City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
August 14, 2024

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:
Jamie Prettner	Lakes Center Youth + Families

08/14/2024

City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
Hybrid Interactive Technology Format
MN Statute, Section 13D.021
08.14.2024

The August 14, 2024 City of Columbus City Council meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner. Councilmembers Rob Busch, Ron Hanegraaf, Janet Hegland, and Sue Wagamon were present, as well as City Administrator Jack Davis, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, and City Attorney Megan Rogers.

Also in attendance were Gina Sjerven and Lion Dick Hauer (Columbus Lions), Jamie Prettner, Lion Bob Carter (Forest Lake Lions), Anoka County Election Integrity Team members: Brenda Miller, Lisa Hendrickson, Eric Lind and an additional 3 members who did not sign in.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting, 6:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Wagamon to approve the 08.14.2024 agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

~~1. July 10, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes~~
~~2. July 24, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes~~
3. Approval of Bill Payments as attached in the August 28, 2024 Payment Summary

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to approve the consent agenda with items number 1 and 2 removed due to numerous errors in the meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

Councilmember Hegland requested to make a secondary motion, allowed by Mayor Preiner. Councilmember Hegland noted that she pulls the meeting minutes at almost every meeting, due to the quality of the minutes. She noted that the City had a contract with Time Savers, hoping that would get the minutes faster, but they have not been at the quality expected. Councilmember Hegland requested to terminate the contract with Time Savers, proposing to reach out to Fostering Communications LLC to do the minutes during the interim, and if that is not an option, then the minutes would go back to City staff, as they previously were in the past. During the discussion Councilmember Busch asked if the minutes would become the responsibility of the Assistant City Administrator, after the position has been filled. Councilmember Hegland said it's possible, and she would need to meet with Fostering Communications LLC first before a long-term plan can be made. City Administrator Jack Davis proposed another option, saying that the City could advertise the opening to do the meeting minutes, but in the meantime, Fostering Communications would be the interim solution, with staff as the backup. Councilmember Busch noted he would prefer keeping things "in-house" and not contract as much, which is why he previously voted no on hiring Fostering Communications LLC, and why he would vote no on this proposal as well.

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to terminate the contract with Time Savers, proposing to reach out to Fostering Communications LLC to do the minutes during the interim, with City staff as a backup. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Nay, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

B. PRESENTATION(S) and ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Public Forum

During the public forum Gina Sjerven and Dick Hauer with the Columbus Lions Club inquired about getting their liquor license for Columbus Fall Fest and noted that their forms had been submitted to the Deputy City Clerk. City Administrator Jack Davis said they would be on the next Council Meeting on August 28, 2024, noting that the City will need to make the proper notifications before approval. The Lions agreed and will be in attendance for that meeting.

2. Resolution 24 – 07 Forest Lake Lions Club Tip-Board Sale

The City Administrator informed the Council that the Forest Lake Lions requested approval for a temporary gambling license for the sale of tip board tickets at Columbus Fall Fest on September 21, 2024, with the staff recommendation of approval of the license. During the discussion Councilmember Wagamon asked what a “tip board ticket” is. Councilmember Hegland explained it's another term for the raffle tickets used. This specifically is for the meat raffle at Fall Fest.

Motion made by Mayor Preiner to approve the temporary gambling license, Resolution 24-07. Seconded by Councilmember Busch. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

3. **Resolution 24 – 08 Lakes Center for Youth & Families Fall Fest Bingo License**

The City Administrator informed the Council that the Lakes Center for Youth & Families submitted a request for a temporary gambling license for BINGO at Columbus Fall Fest on September 21, 2024 with the Staff recommendation of approval of the license. During discussion, councilmember Hegland noted the Lakes Center for Youth & Families will be hosting two types of BINGO this year, one for kids and one for adults, the kids BINGO is not going to include gambling and they won’t be playing for money.

Motion made by Mayor Preiner to approve the temporary gambling license, Resolution 24-08. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch – Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

4. **LMC Tort Liability Waiver**

The City Administrator informed the Council that cities who use the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) liability coverage must choose whether to waive tort liability limits. This decision must be made annually by the City Council. Davis noted that the City has historically not waived the recommended limits. Councilmember Wagamon asked for clarification, highlighting that if an LMC member doesn’t waive the statutory tort limits, they wouldn’t be able to claim a higher amount from insurance. Davis explained that if you don’t waive the recommended limits, you need to purchase additional insurance, noting that most cities do not do that. According to City

Attorney Megan Rogers, it's a minimum of 3.5% additional costs if you waive the statutory tort limits, and it doesn't have a technical benefit to the City with any benefit being only to the claimant. Councilmember Wagamon asked for a history of claimants. Davis said to his knowledge, at least for the past two years, the City hasn't had any. He also noted that this does not include workman's comp claims.

Motion made by Mayor Preiner to approve the non waiver of the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by State Statute. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries

5. Ordinance 24-02 – Chapter 7A Updates

City staff member Eleanor Hahn presented on two ordinance updates: Chapter 7A and Chapter 7 B for the City's sign ordinance. Hann called these "housekeeping" amendments for clarity, readability, and different iterations going to the codification process and website in addition to fixing the table of contents to make it clearer. During discussion, Mayor Preiner stated the Council went through the proposed amendments with City staff quite thoroughly at a previous workshop. Councilmember Hegland thanked Hahn for doing a good job on all the edits they identified.

Motion made by Mayor Preiner to approve ordinance 24-02 Chapter 7A of the City Code, reformatting and prior code error corrections as provided in the staff report dated August 14, 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

6. Ordinance 24-03 – Chapter 7B Updates

Motion made by Mayor Preiner to approve ordinance 24-03 Chapter 7B of the City Code, with updates as included in the Staff Report dated August 14, 2024 Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

7. Resolution 24-09 – Setting Hearing to Vacate Guidance Homes DU Easement

City staff member Eleanor Hann explained to the Council that the need to vacate the drainage/utility easement exists due to a simple lot line adjustment to give better access to the North property's driveway. In most cases, lot line adjustments are handled by city administration. However, because this development was already platted, there is an existing drainage and utility easement, so the lot line change requires Council approval because the existing easements need to be vacated and reestablished along the new line. The first step to making this change is setting a public hearing for September 11, 2024, which will need to be published in the newspaper twice before a decision can be made.

Motion made by Mayor Preiner to approve resolution 24-09 setting a public hearing for September 11, 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

8. 2025 Budget Discussion – 2025 Capital Improvement Plan

City Administrator Jack Davis started the discussion noting that the proposed Capital Improvement Plan includes 7 items: the Public Works Equipment Replacement Fund, the Public Works Paving and Resurfacing Fund (also known as the blacktop and gravel fund), the Parks Capital Fund, the Parks Dedication Fund, the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund, the Fire Hall Capital Fund, and the General Fund Capital Plan.

Public Works Capital Improvement Fund

Staff presented the proposed plan to the council for suggestions and modifications to complete the final 2025 Capital Improvement Plan for the 2025 Budget.

Councilmember Hegland asked for clarifications on some of the notes in the plan, specifically replacing the snow plow trucks. She noted it seems the City is going longer than that recommended replacement timeline. Public Works Director Jim Windingstad explained that the City used to always have two plow trucks, and after experiencing some breakdowns, staff decided to keep a backup plow truck as a third unit. Sometimes they will run all three trucks if needed, but because of that it always looks like they're keeping equipment longer because they will sell the old backup, and the truck that they are replacing at the 12 year mark "moves down" and becomes the new back up.

Councilmember Hegland also noted that there was approximately $7,800 from a previously sold piece of equipment that was not accounted for in the equipment fund. Finance Director Cheryl Jenkins noted that there were two sales for two trucks. The $7,800 sale was put into the public works fund, not the equipment fund, which appeared to be an error. Jenkins told council member Hegland if they wanted to correct the issue, the council could make a motion for a fund transfer to account for the money.

Councilmember Wagamon noted the only purchase planned in the upcoming year is a truck with a utility box. Windingstad highlighted the fact that that truck is the city's utility truck and gets used for public works, sewer and water and the cost is split equally among the three departments.

Councilmember Hegland also brought up the replacement timeline of 7 years for a road grader, noting that the previous piece of equipment lasted 13 years. She noted that the City pays in cash, so they're saving money every year and if that purchase is delayed, she felt like it wasn't a good use of resources to put money aside on a 7 year schedule if the actual replacement timeline was typically 10-13 years, adding that if the timeline was pushed back 2-5 years that would save at least $20-40 thousand from the City's Levy, which she would be in favor of. City Administrator Jack Davis said they could put together options for the next meeting detailing the projected levy impacts for delaying the replacements more than 7 years. The Public Works Director Jim Windingstad stated he would not be comfortable reducing the amount the city levies for equipment because the costs have been increasing each year, not decreasing. Davis said he thinks it would be good for the council to see the projected levy impacts, but he doesn't believe it will make as much of an impact as they'd expect to the overall number.

Councilmembers Busch asked about the budget line item for a piece of stormwater pond maintenance equipment. Windingstad explained it's a placeholder for a future purchase. The department is still trying to determine what kind of equipment will meet their needs, but they are testing out different options. Davis also noted that the city will be working to identify which stormwater ponds in the city will fall under public maintenance, versus private maintenance.

At the end of the discussion, Councilmember Hegland made a motion to direct the Finance Director to do a funds transfer from the Public Works fund to the equipment fund to reflect the sale of the 2005 Chevy 1500 in the amount of $7,800. Seconded by

Councilmember Busch. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

Councilmember Hegland made a motion to do an analysis pushing out the 2023 CAT grader replacement to 10-12 years out instead of 7 years to reflect what the actual lifespan of the equipment would be, then show how it would impact the City's levy. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

Fire Equipment Capital Fund & Fire Hall Capital Fund

City Administrator Jack Davis stated that city staff met with the Forest Lake Fire Board and were given information about their proposed equipment purchases, which included two brush trucks/rigs, one utility truck, and some additional radios for a total of $259,750. The City's share is 20% of that or $51,950.

Davis noted the City paid to replace the City of Columbus Fire Hall's roof replacement, which is why the fund is starting at a lower amount, but there aren't any proposed projects for 2025.

There were no additional motions on the Fire Department funds, and the council didn't have any additional discussion regarding the Parks funds. Davis noted that they will receive updated changes on the park funds at the next budget discussion/meeting.

General Capital Fund

City Administrator Jack Davis explained that the fund has previously been used to do parking lot pavements, ADA doors, computers, printers and copiers. There was also a past proposal for an updated security system.

Councilmember Hegland asked if the City receives a discount on their insurance if they have a security system. Davis said he couldn't say for sure but would check on the question. Councilmember Wagamon said they could keep it in the 2025 budget and have additional discussions next year to address it. Davis said one thing they should consider is the possibility of a generator for City Hall, noting that all the City's records are at City Hall and while there is a generator at Public Works, in the event of an emergency, City Hall would probably be the command center. Councilmembers Wagamon and Hegland agreed that it would be good to

consider adding the city hall generator for the 2025 Budget. Davis said City staff can start collecting options for pricing for their next meeting.

D. CONSULTANT, LIAISON, & STAFF REPORTS

1. City Engineer Report

City Engineer Kevin Bittner gave the council his consultant report highlighting the close out of the City's 2022 Kettle River Heights Project and the final payment is $24,893.98. He noted the final contract amount is about 8% higher than the City's original bid amount due to some additional paving on Vasser Street to address some drainage issues and replacing an additional culvert.

Councilmember Hegland made a motion to approve the final payment of $24,893.98 to Valley Paving Inc. for the 2022 Kettle River Heights Project. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

2. Attorney Report

No Report

3. Mayor & City Council Report

Councilmembers Hanegraaf and Busch had no reports and Mayor Preiner had no report. Councilmember Hegland stated that she and the City Administrator met with the Anoka County Election Integrity Team on August 8, 2024. They met with Brenda Miller, Lisa Hendrickson, and Dave Tormanen to learn more about the group's mission. She noted that their goal was to give Columbus residents confidence that the election results they see published are the real thing. The main part of the discussion was about hand counts. She noted that Anoka County randomly selects municipalities for hand counts, which may or may not include Columbus. They would like to give a presentation to the rest of City Council and would like to ask that a resolution be considered to request Anoka County that the City do a Post Election Review (PER) which includes a selective hand count for elected offices within the City's precinct. The additional costs would be an estimated $1,200 if the resolution is approved. Councilmember Hegland said she would recommend the presentation, Mayor Preiner and Councilmember Wagamon agreed. Councilmember Wagamon stated she was in favor of doing this to make sure residents are confident that the City is making sure the elections are accurate.

Councilmember Hegland made a motion to add a presentation by the Anoka County Election Integrity Team to the September 4, 2024 joint meeting at 6 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

Councilmember Wagamon stated that she attended the Forest Lake Cable Commission meeting in August and learned that the Columbus resident who's a member of the commission needs to resign. She's working with City Staff to find a replacement for him, but she has identified someone who would be willing to do it.

Councilmembers Hegland and Wagamon also reminded everyone about Fall Fest on September 20-22 with the main event on Saturday, September 21 at the City Hall Campus.

4. Code Enforcement Report

No Report

5. Public Works Report

No Report

6. City Administrator Report

Davis said the County and State Primary elections went very smoothly and gave city staff credit for a job well done. He noted that there were 225 voters, which is about a 9% turnout rate, which is about normal for a State Primary Election. He said it was a good trial run for the general election.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Busch to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Busch - Aye, Hanegraaf - Aye, Hegland - Aye, Wagamon - Aye, Preiner - Aye. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.
Respectively submitted:

Haley Foster

City of Columbus Media Consultant