

COMMON COUNCIL
 COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 & WEBEX
 CITY HALL
 FEBRUARY 4, 2025

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. Councilor Kent Anderson provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Kent Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Christopher Bartels, Elaine Hilber, Jerone Wood, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Josh Burnett was present via WebEx. A Quorum was established and the Policy for Electronic Participation was followed.
- D. Councilor Foyst made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on January 21, 2025, as presented. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Old Business Requiring Council Action

Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2025, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, TO REPEAL AND REPLACE NOISE ORDINANCE CHAPTER 8.28." Eric Frey, Executive Director of Administration, presented this Ordinance. He introduced Austin Whitted, Assistant City Attorney. Eric explained this is a request to update the City's noise Ordinance. He stated the Ordinance contains terminology that is more relatable and follows Indiana State Code with enforcement capability. Much discussion followed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Kerri Sinibaldi expressed concern about a carve-out for downtown residents who are being serviced by Rumpke, often picking up dumpsters or totes behind her house early morning. Discussion followed. President Miller closed the meeting for public comments. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye

Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

III. New Business Requiring Council Action

- A. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ____, 2025, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COLUMBUS, INDIANA SUBDIVISION CONTROL ORDINANCE (WITH REGARD TO OPEN SPACE, IMPROVEMENTS, RESUBDIVISION, MINOR SUBDIVISION SIDEWALKS, AND LOT FRONTAGE)." Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this Ordinance. He explained this document regulates the subdividing of land into new lots for homes, businesses, and other uses. Jeff indicated the goal is to create, within the subdivision control Ordinance, specific open space standards that will apply uniformly and replace the case-by-case decision making that occurs currently with each new development proposed. He stated the Columbus Plan Commission forwarded this to Council with a favorable recommendation. Much discussion followed. *Councilor Burnett left WebEx at approximately 6:41 p.m.* President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Kerri Sinibaldi questioned if annexations follow these guidelines. Zach Patchett of Clairmont Dr. stated he lives by a large amount of farmland in between subdivision developments and questioned how they could retroactively get a park in their area. Mark Jones, Park Director, stated he would be happy to discuss the possibility with Zach. President Miller closed the meeting for public comment. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- B. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ____, 2025, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, TO REPEAL AND REPLACE THE COMMON COUNCIL ORDINANCE CHAPTER 2.02." Frank Miller, Council President, and Jeff Rocker, Council Attorney, presented this Ordinance. Frank explained in December of 2023, moving from a third class city to a second class city there was a mass change made to city code which contained some errors. He stated the changes within the proposed Ordinance would clean up the 2.02 section of the municipal code. Jeff Rocker indicated the Ordinance is to continue to create consistency using the proper language. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Christopher Bartels	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

IV. Other Business

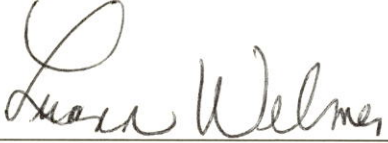
- A. Public Comment – Randy Lapidus, resident of Columbus, explained he and his family own Miss Rachael’s Sweet Treats. He spoke of food truck events and their positive impact on the community. The events promote economic development and attract diversity and foot traffic. President Miller stated this would be discussed further at Ordinance Review Working Group meetings.
- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilors Kestler and Dell reported on special projects.
- C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**
- D. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Christopher Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:13 p.m.



 Presiding Officer



 Clerk of the City of Columbus