinance is not before the Council at this meeting, but simply the Planning Commission is updating the Council with their recommendations to receive their feedback.

**Motion by Preiner to accept the Planning Commission Recommendations for Ordinance 22-01 Commercial Design Standards as presented with the following changes: direct the City Staff to draft the ordinance and call for a Public Hearing. Failed with a lack of second.**

Mursko suggested the Council direct City Staff to draft the ordinance and call for a Joint Meeting to have a more detailed discussion about the draft before a Public Hearing.

**Motion by Preiner to direct City Staff to draft Ordinance 22-01 and to call for a Joint Planning Commission and City Council meeting to have a more detailed discussion about the drafted ordinance. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland -aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.**

## D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

### 11. Engineer Report

Bittner provided an update on ongoing projects within the City, sharing that the West Freeway Drive project is out to bid and will be reviewed after the September 27 bid submission deadline. While the City is not the contracting agency, the County will not consider bids without City approval. Environmental issues regarding the project are ongoing, but Bittner is optimistic the City should receive approval from the DNR and permitting agencies.

Bittner continued, sharing a request from Joshua/Markum Homes for a reduction in the Letter of Credit for the St. Clair Lakes project in the amount of \$100,998.40.

**Motion by Wagamon to approve St. Clair Lakes' Line of Credit reduction of \$100,998.40 from \$194,259.22 to a new line of credit amount of \$93,260.82. Seconded by Logren.**

Hegland asked about the remaining balance and what happens to it. Bittner said the draw is not done yet, as St. Clair Lakes still needs to complete paving the road. That project will occur next year. Any remaining balance will be released once the entire St. Clair Lakes project is complete and is inspected.

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

### 12. Attorney Report

Griffith shared that a purchase agreement for the Public Right-of-Way for the West Freeway Drive project has been signed and should close before September 27, 2022.

Hegland asked Griffith if he felt the City should try for the Gas Tax or Fiscal Disparities bills again next year. Griffith said that after speaking with colleague Margaret Vesel, it is difficult to predict given the upcoming election and two years without the bill being passed. Griffith recommended focusing on Small Cities Transportation Funding if the City wanted to spend on lobbying at the state level. Hegland suggested budgeting for lobbying in the initial levy, but leaving the possibility of reallocating those funds after the election if it did not appear the state congress would be receptive. Mursko said 2023 lobbying was currently budgeted to be funded out of reserves.

Logren asked why Griffith suggested a shift in tactic from lobbying for two years on getting the fiscal disparity bill passed to not continuing that work in 2023. Griffith felt it was still possible the bill could pass in 2023, but wanted to express caution at trying a bill for a third time and it not go anywhere. The reason Griffith is more optimistic about the Gas Tax bill is because it got multiple meetings and hearings in different committees in 2022.

### 13. Mayor & City Councilmembers Report

Wagamon shared that she attended a Forest Lake Cable Commission meeting before the Council meeting, where it passed its 2023 budget.

Hegland provided an update from the Park Board meeting on September 8, 2022, sharing a number of decisions were made regarding the budget. One item that needed immediate approval was renewing the contract with Jimmy's Johnnys despite a 15 percent increase from approximately 2022's cost of \$2,500-\$2,700, as another bid was received from a competitor which was higher than Jimmy's Johnnys'.

**Motion by Hegland for the Council to accept the new bid from Jimmy's Johnnys for the 2023 calendar year and renew the contract.**

Preiner asked what the final cost for 2023 would be. Hegland said the contract stipulates prices for different services and units, so it is difficult to determine the final cost before knowing how often the units will need to be emptied, cleaned or resupplied.

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

Hegland also shared that RVS Turf and Snow Inc. submitted its contract bid for the 2023-24 seasons, which also saw an increase from the current contract. RVS' contract is also structured around specific prices for different scheduled services, as well as unscheduled a la carte services charged on an hourly rate. The Park Board is going to discuss raising reservation rates to offset the maintenance price increase.

Hegland continued, sharing that Planning Commissioner Kris King had expressed her support for a City Compliance Official, primarily to maintain the work by the Planning Commission after projects are complete.

Busch asked about the Speed Limit Study and when it would come before City Council. Mursko said the City Engineer will make a second presentation at the next City Council workshop meeting on October 11, 2022.

Preiner asked when the next budget meeting would be. Mursko said September 22, 2022, had been proposed. Preiner said he'd like to make sure the compliance role is a topic of discussion at that meeting. Busch and Wagamon expressed interest in scheduling the meeting earlier than the usual 6:30 p.m. start time.

**Motion by Hegland to call for a 2023 City Council Special Budget Meeting on September 22, 2022, at 5 p.m. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.**

#### **14. Public Works Report**

No report.

#### **15. Public Communications Coordinator Report**

Keith detailed the number of email address that are receiving various news alerts from the City.

**16. Assistant City Administrator Report**

No report.

**17. City Administrator's Report**

No report.

**18. Camp III Road & Kettle River Boulevard – PROW Acquisition**

This will be a CLOSED meeting under Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, subd. 3(c)(3) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

**19.** Planning Commission Meeting 09.21.2022 at 6:30 p.m.

**20.** Special City Council Meeting 09.22.2022 at 5 p.m.

**21.** City Council Meeting 09.28.2022 at 6:30 p.m.

**22.** Calendar of Meetings

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting closed at 7:51 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator