City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
October 9, 2024

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:
Adam Jantschke	9367 188th Ave Columbus, MN
Thea Jantschke	9367 189th Ave NE
Sharon Jantschke	9367 189th Ave NE

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
10-09-2024

The 10-09-2024 City Council Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at the City Hall. Present were City Councilmembers Ron Hanegraaf, Sue Wagamon, Rob Busch and Janet Hegland. Also present were City Administrator Jack Davis, City Attorney Bill Griffith, City Engineers Kevin Bittner and Brian Bachmeier , and Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, Lieutenant Jessica Slavik, Paul Peterson, and Adam, Thea and Shari Janitschke.

In attendance via interactive technology was Planning and Zoning Technician Eleanor Hahn and an unidentified phone number.

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 Hanegraaf to approve the 10.09.2024 agenda with the addition of item C.3, FLATV 2025 Budget Presentation, and the movement of item C.6, Woods of E and B Preliminary and Final Plat Approval, to C.2. Seconded by Councilmember Busch. 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 October 9, 2024 Payment Summary

2. Accept Resignation of Planning Commissioner Barb Bobick

Motion by Councilmember Hegland 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**
   There were no presenters

2. **Woods of E and B Preliminary and Final Plat Approval**

Planning and Zoning Technician Eleanor Hahn provided an overview of the proposed Janitschke Preliminary and Final Plat of the Woods of E and B and stated that it will result in one, new 5-acre parcel. The new parcel will have no road frontage and will be accessed by an existing shared driveway. She stated that a variance to allow this subdivision was previously approved by the Council on March 27, 2024. No further questions were asked by the Council.

Motion by Mayor Preiner to approve the Preliminary and Final Plat of the Woods of E and B with the conditions as approved by the Planning Commission on October 2, 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

3. ACSO Quarterly Report and 2025 ACSO Contract Approval Jessica Slavik

Lieutenant Jessica Slavik provided a report of Anoka County Sheriff's Office activities for the third quarter of 2024. She stated that the summer months are typically very busy for law enforcement, and that there were 225 more calls than the previous quarter. She stated that there has been a slight increase in property crimes but it is still significantly lower than it was in 2019 through 2021. Councilmember Wagamon asked what could have lead to the significant decrease in burglaries in the last couple of years. Slavik stated that burglars were often looking for prescription medications or checkbooks, which are not as common as they used to be. She also said that home security systems are much more common. Councilmember Hanegraaf asked about computer crimes, and Slavik responded by saying that much of the big computer crimes they receive regard solicitation of a minor or the unlawful distribution of pornographic images. She stated that they are doing a lot of internet safety planning with families to help bring awareness to those problems. Hegland stated that to date in 2024, there have been 731 traffic stops and 137 traffic arrests, and asked Slavik if the difference is just warnings. Slavik stated that the decision to ticket at traffic stop is up to the deputy's discretion, but there is still a concerted effort to address speeding in Columbus. Slavik stated that DWI arrests, and arrests in general, were up this quarter.

City Administrator Jack Davis presented the 2025 Anoka County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Contract. He stated that this year's contract is a 2.4% increase from last year, which contrasts greatly with the 12.8% increase that occurred between 2022 and 2023. Councilmember Wagamon asked Davis if the contract language is the same as last year's, and Davis confirmed that it is. Wagamon then stated that the health insurance costs seem much higher than what she is used to seeing. Slavik stated that the County does offer very good benefits, and there was a 5% increase in this line item. Slavik said she would look into it and report back to Council. Councilmember Busch stated that those rates are very comparable to other that he's seen.

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to approve the 2025 ACSO contract in the amount of $493,967 as presented in Item C.2, Attachment 1 of the October 9, 2024 City Council Packet. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon. Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

4. **FLATV 2025 Budget Presentation**

Paul Peterson from Forest Lake Area TV (FLATV) presented their 2025 Budget. He updated the Council on new projects that the FLATV has been working on, such as creating a new website, increasing their livestream viewership, and a new partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. He also stated that they created a platform for local election candidates to post videos and have invited all those running for election this year to participate. He stated that their revenues have dropped in the last few years as cable subscriptions have been decreasing, and that FLATV or will be about $7,500 over budget this year. He explained that this is primarily due to a required bi-annual audit which will cost approximately $10,000. He also stated that they are pursuing sponsorship opportunities for local businesses in order to offset their costs. He also stated that costs for salaries and health insurance will increase in 2025. Councilmember Hegland thanked Peterson for his work at the Fall Fest events.

Paul Peterson gave a presentation on the future of cable access television, and how streaming is changing the industry. He stated that FLATV has Roku, AppleTV, YouTube and Amazon Fire channels to reach audiences that have moved away from cable. He explains that high-end equipment is now affordable, and that FLATV has a partnership with Forest Lake High School to give students hands-on media production experience. FLATV also has a podcast studio to enable students and residents to create content which is then distributed across major platforms. The Council thanked Peterson for his time, and all the work he's done in the community.

Motion by Mayor Preiner to approve the 2025 FLATV 2025 Budget as sent to Council on October 8, 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Busch. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

5. **Resolution 24-16, Appointment of Election Judges**

City Administrator Davis presented the list of election judges and Absentee Ballot Board Members for appointment to work the November 5, 2024 General Election and requested approval of the appointments. The Councilmembers examined the list and had no comments on the request.

Motion by Mayor Preiner to approve Resolution 24-16, Appointing Election Judges for the State General Election to be Held on November 5, 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

6. **Resolution 24-17, Authorizing the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts**

Mayor Preiner explained that Resolution 24-17 is for acceptance of donations made for the 2024 Fall Fest Event. He thanked the following contributors: Bituminous Roadways, Camping World, KI Auto Body, Blaine Brothers, Mastell Brothers, Daves Hydro-Vac, Westmor Fluid Solutions, Viking Industrial, Waldoch Crafts, Olson's Sewer, Blaize Credit Union, Zeigler, Running Aces, Larkin

Hoffman, Bolton and Menk, Minnesota Veterinary Neurology, Rybak Co.'s, Bergen's Greenhouse, and Mel Metler.

Motion by Mayor Preiner to approve Resolution 24-17, Authorizing Acceptance of Gifts Received by the City of Columbus and to Authorize the City to Administer the Gifts in Accordance with the Terms Prescribed by the Donors. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

D. CONSULTANT, LIAISON & STAFF REPORTS

1. City Engineer

City Engineer Kevin Bittner introduced Brian Bachmeier, who will be taking over as the City Engineer when Bittner retires at the end of December 2024. Bachmeier stated that he is currently serving the Cities of Lindstrom and Oakdale as a consultant with Bolton and Menk. He stated that he was the City Engineer and Public Works Director in Oakdale for 33 years prior to moving into his current position with Bolton & Menk. Mr. Bachmeier stated that he has extensive experience in municipal utilities and infrastructure projects.

2. City Attorney

Nothing at this time.

3. Mayor & City Council Report

Councilmember Hegland stated that City Administrator Jack Davis had forwarded an email from County Administrator Jim Dickinson to the Council regarding the denial of a grant application for Broadband projects the City had submitted in partnership with Midco. Hegland went on to say that she has been working with Davis, Dickinson, and Commissioner Reinert to have that application reconsidered. Hegland stated that although it is not final, it appears as though the application will now receive the funding through a different program.

Councilmember Busch stated that the EDA ColumBiz Event held at Running Aces on October 3, 2024 went well. He indicated that he, Mayor Preiner and Councilmember Hanegraaf were in attendance. He asked City Attorney Griffith if wearing campaign materials, such as buttons, is allowed at City events. City Attorney Griffith stated that the statue prohibits those items during voting hours, and as long as the events are outside of those hours that type of campaign materials are allowed.

4. Personnel Committee Report – Janet Hegland & Sue Wagamon

Councilmember Hegland stated that the Personnel Committee interviewed Susan Bautch for the Planning Commission position that was vacated by Barb Bobick. She stated that Bautch has lived in the area for a long time and works as a zoning administrator for Linwood Township.

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to appoint Susan Bautch to the Columbus Planning Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Hegland. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

City Administrator Jack Davis stated that the Personal Committee has interviewed 5 finalist applicants for the Assistant City Administrator position, and a candidate will be selected and presented at the October 23, 2024 City Council meeting. He went on to say that the Accounting Assistant and Permit Technician positions have been posted, and that the application window for those positions will close in two weeks.

5. **Public Works Report**

Public Works Director Jim Windingstad stated that the Anoka County Highway Department held an Open House Meeting regarding their upcoming reconstruction of Potomac Street, and 112 people signed in. He stated that he emailed a report to the Councilmembers with resident comments. He provided an overview, stating that that 60% of residents who wrote comments were against adding the proposed trail to the project. He reported that Anoka County has a website for the project to provide updates and receive public comments.

Windingstad asked the Council for approval to place an order for a vehicle purchase, to be paid at the beginning of 2025. The purchase has already been approved in the 2025 Preliminary Budget on September 11, 2024. Councilmember Hegland asked if they will require a deposit, and Windingstad stated that they will not.

Motion by Councilmember Wagamon to authorize the order of a F-550 Ford with Utility Box. Seconded by Mayor Preiner. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

6. **City Administrator Report**

City Administrator Jack Davis reminded everyone that City Hall will be open on October 26, November 2 and November 3, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for direct ballot voting. He stated that the office will also be open until 5 p.m. on November 1 and 4, 2024 and 7 p.m. on election day.

Davis requested authorization for an appraisal of City Property, PID 24-32-22-11-0006, which is a 7.7 acre site directly north of the Hy-Vee site. He stated that the City has had four inquires for the property in the last few weeks, and that there was a need to have an updated appraisal of value for the site. He said that the appraisal will cost approximately $1,200.

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to authorize the City Administrator to obtain an appraisal of City property PID 24-32-22-11-0006. Seconded by Councilmember Busch. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

Mayor Preiner reminded the Council and public of the following upcoming meetings and dates:

- Planning Commission Meeting, October 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM
- City Council Meeting, October 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM
- Saturday General Election Voting, City Hall; October 26,2024, 9 AM -3 PM
- Local Government Officials Meeting, October 30, 2024 at 6 PM; Coon Rapids Fire Department #3

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Preiner to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Hanegraaf. Roll call vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully Submitted: Recording Secretary Eleanor Hahn.