

COMMON COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CITY HALL  
AUGUST 20, 2024

City Council President Frank Miller appeared in person and called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

- A. John Bundick, Police Chaplin, provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Josh Burnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Christopher Bartels, Elaine Hilber, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Josh Burnett, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Jerone Wood was absent.
- D. Councilor Kestler made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on August 3, 2024, as presented. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

**II. Old Business Requiring Council Action**

- A. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 28, 2024, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA AMENDING ORDINANCE 24, 2023 SALARY ORDINANCE FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES." Luann Welmer, Clerk, and Eric Frey, Executive Director of Administration, both presented this ordinance and the following ordinance (Item B) at the same time. Eric explained the request is for a part-time position in the Clerk's Office and an additional appropriation for funding of the position. He stated there is an increase in freedom of information requests being processed through the Clerk's Office and the need for coverage of meetings when the Clerk is unable to attend. Eric stated the additional appropriation of \$12,000 would cover the pay for the remainder of the calendar year. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- B. Second Reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 29, 2024, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2024.” No additional information was provided. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

### III. New Business Requiring Council Action

- A. Reading of a Resolution entitled, “RESOLUTION NO. 22, 2024, A RESOLUTION UNDER INDIANA CODE § 36-8-3.5-5.5 REJECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MERIT SYSTEM.” Eric Frey presented this resolution. He explained Indiana House Bill 1016 was signed into law on May 4, 2023. The new law directs both Police and Fire departments with at least 12 full-time staff serving areas of at least 20,000 people to adopt a merit board by 2025, unless rejected by the City Council and Police and Fire staff members. Eric stated the request is to reject establishment of a merit system through this resolution and defer to the Police and Fire departments to make this decision. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the resolution as presented. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- B. First Reading of an Ordinance entitled, “ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (“DORA”) (Downtown Columbus Social District).” Eric Frey presented this ordinance. He stated the city administration fully supports the DORA. Eric explained the DORA is a designated outdoor refreshment area for individuals who are 21 years of age or older to purchase an alcoholic beverage from approved vendors / retail establishments and carry those beverages anywhere within the refreshment area boundaries of the DORA. Eric indicated the ordinance includes a map, boundaries as defined, location of proposed designated retail permittees, temporary vendor locations, etc. Much discussion followed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Kelly Schwartz with 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bar spoke in favor of implementing the DORA. Travis, General Manager with 4<sup>th</sup> Street, suggested using Fourth Street for events and not include City Hall. He believes the DORA would benefit the entire community and bring more foot traffic downtown. Kerri Sinibaldi asked about an outside vendor requesting a temporary permit and



if there would be a cost involved. Discussion followed. Kyle Hendricks, Manager of Community Impact at Heritage Fund, stated Ike DeClue has done a great job of meeting with the Downtown Merchants Association and getting their feedback. Ike DeClue spoke about the DORA project. Misty Weisensteiner with Columbus Area Visitors Center spoke in full support of the DORA and stated it is great for the residents but it's great for the visitors also. Kurt Zwanzig, owner of ZwanzigZ Pizza and ZwanzigZ Brewing, fully supports the DORA and feels it's a very good idea for the community. He asked for inclusion of ZwanzigZ Brewery at 12<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets. Robin Hilber, Community Development Director, provided additional details regarding the DORA. Discussion followed. President Miller closed the public portion of the meeting. Councilor Bartels made a motion to amend the ordinance to extend the northern border of the DORA map to the unknown named alley on the north side of the Roviari building, the western border of Jackson Street and the eastern border of Franklin Street. Discussion followed. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion to amend the ordinance to extend the DORA map. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion to amend the ordinance passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the amended ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Brief discussion followed. Roll call vote as follows.

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

**IV. Other Business**


- A. Deepti Vijaykumar, representing Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, presented information about the organization.
- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports
- C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**
- D. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye

Tom Dell  
Grace Kestler

Aye  
Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:32 p.m.

  
Clerk of the City of Columbus

  
Presiding Officer