

**City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
10.26.2022**

The 10.26.22 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Robert Busch, Janet Hegland, Shelly Logren and Sue Wagamon; Assistant to the City Administrator Jessica Hughes, City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, Permit and Zoning Tech Ella Giefer (via teleconference), Public Communication Coordinator Connor Keith and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

Also in attendance: Planning Commissioner Barb Bobick, Planning Commission Chairman Ron Hanegraaf, Jody (via teleconference), Planning Commissioner Kris King, Dan Mike, Barb Waldoch, John Waldoch, Jennifer Waletzko (via teleconference) and LeeAnn Weigt

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Regular Meeting – 7:08 p.m.
3. Pledge of Allegiance

B. CONSENT AGENDA

4. Agenda Approval with Additions
5. Approval of the 09-22-2022 City Council Special Budget Meeting Minutes
6. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Hegland to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATION

7. Public Open Forum

Waletzko, of 5348 182nd Lane, presented to City Council to request an amendment to the swimming pool ordinance to remove the fencing requirement if the walls are at or above 52 inches and points of entry are blocked or removed. Mursko said this issue is on the list of ordinances to review. Busch recalled this had been discussed recently. Mursko confirmed that was the case, as Council had debated covers, etc. Waletzko continued, proposing the City Council modify its policy to receive public comment for each agenda item. Griffith said this proposal would create a public hearing for each agenda item, which may be considered but is not his recommendation. Waletzko continued, reasserting that she feels the City needs to readdress the turnaround at the end of 182nd Lane. Griffith said that the Council has declared this matter closed, and unless it wants to readdress this matter, the staff has no direction.

8. Resolution 22-29 Columbus PTO Request for Gambling Premise Approval

The Columbus Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization approached the City requesting temporary permission to host a holiday bingo event on the school's premises on November 18.

Motion by Preiner to approve Resolution 22-29 authorizing the Columbus Parent-Teacher Organization (CPTO) to conduct excluded bingo at the premise located at 17345 Notre Dame St. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

9. Planning Commission Report

No report necessary as the 10-19-2022 Planning Commission Meeting was a joint meeting with City Council.

10. Parkland Dedication

Giefer presented a memo detailing the Parkland Dedication fee schedule, sharing that the City's rates are significantly lower than neighboring and comparable communities in the state. Griffith said the City has to declare the demand placed on the parks by development before changing fees. Preiner asked what the City's next step is. Griffith advised having the Planning Department utilize resources through the Metropolitan Council to construct a recommended fee range for the Council to select from.

Mursko asked the Council if it wanted to circulate this topic through any combination of the Park Board, Planning Commission and City Council, or if the Council wanted Staff to make its report directly to them. Mursko also asked if the Council wanted different tiers for residential, commercial and mixed-uses. Logren asked about land subdivisions and how that would be impacted. Hegland agreed with Logren's concerns and shared that the City is resuming work on a Park Master Plan, which could fulfill Griffith's stipulation. Answering Mursko's questions, Busch said he would hope the Council would include the Park Board. Hegland agreed with Busch. Griffith advised the Council to modify the fee schedule to say "lots and units" instead of simply "lots." Wagamon and Hegland agreed with that suggestion.

Motion by Hegland to direct City Staff to amend the fee schedule for the 2023 year to include the language that the fee would be applied on a "per lot" or "per unit" basis. Seconded by Logren. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

11. Residential Zone Business Moratorium

Continuing the discussion from the special City Council meeting that preceded this meeting, Hughes asked if the Council was still interested in modifying the drafted ordinance to differentiate traffic counts based on the type of road on which the property is situated (county highway, paved City street or gravel City road). Wagamon expressed interest in the idea, but asked how the City would enforce or measure these sorts or regulations on a busy county road. Griffith advised that in a code enforcement situation, it would be manually counted on site by the City. Griffith also said that following the terminology used in the City's Comprehensive Plan regarding street types (arterial, collector and local) would be the appropriate way to differentiate different roads in the situation Hughes proposed. Hughes proposed a

policy that took into account both the street type as described by Griffith as well as distance between the RZB driveway and neighboring properties.

Logren asked why a RZB would be taxed at a high rate after also paying for an IUP, since she thought part of the IUP cost was meant to cover additional wear on the road. Due to these added costs for RZB, she did not feel they should have trips restricted. Wagamon agreed with Logren in terms of additional wear on the road, but was concerned about RZB impacting the residential nature of the neighborhood. Logren agreed with the invisibility factor, but didn't feel trips should be monitored by the City.

Hughes asked the Council how it felt about restricting RZB on arterial roads with access points within 100 feet of another dwelling to 16 business-related trips per day. Based on the average residence generating 10 trips per day, Hegland voiced interest in raising that limit. Hughes suggested a limit of 20 business trips for RZB on arterial roads, 10 trips for RZB on paved City roads and eight trips for RZB on gravel City roads, which would be further restricted to six trips if the access point is within 100 feet of another property.

Turning to deliveries to Home Occupation 2, Hughes said the proposed ordinance limits one delivery of non-residential nature per week by a vehicle over 20,000 GVW and all deliveries to only take place during the work week. Hughes clarified that deliveries would not count as part of the previously discussed trip allotments. Hegland expressed concern that 20,000 GVW isn't a very large vehicle and that the drafted ordinance wasn't being realistic with its limits. Hughes suggested 26,000 GVW so it would align with other rules regarding vehicle weights the City already has in place. Logren expressed concern about ensuring residents boarding horses for the horse track would still be able to do so, since some are doing that as their home business. Hegland asked Hughes and Windingstad to formulate a recommendation about weight limits. Hughes asked the Council how it felt about restricting RZB to receiving work-related deliveries to only during the work week. Wagamon felt that was reasonable.

Turning to customers visiting RZB, Hughes asked the Council how they felt about restricting visitors to appointment-based sales. The Planning Commission had recommended to limit customers to one-at-a-time by appointment only. Wagamon asked how the City would enforce this part of the code, to which Hughes said she would check a company's website to ensure customer appointment rules were being adhered to. Wagamon asked if the goal was to avoid a rush of customers into a residential area. Hughes said the goal was to help the City handle traffic and parking. Hughes asked the Council if it wanted a full-fledged retail operation in a residential district, as the Planning Commission had wanted to avoid that situation but still allow an avenue for RZB to sell to customers. Busch asked if the City had received complaints about customer visits. Hughes said the City may have received a few, but it has not been a major issue. Mursko said truck traffic and traffic uncommon to a residential area has been the biggest complaint. Logren expressed a disinterest in counting trips to and from the RZB, whether customers or otherwise. Wagamon agreed with Logren and thought this would be difficult to control and differentiate between work trips and customer visits. Wagamon proposed lumping all traffic into one "trips per day" rule. Hegland agreed with Wagamon.

Turning to permitting, Hughes said the Planning Commission is not recommending any permitting for Home Occupation 1. However, Home Occupation 2 would need to apply for an IUP with annual inspections. Hughes asked the Council how it felt about an initial two-year IUP, followed by five-year

permits afterwards. Hughes said those durations were chosen to allow the City to monitor a business in its infancy to ensure it did not exceed the City's rules or requirements. Hughes said the drafted ordinance also allowed for annual inspections. Busch expressed interest in a five-year IUP for all applicants due to the annual inspections. Wagamon agreed with Busch. Hughes said she didn't think it would be a bad idea to only have the City commit to a two-year IUP with a new business on the chance a RZB doesn't meet the City's requirements. Hughes asked if a RZB was to expand or diversify, if it would be required to file a new application. Griffith said that would be the case.

D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

12. Engineer Report

Bittner provided a report on ongoing projects in the City. The West Freeway Drive project is scheduled to begin clearing and excavating next week and work is intended to continue as long as the weather allows.

Bittner continued, sharing that the Highway Safety Improvement Program grant application for improving the intersection of Kettle River Boulevard and Lake Drive was fully approved for \$2 million, the maximum the program can provide.

The final edition of the Speed Study will be submitted at the next City Council meeting.

Bittner continued, sharing a request for a Letter of Credit reduction has been submitted by Joshua/Markum Builders for the St. Clair Lakes project. Bittner recommended approving the request for \$39,080.82, leaving a balance to cover 125 percent of the cost of the wear course.

Motion by Wagamon to approve the St. Clair Lakes Letter of Credit reduction No. 4 in the amount of \$39,080.82, leaving the remaining Letter of Credit amount of \$54,180. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Preiner requested an update about the W. Freeway Drive project butternut trees. Bittner said the City is close to agreeing with the DNR on a permitting process, as only one of the two trees must be mitigated and the other can be preserved and built around on the edge of the construction area.

13. Attorney Report

No report.

14. Mayor & City Councilmembers' Report

Hegland provided the Personnel Committee report, sharing information about the City Staff's medical benefits. The Committee advised continuing with the Public Employees Insurance Program and recommended approving a budget 8.3 percent higher than 2022's rates.

Motion by Hegland to approve of the group health application for the Public Employees Insurance Program. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to approve the 2023 Medical Insurance Cafeteria Plan Benefit as presented in the spreadsheets in the amounts of: Tier 1 Single Coverage would be at \$1,063 per month and Tier 2 Family Coverage at \$1,370 per month, with prorated amounts available to employees working 30 hours or more, using operating reserves to cover the \$936 difference, and a minor reallocation within budgets done to adjust the departmental budgets within the overall approved budget. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Logren – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland continued, sharing the Sunrise River JPA had narrowed its four funding plans down to two. The City Council needed to make its selection by November 21, 2022. Mursko said this discussion could be had at the November 1, 2022, City Council Workshop meeting.

Hegland provided a funding update, sharing that the City applied for its first Age-Friendly Minnesota Grant last week. The City requested \$24,000 for technical assistance to write a larger community grant, and any decision is expected by November 7, 2022.

Busch reported that he attended the Forest Lake Fire Department's (FLFD) open house where FLFD displayed some of their tools and techniques in front of a good turnout.

15. Public Works Report

Windingstad shared that he'd received road complaints about speed at the intersection of Broadway and Kettle River Boulevard, as well as along Howard Lake Drive. The City is collecting data of traffic in both directions at the roundabout intersection, and then transitioning to Howard Lake Drive, with the data being provided to the Engineer to draft a full report.

16. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

17. Assistant City Administrator Report

No report.

18. City Administrator's Report

No report.

19. NE Quad – Apartments Land Sale

This will be a closed meeting under MN State Statute Section 13D-05(3)(c)(3) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Public Accuracy Test 10-27-2022 at 5:30 p.m.
- Assessment Hearing 10-27-2022 at 6:30 p.m.
- City Council EDA & City Council Workshop Meeting 11-01-2022 at 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting 11-02-2022 at 6:30 p.m.
- City Council Meeting 11-09-2022 at 6:30 p.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting closed at 8:42

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator