City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
September 11, 2025

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Address:

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
09-11-2024

The 09-11-2024 City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jesse Preiner at the City Hall at 6:00 PM. Present were City Councilmembers Ron Hanegraaf, Sue Wagamon, Janet Hegland and Rob Busch. Also present were City Administrator Jack Davis, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineer Kevin Bittner and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad.

In attendance via interactive technology was Planning and Zoning Technician Eleanor Hahn and Brenda Miller

The meeting was held in an interactive technology meeting format.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order – Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to approve the 09.11.2024 agenda as presented, with the minor change to move items D.1, City Engineer Report, and D.2, City Attorney Report, to follow item C.2, Easement Vacation. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Bill Payments as attached in the September 11, 2024 Payment Summary

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

C. PRESENTATION(S) and ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. **Public Forum**

Nothing at this time

2. **Easement Vacation - Preiner Preserve Lot Line Adjustment - Resolution 24-11**

Planning and Zoning Technician Eleanor Hahn stated that this item is in regards to a small administrative lot line adjustment in Preiners Preserve. The applicant would like to shift the lot line between Lots 12 and 13, Block 2 of Preiners Preserve in order to accommodate a larger driveway on

Lot 13. Hahn explains that lot line adjustment can be approved administratively; however, the existing Drainage and Utility easement along the lot line must be vacated and reestablished over the new border. She states that State Statute requires a Public Hearing before the City Council to vacate any city easement. Mayor Preiner opened the Public Hearing. Wagamon asked how the driveway ended up on the wrong side of the lot line in the first place. Hahn states that she is unsure how the error originally occurred, however, surveying errors occasionally happen and since both properties are owned by the same party, it's a relatively simple problem to solve. Hanegraaf asked if there are setbacks on driveways. Hahn states that the City currently has no setbacks for driveways. Preiner asks if there is anyone from the public who would like to speak. There were no public comments made.

Motion by Mayor Preiner to approve Resolution 24-11, a resolution to vacate a drainage and utility easement, Lots 12 and 13, Block 2 in Preiners Preserve. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

3. **City Engineer – Chip Seal Pay Estimate**

City Engineer Kevin Bittner stated that we have received the estimate number for the City's chip seal projects. He stated that we will be holding the contract open until the spring, reserving the right to request the contractor come back and sweep again if needed after the winter. Bittner says that we are holding 1% retainage on the project, and that the amount due for this project is $25,516.24. Wagamon asks if this project was for the whole City, or just a specific area. Bittner says that it was not the whole City, but about half of it.

Motion by Busch to approve Pay Estimate 2 to Allied Blacktop for the 2024 City of Columbus Pavement Maintenance Chip Sealing Project. Seconded by Councilmember Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

4. **City Attorney – Sale of City Property: Purchase Agreement**

City Attorney Bill Griffith states that they have negotiated a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Steven R. and Patrica M. Saunders. Griffith states that the purchase price for the land was approved at $320,000.00, which was the appraised value. He states that there are no use clauses in the agreement, pursuant to the Council's direction. He explained that the earnest money is $10,000.00, which will be held until closing. If they go through the feasibility period, which is 120 days, and if they do not make any objections to the title, the earnest money will become non-refundable. If they do make an objection to title, or have other concerns about the property, they could terminate the agreement and have the earnest money returned. The City is still working with the buyer on a joint plat. The agreement sets the closing window for the property sale as within 10 days of the end of the feasibility period. If the buyer chooses to extend the period by another 60 days for a 10-31 tax exchange, they must pay an additional $10,000.00 in earnest money.

Motion by Mayor Preiner to approve the proposed purchase agreement with Steven R. Saunders and Patrica M. Saunders and authorize staff and the City Attorney to prepare a Resolution authorizing closing on the Property. Seconded by Councilmember Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

5. **2025 Budget Discussion**

City Administrator Jack Davis stated that he has prepared a handout to show how the City can achieve a zero increase levy budget. He says that once that goal is achieved, the City can choose if they want make other adjustments. He stated that projected City expenditures for 2025 are $4,853,988. He further explained when the projected 2025 non-levy revenue is deducted, the amount for the property tax portion of the levy drops to $4,325,980. He stated that the goal is to get that number down to the amount we need to levy to produce a flat budget. Davis says that he worked with Public Works Director Jim Windingstad to cut an additional $93,000, making the final levy expenses for 2025 a total of $4,232,980. He states that the 2024 levy amount was $4,232,386. This would represent 1/10th of a percentage point increase from the previous year. He stated additional reductions to get that down to a zero percent increase would be sought. He stated that the HRA levy is expected to stay flat at $120,000. Davis clarified the proposed budget cuts by explaining that the City was able to reduce the Public Works blacktop fund by $35,000, the Fire Department Fund by $20,000, Animal Control by $2,000, the Law Enforcement Contract by $6,000, and the City Capital General Fund by $30,000.

Councilmember Wagamon asks if these cuts would jeopardize any of our City services. Davis stated they will not have any major impacts. Councilmember Hanegraaf asked how the Law Enforcement Contract was reduced. Davis states that they typically receive State aid, which was not reflected in the original Budget. Hegland asks how the Animal Control budget was reduced, and if it was the assumption that the City will be able to recoup the impound fees. Davis confirmed that the reduction is based on being able to collect on impound fees. Hegland asks if that needs to be put in a new ordinance and Davis stated that it should be done if the assessments are permitted. Hegland asked what the $240 increase in the Sunrise WMO levy was for. Davis stated that is compensation for the new board member. Hegland stated that the levy may need to be increased to accommodate cost-of-living increases for the staff time.

D. CONSULTANT, LIAISON & STAFF REPORTS

1. **Mayor & City Council Report**

Councilmember Hegland reminded the council that Fall Fest is coming up soon, and if anyone would like to volunteer to let her know. She stated that the last volunteer committee meeting will be on September 17th. Hegland also asked when the Anoka County Election Integrity Team's proposed

resolution will be presented. Davis stated that the proposed resolution will be scheduled for consideration at the September 25th City Council meeting.

2. **Personnel Committee Report**

Councilmember Hegland gave an update on the recruitment process for the Assistant City Administrator, stating that the application window will close next Friday and that they have received a large enough pool of applicants to move forward.

3. **Planning Commission Report – Councilmember Janet Hegland**

Nothing at this time.

4. **Public Works Report – MTW Truck Wash Water Usage Report**

The City Council and Planning Commission previously asked Public Works Director Jim Windingstad to give a report on whether the City's water system can support the proposed MTW Truck Wash facility. Windingstad stated that he has no concern regarding the proposed truck wash, and that the City has ample capacity for the use. He explained that previous water supply concerns were about rapid, high-capacity loss, which in turn drains the storage. A consistent draw on the water supply, such as a Truck Wash facility, does not pose that issue. In short, he said, a steady demand on the water system is easily maintained, while quick on-and-offs cause issues. Hegland asks if it is up to the Metropolitan Council if the facility has to recycle their water, as it concerns sewage discharge. Davis stated that it is up to applicant, as the amount of effluent discharged is unlikely to trigger any Metropolitan Council requirements. Hegland also asks if a hour-of-operation condition can be added to the CUP, requiring the applicant to come back for review if they increase from 12-hours a day to 24-hours a day. Davis said that that can certainly be considered, and that the project will be going before the Planning Commission next week.

5. **City Administrator Report – Contract Extension: Career Enhancement Options, Inc**

City Administrator Davis stated that the City's contract with Career Enhancement Options, Inc., Ellen Henrichs, who has assisted in several recent HR issues, expired August 31. The Personnel Committee has recommended extending that contract through December 31. There is a remaining balance of $12,109 that was not used before the expiration and Davis recommends the current contract extension through this period not to exceed the current contract balance.

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to approve the contract extension for Career Enhancement Options, Inc to December 31, 2024 not to exceed the current contract balance of $12,109. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

Mayor Preiner reminds the Council and public of the following upcoming meetings:

- SRWMO Meeting on September 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at East Bethyl City Hall

- Planning Commission Meeting on September 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall
- City Council Meeting on September 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m at City Hall

Hegland states that Fall Fest will take place on September 20-21, 2024.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Preiner to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Eleanor Hahn

Respectfully Submitted: Recording Secretary Eleanor Hahn.