City of Columbus
Regular City Council Meeting
November 13, 2024

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Address:
Jenna Latta	7944 174th Court NE
Myron + Cindy Angel	14048 Furman St. NE.

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCEL MEETING
ITERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT
STATUTE SECTION 13D.021
11-13-2024

The 11-13-2024 City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jesse Preiner at 6:01PM. Present were City Councilmembers Ron Hanegraaf, Sue Wagamon, Janet Hegland, Rob Busch. Also present were City Administrator Jack Davis, City Engineer Kevin Bittner, City Attorney Megan Rogers, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, Jennifer Lattin, and Myron and Cindy Angel.

The meeting was held in an interactive technology meeting format.

A. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

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

Motion by Mayor Jesse Preiner to approve the 11-13-2024 agenda as presented; Seconded by Councilmember Sue 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 November 13, 2024 Payment Summary.
2. Approval of July 10, 2024 City Council minutes.
3. Approval of July 24, 2024 City Council minutes.
4. Approval of August 14, 2024 City Council minutes.

Motion by Mayor Jesse Preiner to approve the 11-13-2024 Consent Agenda as presented; Seconded by Councilmember Janet Hegland.

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. Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) Board Manager Nominee(s) (pgs. 1-7)

City Administrator Jack Davis stated that Steve Wagamon's term as a Manager on the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) Board is set to expire 01-17-2025. Anoka County makes the appointments to this board and is accepting applications. A Copy of the public notice for the position is exhibited on Attachment 1 in packet. The position was posted on the city website and Facebook page and sent on our email mailing list. Mr. Wagman was the only applicant the city received for this position. After discussion of the notification efforts, accomplishments and contributions to the RCWD by Mr. Wagamon, Council was unanimous in their support for Mr. Wagamon's appointment and endorsed his nomination.

Motion by Mayor Jesse Preiner to approve the recommendation of the reappointment of Steve Wagamon to the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) Board of Managers. Seconded by Councilmember Janet Hegland.

Roll Call Vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

3. City Hall Office closure December 24, 2024 (pg. 8)

   City Administrator Jack Davis stated that per the city calendar City Hall is closed for a half day holiday on Christmas Eve from noon to 4 PM. Staff has requested to use their personal leave time to cover the time off for the morning of Christmas Eve. Approving this request would close City Hall for the entire day on Christmas Eve. City Hall was closed in 2023 for Christmas Eve with the same request and conditions as noted above.

Motion by Mayor Jesse Preiner to close City Hall December 24, 2024 for non-holiday 8:00AM-12:00PM time period. Seconded by Councilmember Ron Hanegraaf.

Roll Call Vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

D. CONSULTANT, LIAISON and STAFF REPORTS

1. City Engineer – Kevin Bittner
   a. Hornsby St Project RCWD Variance (pgs. 9-19)

City Engineer Kevin Bittner explained that Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) requires a Floodplain Compensatory Variance for the Hornsby Street Project. He explained that when more than 100 cubic yards of fill are required in floodplains, compensatory excavation is required by the RCWD.

Bittner stated that, while this is a joint project with Forest Lake, Forest Lake is the applicant for the RCWD permit. An estimated 320 cubic yards of fill will be placed in floodplains during the Hornsby Street Project with the entire amount in the Forest Lake section of the street improvement.

Councilmember Hegland asked if the City could sell them the soil material that we have stockpiled on the city property across the street from Caribou Coffee to reduce the road construction cost. Bittner

stated that the stockpiled soil is not suitable material and that approved gravel or class 5 would need to be used.

Councilmember Hegland also asked if Forest Lake will be paying for the fees related to this permit, and Bittner responded that they will.

Motion by Mayor Jesse Preiner to approve the City of Columbus as a signatory to the variance request for 2025 North Hornsby / Eureka Street project as required by Rice Creek Watershed District. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon.

Roll Call Vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

b. Waldoch letter of credit release (pg. 20)

City Engineer Kevin Bittner has requested the release of the letter of credit to Waldoch in the amount of $645,893.00, as the project is completed.

Councilmember Hegland asked about the process, and whose job is it to release this credit since the time period was so long since the project's completion. She asked if the city is typically supposed to wait for them to ask for it. Davis responded by stating that since they are the holder and paying for the letter of credit, they are responsible for the release request.

Motion by Mayor Jesse Preiner approve Waldoch letter of credit release per recommendation of the City Engineer. Seconded by Councilmember Hanegraaf.

Roll Call Vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

2. City Attorney – Megan Rogers

City Attorney Megan Rogers stated that there have been legislative changes over the last 5 years as to how technology is used regarding open meeting law. Minnesota Statute now states that Councilmembers can attend three meetings remotely with no notice. After that, councilmembers need to provide at least a 3-day notice to the City Administrator, which must include the location where they intend to attend the meeting remotely. Councilmembers need to make sure they make themselves available to the public in that place.

Councilmember Wagamon asked if you have to be available to the public in those first three remote meetings, and City Attorney Rodgers stated that they do not.

Councilmember Wagamon then asked if there a limit to any subsequent remote attendance, and City Attorney Rodgers stated that there is no limit.

Councilmember Hegland asked what happens when you are over three meeting limit and cannot do the next remote meeting in public. She asked if the councilmember simply has to miss that meeting. Ms.

Rogers stated there is no language for this situation at this time and any place can be considered public, and there has been no case law examination as to whether or not the location must be practical for public to attend. As long as they have the ability to monitor attendance and participation, they have the ability to do so with no distinction.

Councilmember Busch asked if the initial three meeting limit is annual or per a full 4-year term. He also asked if there is a limit to the number of remote meetings. City Attorney Megan Rogers answered by saying the historical language is three absents during the calendar year, which is what the remote attendance policy is based upon. She stated that there is no limit to the use of remote meetings.

3. Mayor and City Council Report

Mayor Preiner and Councilmember Hegland attended the Anoka County Local Elected Officials meeting on Wednesday October 30, 2024, and questioned the status of a resolution requesting a post-election review. It was reported that Anoka County submitted it to the Attorney General's office, who responded that post-election reviews must be a collection of randomly chosen precincts from cities in the county. The City requesting a post-election review would not be randomly chosen and therefore not allowed. Columbus will not have the postelection review that was requested.

Councilmember Hegland stated that Anoka County is updating their hazard mitigation plan, which is updated every 5 years, and are accepting public input during this process. She recommended contacting the Anoka County Emergency Management Director for input and comments to help reduce future hazards.

Councilmember Hegland stated that the City will receive Midco grant funds to finish the longstanding city broadband project by providing service to four areas that are currently unserved or underserved. She stated that the County will be sending the City the specific amount soon. The project will start in 2025 and must be completed by 2026. In addition to the county grant funds, Midco will provide matching funds of approximately $500,000 dollars for the project.

Councilmember Hegland reported that she, Mayor Preiner, Jack Davis, Jim Windingstad and Kevin Bittner attended a RCWD meeting to discuss issues with County Ditch 10-22-32. Councilmember Hegland stated that nothing was resolved at the meeting.

Councilmember Hegland attended the November 7, 2024, Sunrise River WMO meeting and provided an update on Shoreland Stablization program for Coon, Martin and Linwood Lakes. Grant funds are available for eligible projects and notification for applications for these funds is done by the Sunrise River WMO.

4. Personnel Committee Report – Janet Hegland and Sue Wagamon

Councilmember Hegland reviewed the Personnel Committee Report relating the hiring of Brenda Oswald for the Accounting Assistant and Lindsey Mooney for the Permit Coordinator

Motion by Hegland to confirm the hire of Brenda Oswald for Accounting Assistant to start at Step 4 @ $29.11 p/hr. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon.

Roll Call Vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

Motion by Hegland to confirm the hire of Lindsay Mooney for Permit Coordinator to start at Step 1 @ $26.31 p/hr. Seconded by Councilmember Wagamon.

Roll Call Vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Aye, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

a. Recording Secretary

Councilmember Hegland stated that there has been a struggle with meeting minutes being completed in a timely fashion with content accuracy expected of the Council by prior contractor Timesavers and the staff's availability to submit draft minutes in a timely manner is compromised by more urgent matters that frequently arise. Councilmember Hegland requested posting for a part time contract recording secretary for 15 hours per month at a rate of $20/hour. This funding is available in the approved budget.

Councilmember Busch asked as to the reason to hire this as a contract position and not an employee. Councilmember Hegland answered this meets the definition of a contract worker as the person in this position would work independently, establish their own hours, and use their own equipment. Their limited hours would make them ineligible for benefits if they were hired as an employee and a contract position fits more with the services required of this position.

Motion by Councilmember Hegland to approve posting for a part time contract position for a Recording Secretary, with the time estimated to be up to 15 hours a month. Seconded by Wagamon.

Roll Call Vote: Hanegraaf – Aye, Wagamon – Aye, Hegland – Aye, Busch – Nay, Preiner – Aye. Motion carries.

5. Planning Commission Report – Sue Wagamon

Councilmember Wagamon stated that the Planning Commission meeting was canceled, and the next meeting will be November 20, 2024.

6. Public Works Report

Nothing to report

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

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

- **Park Board Meeting; November 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM**
- **Planning Commission Meeting; November 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM**
- **EDA Work Meeting, November 21; 2024 at 5:30 PM – Running Aces**

- **EDA Regular Meeting; November 21, 2024 at 6:30 PM**
- **City Council Meeting; November 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

F. ADJORNMENT

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 6:40pm

Drafted by Recording Secretary Danelle Peacock