City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
February 28, 2024

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:
Dwayne & Cindy Angel	14048 Furman St NE
TIM O'CONNOR	13960 LAKE DR. NE

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Hybrid Interactive Technology Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
02.28.2024

The 02.28.2024 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at City Hall due to technical difficulties with the Zoom connection. Present were Councilmembers Rob Busch, Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland and Sue Wagamon (via teleconference); Interim City Administrator Jack Davis, City Attorney Bill Griffith and City Engineer Kevin Bittner

Also in attendance: None.

Not in attendance: None.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 6:15 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Hegland to approve the Council meeting agenda. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Agenda Approval
2. Approval of the February 14, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
3. Pay Bills as Posted

Motion by Hegland to approve Consent Agenda items Nos. 1-3. Seconded by Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATION

1. Public Open Forum

No participation.

2. LCI Landscapes Developers Agreement

City Attorney Griffith informed the Council that on February 14, 2024 the Council approved the PUD CUP conditioned upon the enactment of a Short-Form Development Agreement along with a landscape deposit, and that all trucks hauling materials to and from the facility would be covered. Council also revised Findings of Fact number 7 for accuracy.

Hegland asked for clarity about whether or not there could be people working out of the former residence on the property. She assumed if there was no temporary occupancy permit obtained as required by the standstill agreement and they could not get an occupancy permit until all of the renovation work was done, then there should not be employees working there. Griffith confirmed her

understanding.

Motion by Preiner to approve the Short-Form Development Agreement and landscape deposit for the LCI Landscapes Inc., PUD/CUP, with the requirement that all trucks hauling materials to and from the facility be covered to reduce particulates, airborne particulates, and the revised Finding of Fact statement 7 as exhibited and attachments 1 and 2 of the staff report, Item C.2 and for the February 28, 2024 City Council meeting. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

3. Recycle Flyer

Davis reported the City hosts multiple opportunities for residents to participate in recycling events each year and alerts them to these events through newsletter/post card distribution. He recommended the Council approve the recycle flyer.

Hegland suggested minor edits to the flyer including clarifying the curbside coupon pickup instructions and to mention the City exceeded their goals.

Motion by Hegland to approve the 2024 recycling flyer with edits that the City exceeded the goal and explain what to do with the coupon on the curbside pickup. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

4. Midco Letter of Support #2

Davis stated staff had met with Midco to discuss the underserved areas of the City that qualified for Border-to-Border grants. As a result of the discussions Midco has submitted a project grant application to serve 23 homes in the 178th/179th – Xingu Street areas of the City. Rather than wait for the next Border-to-Border grant round, Midco plans to submit the five projects including the line extension at 165th and Zodiac. Midco was requesting a letter of support from the City to include the proposal to the County.

Hegland added that with these five projects, most of the City will be served with high speed Internet service. The City will work with MidCo to identify any small pockets of homes in the City that do not have adequate service and give them information to sign up for the line extension program which covers the cost of extending the fiber optics from the main line to the residences.

Motion by Hegland to approve the City of Columbus support letter for broadband partnership RFP to be submitted by Midcontinent Communications for Midco to expand broadband access to more residents in Columbus noting the minor edits she gave to the Interim City Administrator. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

1. Engineer Report

Bittner reported on an incident at Wellhouse Nos. 2 and 3 where a speeding vehicle jumped the curb

and crashed through the wall of the wellhouse. This caused chlorine spray and extensive building damage. The bid for cleanup and repair is $16,425 which has been approved by the League of Minnesota Cities' insurance. At the moment, Well No. 2 was functioning and No. 3 was shutdown pending clean-up of the site and repair of the chlorination equipment, but he hoped it would be back up and running next week.

2. Attorney Report

Griffth reported back on a question of City membership with Chamber of Commerce organizations that was raised at the last Joint City Council and Economic Development Authority workshop meeting. He stated that the City could not become a member of the Chamber but could have a consulting arrangement for economic development purposes. He gave an update on the question about whether the City could use the lodging tax for promotion, including the Fall Fest. He indicated he would bring a resolution back to the Council with an answer to that question.

3. Mayor & City Council Member's Report

Hanegraaf stated he had no report.

Hegland provided updates on the Lower St. Croix Partnership.

Busch provided an update on the City Council and Planning Commission joint workshop, which included information on cannabis legislation and its implications for municipalities.

4. Code Enforcement Report

No report.

5. Public Works Report

No report.

6. Public Communications Coordinator Report

No report.

7. Interim City Administrator's Report

Davis gave updates on the City Day on the Hill event and the upcoming Columbiz breakfast meeting on March 14. He recommended if the City was interested in selling a piece of City property at the intersection of West Freeway and Lake Drive at the roundabout intersection in the northeast quadrant, an appraisal should be done as the City had a call today from an individual who was interested in purchasing that property.

Motion by Preiner to authorize the Interim City Administrator to obtain an appraisal on City owned property as presented. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

Davis presented an update on property purchased along South Hornsby Street by a business who wanted to put in an indoor truck wash facility for semi-trucks. He expected an application to come in within the next 30 to 45 days.

Davis gave an update on the posting for the Accounting Assistant position and Hegland gave an update on posting for the City Administrator position.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Planning Commission Meeting March 6, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- Lions Club Meeting, March 6, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
- City Council LMC City Day on the Hill, March 7, 2024
- City Council Workshop Meeting March 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
- City Council Meeting, March 13, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting, March 20, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting March 27, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- March Meeting Calendar

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Connor Keith, Public Communications Coordinator

Drafted by: Kathy Altman
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.