City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Hybrid Interactive Technology Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
06.26.2024

The 06.26.2024 meeting of the City of Columbus City Council was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner. Present were Councilmembers Rob Busch, Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland, and Sue Wagamon; City Administrator Jack Davis, City Attorney Megan Rogers; Public Works Director Jim Windingstad;

Others in Attendance – Lt. Jessica Slavik, Anoka County Sheriff's Department; Barb Bobick; Scott Wendell

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting – 6:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Preiner to adopt the June 26, 2024 Agenda with the deletion of Item C.5. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

~~1. Approval of the June 12, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes~~

2. Approval of Bill Payments as Listed on the June 12, 2024 Bill Report

Motion by Hegland to remove Item No. 1 from the Consent Agenda and approve Item No. 2. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

C. PRESENTATION

1. Public Open Forum

No participation.

2. Anoka County Sheriff Department Report – Lt. Jessica Slavik

Lt. Jessica Slavik, Sheriff Department's Liaison to the City, addressed the Council, noting that she would be moving from annual to quarterly reports with her appearances. She stated that in the month of May, the department had 198 calls for service, a slight increase over the previous three months, which had about 185 calls each. Calls included three theft reports, one assault, three felony-level arrests, and one misdemeanor arrest in May. There were two warrant arrests and 18 traffic citations. She also reported on a traffic fatality that occurred Dec. 23, 2023 on Lake Drive near 141st Ave, and explained that a full report could not be released prior to this point because the investigation needed to be completed. She stated that the crash was caused when the individual, a 32 year old female, identified as Sarah Rajanen, from Lino Lakes, who died at the scene, entered the southbound lane to pass the cars in front of her and

crashed head-on with another vehicle. The driver of that vehicle had multiple injuries but survived. The deceased driver was also determined to have a blood alcohol content three times the legal limit at the time of the accident.

Wagamon asked if an increase in calls was typical for springtime. Lt. Slavick said it is typical, and there has also been an increase in property damage and personal injury accidents over the prior two months. They were occurring in various parts of the City and in no one particular area.

Hegland asked if law enforcement has been consulted about a planned upgrade to Lake Drive because of the high possibility of head-on collisions. She said the proposed "suicide lane" is aptly named and not a good idea for that road. Lt. Slavik indicated that she was not involved with the improvement. She stated there may have been a Public Safety Committee that was consulted, and she would check to see if there was any participation on their part.

Busch asked what percentage of the service calls happen when a deputy is on staff in the City or if they required having someone come over from the County. Lt. Slavick said she could do a breakdown of calls to see how many are in the coverage period but regardless, the residents receive service.

Hanegraaf asked how many calls were medical. Lt. Slavick gave a breakdown of the 103 medical calls during the period of January through May of 2024.

Lt. Slavik reported on several other notable calls including an arrest for trespassing, a traffic stop that led to an arrest on warrants, and a report of a boat that was intentionally driving over a flock of Canadian Geese on Coon Lake. Witnesses recovered the remains of a beheaded goose and turned it over to the DNR. Witness descriptions led to the locating and apprehending of the alleged boat operator.

Lt. Slavik offered the City the possibility of having ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) emergency training for the workplace. This training would include Active Shooter Training and a safety review. Council members indicated they wanted to get the training scheduled.

Davis said he had been approached by Linwood Township concerning possible discussions regarding a JPA (Joint Powers Agreement) for law enforcement services. He asked that Lt. Slavick be a participant should such future discussions occur.

3. May 2024 Financial Report

Davis presented the financial report through May 30, 2024. The City is currently running a little ahead of the budget in the expenses category, he said, but that is to be expected this time of year due to one-time payments that have already been made.

Wagamon asked about the 419 percent increase for Emergency Management. Davis explained, that in the past all of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds had been deposited in that account, and the city paid the County $16,000 from this fund for their participation in the North Freeway Drive Project.

Hegland asked about a question she raised yesterday regarding the fund that involved the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP). Davis said this was an extra cost MNDOT agreed to participate in and the expense was allocated to Public Works fund. The City is eligible for a $300,000 reimbursement. This

was for the North Hornsby Project and the city has initiated the process to request reimbursement. Davis stated that the funds that could be eligible for reimbursement were additional costs the City incurred over the original grant award from MNDOT and a portion of the unspent funds for the I-35E and Lake Drive bridge work were reallocated to the North Freeway Drive project.

Hegland said the City needs to develop a process for collecting Companion Animal Control mileage and call fees from the owner of the animal that was impounded. Davis said one of the difficulties is that there are two entities involved, animal pickup (Companion Animal Control) and animal impound (Northwoods Humane Society). He will follow up with Companion Animal Control and Northwood Humane on the process question. Companion Animal Control is building their own impound facility in Bayport and this will make it less difficult to coordinate pickup charges and billings.

4. Absentee Ballot Board Appointments

Davis reported the City of Columbus is designated as an in-person absentee voting location for the August 13, 2024 County and State Primary Election. Absentee voting will take place at the Columbus City Hall pursuant to MS 203B.121. The Anoka County Board of Commissioners has established an Absentee Ballot Board. Resolution 2014-23 established that board, and designates persons authorized to issue absentee ballots as members of the Anoka County Absentee Ballot Board for the purposes of accepting, rejecting, and processing absentee ballots. Members of the Absentee Ballot Board serving at the City of Columbus will convene Monday through Friday, June 28 to August 9, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, August 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Monday, August 12, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and, Tuesday, August 13, at 8 a.m. until all ballots are counted following the close of polls. He recommended the City Council appoint the following to the Absentee Ballot Board: Jack Davis, City Clerk; Lorie Spangler, Deputy Clerk; Carissa Kranz, Permit Coordinator; Eleanor Hahn, Planning and Zoning Tech; Mary Tomnitz, Accounting Assistant; and, Jennifer Hill, Election Head Judge.

Motion by Preiner to appoint the members of the Absentee Ballot Board as presented in item C.4. Seconded by Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

5. Minnesota Veterinary Neurology MVN) Request for Roof Design Change

This Item was deleted from the Agenda due to MVN's request and their decision to keep the original roof design as previously approved by the Planning Commission and City Council.

6. Set Agenda for the July 2, 2024 Workshop Meeting

Davis recommended scheduling the following items for the July 2, 2024 Workshop Meeting Agenda:
1. Lake Drive Corridor Study
2. 2025 Budget Report and Discussion
3. Continuation on June 26, 2024 Special Workshop Meeting – Organization Transition Audit

Motion by Preiner to approve the July 2, 2024 Workshop agenda as presented by the Administrator. Seconded by Busch. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

D. STAFF & CONSULTANT REPORTS

1. City Engineer Report

No report.

2. City Attorney Report

Rogers informed the Council that a handbook published by the Office of Cannabis Management with recommendations for local ordinances is now available and staff is reviewing it. It was drafted in partnership with the Public Health Law Center at Mitchell-Hamline Law School. The City has a moratorium in place, so no licenses can be issued until after January 1, 2025.

3. Mayor & City Council Member's Report

No Reports.

4. Planning Commission Report

No report.

5. Public Works Report

Windingstad gave an update on repairs to the City's dynamic sign with parts being ordered. In the park, a tree fell and landed on the new fence so that needs to be repaired. Wind and rain have required 30 to 40 trees to be cut down. Work continues on sealing roads. Hegland asked about the removal of the speed sign on Furman Street. Windingstad said it was an Anoka County sign that was requested to be placed by a resident and after a week of recording the County has taken the sign down. He reviewed the data collected by the unit and as it has recorded that that 85 percent of motorists are exceeding the speed limit, he has requested additional law enforcement patrol in that area.

6. City Administrator Report

Davis reminded everyone that absentee balloting begins on Friday at City Hall for the County and State Primary Election on Aug. 13, 2024.

7. Personnel Committee Report

<u>Planning Commission Vacancy -- Applicant Recommendations</u>

Hegland noted the City had received an application for the vacancy on the Planning Commission. The Personnel Committee, which consists of herself, Wagamon, and Davis, met on June 20 to interview the candidate, Scott Wendell. He applied to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judy Huntosh. Mr. Wendell has an extensive record of community service, has also volunteered for various non-profits, served on the City Road and Bridge Committee, and has shown an interest in City affairs. Council Member Hegland reported that the Committee recommended his appointment to the Planning Commission based on his professional and volunteer experience. His appointment would fill the

unexpired term of Judy Huntosh and expire on December 31, 2025.

Motion by Hegland to appoint Scott Wendell to fill the vacant Planning Commission seat of Judy Huntosh with a term to expire on Dec. 31, 2025. Seconded by Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wagamon – aye; Hegland – aye; Preiner – aye. Motion carries.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- Absentee Voting Starts June 28 – City Hall Offices
- City Council Workshop Meeting, July 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting July 3, 2024 -- Canceled
- City Hall will be closed in observance of Independence Day July 4, 2024
- City Council Meeting July 10, 2024, at 6 p.m.
- Park Board Meeting July 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission Meeting July 17, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- City Council Meeting July 24, 2024 at 6 p.m.

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jack Davis, City Administrator

Drafted by: Carol Shukle
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.