City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
September 27, 2023

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
09.27.2023

The 09.27.23 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall. Present were Councilmembers Rob Busch (via teleconference), 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: +1 651-353-7482, Natalie Ryder (via teleconference) and two unidentified attendees

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

B. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   3. Agenda Approval with Additions
   4. Approval of the 08-23-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
   5. Approval of the 08-25-2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
   6. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Hegland to approve Consent Agenda items Nos. 3-6. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. **PRESENTATION**
   7. Public Open Forum

No participation.

   8. Planning Commission Report

Reporting on the Joint City Council and Planning Commission September 20, 2023, meeting, Wagamon detailed that the Planning Commission reviewed a Non-Binding Concept Review for a non-profit veterinary clinic proposing to lease the building at 15161 Feller Street. This proposal would require a text amendment to allow this type of use in the Highway Commercial zoning district.

Wagamon shared that the Residential Zoned Business (RZB) ordinance was discussed with City Attorney Megan Rogers proposing a three-phased approach, including redefining "home occupation," sunsetting RZB Interim Use Permits (IUP) and using specific analysis of the Rural Residential District to either create a new residential district in which more intense uses are allowed or create IUP for specific uses throughout the existing district. The Planning Commission agreed on amendments including restricting employees of an RZB to only family members residing on the property, restricting accessory structures' uses for the home occupation to be less than 50 percent, the home occupation must take place entirely

inside, refining building codes, enforcing later starting times for weekend work and reducing permitted parking four vehicles to two but allowing for outdoor storage of work vehicles.

The public hearing for the RZB ordinance was scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting on October 18, 2023.

D. **STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS**

9. Engineer Report

Pointing the Council towards a memo concerning driveway aprons in Thurnbeck Development that were not paved before being sold as required by City Code, the staff recommendation is to have homeowners install their aprons by a proposed deadline of September 30, 2024, with the preferred action being notifying homeowners of the requirement and having them bring their properties into compliance at their own cost. Hegland suggested that this be treated like any compliance issue and that Code Compliance Inspector Sean Lessard should report back how many planned to finish their driveways and driveway aprons.

A consensus agreed to direct staff to research a new solution to the problem in which the City would assume some of the costs and assess the rest to the homeowners with driveways currently constructed out of gravel to pave the apron with asphalt, or to provide funding for concrete apron installation. City staff will research when the driveway apron requirement went into effect and to reexamine how many driveways were gravel and had no aprons.

Bittner continued, sharing he was invited to a meeting with Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) and the Department of Natural Resources concerning Anoka County Ditch 10-22-32, during which RCWD discussed plans for cleaning the ditch and returning it to its “As Constructed and Subsequently Improved Condition” (ACSIC) profile.

A consensus of the Council agreed to have Bittner work with RCWD to determine if the proposed solution of returning the ditch to the ACSIC profile will address the drainage issues that Columbus resident and RCWD manager Steve Wagamon has raised about the ditch and how the City can help achieve that goal. Bittner is also to inquire about whether a high-water level set by the DNR for Carlos Avery wetlands had been established before 2016 and if it contributes to the flooding problem.

10. Attorney Report

No report.

11. Mayor & City Councilmembers’ Report

Hegland directed the Council to a memo she’d drafted as chair of the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) sent to all four member municipalities of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) summarizing the proposed solutions addressing each community’s concerns.

Motion by Hegland to accept the proposed solutions as outlined in the memo to the Sunrise River WMO member community administrators dated September 26 ~~18~~, 2023, on Page A4. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to amend the motion to reference the memo dated September 26, 2023. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Wagamon to approve the 2024 Sunrise WMO budget and Columbus' percentage of $9,050, unless we make a change during the levy discussion, using the formula. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Hegland advised that the $9,050 is only the funding formula's result and does not include administrative costs.

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

Preiner congratulated everyone involved with a very successful and well-attended Fall Fest.

12. Public Works Report

No report.

13. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

14. City Administrator's Report

Mursko presented the Council with the newest version of the 2024 budget, which reflects decisions and motions taken in previous conversations.

Mursko asked the Council whether, due to the reallocation of revenue from the cellphone tower lease, it wanted to change the levy amount for the Park Capital fund. Pointing out that even with the additional revenue the walking path repaving did not cash flow, Hegland proposed removing the mower and trailer replacement costs in the budget since the City does not anticipate needing to make those purchases and that would correct the cash flow shortage.

Motion by Hegland to change the levy for the 403 fund from $3,500 to $2,700 and remove the two proposed expenses in the 2025 budget of $35,000 and $25,000. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – nay; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Upon making that change, the City of Columbus preliminary levy was as follows: $4,213,336, with the Sunrise WMO levy increasing the total tax capacity-based levies to $4,232,386. The HRA EDA levy is $120,000.

Motion by Wagamon to approve Resolution 23-12 approving the Columbus 2024 preliminary levy. Seconded by Preiner. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Wagamon to approve holding the Truth in Taxation budget and levy discussion and hearing during the regular City Council meeting on December 13, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the Columbus City Council Chambers. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Regarding the October 19, 2023, ColumBiz event, Mursko compiled a list of non-business invitees and informed the Council that invites for their assigned businesses will soon be available.

E. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**
- Planning Commission Meeting October 4, 2023, at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting October 11, 2023, at 6 p.m.
- Calendar of Meetings

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator