City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
June 14, 2023

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:
Brenda Miller	15160 Quivalt St. NE
Jennifer Hart-Abraham	12646 Ethan Ave WBL
Mike Callendar	

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
06.14.2023

The 06.14.23 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland and Sue Wagamon; 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: Amber (via teleconference), Mike Callendar, Jennifer Hart-Abraham, Barb Hearly, Fran Hearly, Jim (via teleconference), Senator Michael Kreun, Brenda Miller, State Representative Nolan West and two unidentified attendees by phone

Not in attendance: Councilmember Rob Busch

A. **CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**
   1. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 6:01 p.m.
   2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   3. Agenda Approval with Additions
   4. Approval of the 04-26-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
   5. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Hegland to approve Consent Agenda items Nos. 3 through 5. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. **PRESENTATION**
   6. Public Open Forum

No participation.

   7. Presentation – Senator Kreun & Representative West (Legislative Update)

West shared that one of the primary focuses of the upcoming legislative session is sports gambling, and West wants to make sure that Running Aces and other Minnesotan racetracks are able to provide those offerings instead of sectioning it off as tribal-exclusive, or providing the racetracks an additional revenue stream without stipulations. Kreun said Columbus is expected to receive $182,000 in one-time public safety funding. West also shared that $9 million in tax increases were passed, with much of those funds earmarked for transportation, and increases on vehicle registration and license fees.

Kreun echoed West's concerns about the potential for sports betting being restricted from Running Aces and shared that while the north metro will receive $102.5 million in upgrades to State Highway 65, he did not feel the passed transportation bill will effectively solve problems with roads and bridges long-

term and worried cities like Columbus could fall out of favor if competing with bigger cities for road project funding.

Kreun continued, sharing that one-time funding for law enforcement was approved, which will lead to the City receiving approximately $182,349 to be spent on things like community violence prevention and intervention, mental health crisis response, victim services, training programs, first responder wellness and equipment related to fire, rescue and EMS.

Hanegraaf agreed with the legislators that there is significant concern regarding Running Aces and the probable sports gambling bill in the next session. Hegland and Griffith thanked the legislators for taking time to speak with them at Cities Day on the Hill and for the positive work done on behalf of small cities in the transportation bill. Hegland also suggested further examination on relief for net-losers like Columbus within the fiscal disparities reallocation.

8. Planning Commission Report

As the last Planning Commission meeting was held jointly with City Council, no report is necessary.

Bittner addressed comments from the previous City Council meeting regarding Ordinance 23-04 impacting Chapter 7D: Stormwater Management Regulations, sharing that the definition of *emergency overflow* has been modified to "a primary overflow to pass flows above the design capacity around the principal outlet in the direction of an existing drainage and utility easement or in a direction that does not adversely impact adjacent and downstream properties." Griffith also clarified section and chapter references and made non-substantive edits.

Hegland asked for the ordinance to be forwarded to the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

Motion by Hegland to approve Ordinance 23-04 Chapter 7D: Stormwater Management Regulations as presented. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to approve Ordinance 23-04 Chapter 7D: Stormwater Management Regulations Summary Publication. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

9. 2023 Recycling Program Expansion Memo

Mursko said a Columbus resident inquired why the City no longer provided an avenue for communal aluminum can recycling. Several years ago, the Forest Lake Fire Department parked a trailer cage in the City's parking lot to collect cans for recycling as a fundraiser for the department. This iteration would cost the City $50 per trailer in "truck fees," which would be deducted from the payout from the recycling and the City receiving the proceeds to go towards a particular campaign, such as the park fund. Deputy Clerk Lorie Spangler has proposed the trailer cage be parked near the current communal recycling dumpster in the City parking lot.

Hegland asked if the City populace would sustain this program since people can recycle in their own recycling bin and advocated for promoting what the proceeds would be going towards. Mursko said Deputy Clerk Lorie Spangler said since the City is not signing a contract, it would be able to cancel if people weren't participating. Hegland asked if the trailer could be parked in Columbus City Park.

Motion by Preiner to approve an aluminum can collecting cage, using the revenue to offset the truck expense and, if not cover the truck expense, it would be charged under the Anoka County Municipal Waste Abatement Grant or SCORE Program. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

10. Hearley Event Permit

Preiner invited Barb and Fran Hearley to address the Council.

Mursko said the Hearleys have applied for a year-long, multi-event license to host dog racing events on their residential property. The City Code does not allow for year-long event permits in the Rural Residential District, but Mursko proposed a compromise of the Council approving each date listed on the application, but City Staff process each permit individually. The Hearleys will notify neighbors of event dates, have provided the City a site plan for the events and has agreed to represent to Council to amend plans if necessary.

B. Hearley said these are usually small events, usually totaling 10-15 people and 20 dogs and running from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Wagamon asked if the Hearleys had received any complaints. B. Hearley said they'd heard of one complaint, but have since smoothed things over with that party.

Motion by Preiner to approve the Hearleys' four event permits for the dates July 1-2, August 5-6, September 16-17 and October 21-22 at 8145 W. Broadway Ave. for dog competitions and shows, subject to Conditions 1-12. Seconded by Hegland.

Hegland clarified that the Hearleys may send one notice to their neighbors detailing all the dates instead of an individual notice for each event. B. Hearly requested the City provide a mailing list for the addresses that need notification.

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

<u>8145 W. Broadway Ave. Event Permits Conditions:</u>

1. Must comply with all rules and regulations of Interim Use Permit PC22-112.
2. No camping allowed on property.
3. Attendee parking must be accommodated on the property.
4. No parking on West Broadway Ave. at any time.
5. Property owners are required to notify City if details change from Event Application dated April 24, 2023. If changes occur, permit is subject to additional conditions.
6. Dog excrement must be disposed of in a manner that will not create odor to the extent that neighboring properties are affected.
7. Hours of operation will not exceed 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8. Must comply with Section 5-400 A and B, related to illegal gambling.
9. Must comply with Section 4-611 through 4-638, related to animal control and licensing.
10. Must comply with Section 5-500 FF, related to dog barking.
11. Must comply with Section 4-207, conditions of license.
12. Applicant will send letter to adjoining property owners to notify them of all events.

D. **STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS**

11. Engineer Report

Bittner provided an update on West Freeway Drive, sharing that the first layer of pavement is expected to be laid on Friday, June 16, 2023, and the second layer in the upcoming week. Pertaining to that project, Bittner shared that using leftover light poles has resulted in a $15,000 net change in payment to Forest Lake Contracting in favor of the City. However, a design issue has resulted in a price increase for additional piping, amounting to $36,181.79. Despite this increase, Bittner said the net total of the project is coming in under budget and the City should not need to provide funds beyond what have been budgeted.

Motion by Preiner to approve the West Freeway Drive North Change Order No. 1 in the amount of $15,000, and to approve the West Freeway Drive North Change Order No. 2 in the amount of $36,181.79 to be paid to Forest Lake Contracting. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Bittner continued, sharing that staff representatives from the Cities of Columbus and Forest Lake have been meeting to discuss a 2024 project in Forest Lake to improve Eureka Avenue, which connects to Hornsby Street at the Cities' shared border. Forest Lake received grant funding from the State to upgrade their section of the road to a 10-ton standard, but didn't tell Columbus about their intentions in time for the City to make its own application to complete the 1,300 foot section of roadway not upgraded during its Hornsby Street project. Bittner estimated $10,000 would be necessary for the initial work and $500,000-$600,000 to complete the upgrade project. A Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was proposed to formalize collaboration on this road project.

Wagamon asked if it benefits the City to partner with Forest Lake compared to taking on the project on its own. Bittner said it would benefit the City administratively, with the bidding project and ensure 10-ton trucks wouldn't damage the 5-ton section of the road. Hegland asked if Forest Lake could cover the cost with their grant money, but Mursko said Forest Lake declined. Preiner asked if the City would have the opportunity to cancel its portion if it did not receive funding, which Griffith confirmed.

Motion by Preiner to approve the review of a JPA for the Improvement of Eureka/Hornsby Street N Project with the City of Forest Lake. Seconded by Hanegraaf.

Mursko said that Griffith would prefer to review the JPA.

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

Motion by Preiner to approve participating in environmental permitting and survey with the City of Forest Lake on the Eureka/Hornsby Street N Project in the amount of $10,000, using Small Cities Transportation Funds. Seconded by Wagamon.

Hegland requested the motion be amended to say "up to the amount of $10,000."

Preiner amended his motion to say "…up to the amount of $10,000, using Small Cities Transportation Funds." Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

12. Attorney Report

Griffith pointed the Council to a memo that detailed the transportation funding the City received from the State both as a one-time payment as well as permanently in the future from the "Transportation Advancement Account," as well as pointed out grant funding that the City could pursue for technical assistance. Mursko asked if the market value homestead credit was raised this session, which Griffith said he would confirm. Hegland suggested a workshop meeting be scheduled with City Attorney Margaret Vesel to plan the City's legislative efforts for the 2023-24 session. The Council tentatively planned for the discussion to take place at the September workshop after speaking with the City's state representatives.

Griffith continued, sharing a letter he'd drafted to Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) on behalf of the Council reaffirming the City's request for a resolution bestowing owed wetland credits. Hegland and Wagamon recommended Griffith include the City's prior letter and presentation from the meeting with RCWD and request another meeting.

13. Mayor & City Councilmembers' Report

Hegland pointed the Council to a memo composed by the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization's lawyer, Troy Gilchrist, which detailed the process by which Cities would withdraw from the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). One of the first steps is for the City Council to adopt a resolution stating its intent to withdraw from the JPA. Should two Cities pass these resolutions, the process of dissolving the JPA will commence.

Motion by Hegland to adopt Resolution 23-07, a resolution to withdraw from the Joint Powers Agreement for the Sunrise River WMO and to reestablish the Sunrise Watershed Management Organization under new JPA terms. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland continued, reporting on behalf of the Personnel Committee. The Committee is recommending offering the position of Code Compliance Inspector to Sean Lessard.

Motion by Hegland to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to offer Sean Lessard the fulltime position of Code Compliance Inspector at Step 1, which is $26.90 per hour, subject to reference checks and successfully passing the required background checks to include a driving history. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland continued, sharing that Grant Larson has been interviewed for a summer internship. The Committee will conduct a second interview with Larson to discuss potential projects in the near future. If that interview goes well, an offer will be made consistent with the terms approved by the Council at the May 24, 2023, meeting.

Hanegraaf reported on a discussion he had with Lt. Jessica Slavik of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and the May 25, 2023, Park Board Meeting, at which the cost of additional lighting in Columbus City Park, the Columbus Master Park Plan and the cost of replacement of the 6x6 posts in the park parking lot, as well as alternate options like fencing, was discussed. Mursko said staff would be reaching out to the State to determine options available to the City regarding Hidden Park and Howard Lake Park.

14. Public Works Report

Windingstad said that Public Works has been installing the first wave of speed limit signs around the City, and shared information about the upcoming calcium chloride treatment for the City's gravel roads. Hegland asked if there was an alternate method to reduce dust. Windingstad said there are different methods that he is researching before presenting to Council during budget discussions. Windingstad is considering proposing trialing a chip-seal technique on 162nd Avenue, which would cost $40,000 to coat 2,600 feet of roadway for at least a five-year lifespan.

15. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

16. City Administrator's Report

Mursko reiterated that the City would receive $182,000 in one-time Public Safety funding from the State and shared that Forest Lake Fire Department Chief Al Newman has suggested using those funds towards the fire trucks already on order. Newman will present at the July workshop meeting.

E. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**
- Planning Commission Meeting June 21, 2023, at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting June 28, 2023, at 6 p.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator