

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
MAY 20, 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 Grace Kestler provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Grace Kestler led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Jerone Wood, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Elaine Hilber and Tom Dell were present via WebEx. Chris Bartels and Josh Burnett were absent. 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 May 6, 2025, as presented. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

II. Old Business Requiring Council Action

- A. Reading of a Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION NO. 9, 2025, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FISCAL PLAN FOR PROPERTY TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA.” (Sandeep Kumar Bhowra Annexation) Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this Resolution and the following two Ordinances at the same time. He stated that the applicants were requesting an annexation of an approximately seven-acre property, and to rezone the property from AP (Agriculture: Preferred) to CR (Commercial: Regional). Jeff explained the property is located at 3601 West 450 South, near the I-65/SR 58 interchange. He stated that the property is completely surrounded by City limits and therefore meets the contiguity requirements of Indiana law for annexation. Jeff displayed maps and photos of the area. He said that the Columbus Plan Commission forwarded the applications for both annexation and rezoning to City Council with a favorable recommendation by a vote of eight (8) in favor and one (1) opposed. Jeff noted that the applicant intends to use the property for a small-scale truck service center, which would be a conditional use rather than a permitted use within the CR zoning district. He indicated Ann Coriden, representing the applicant, was available for any questions. There were no comments from the public.

Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the Resolution as presented. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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 seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- B. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2025, AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING AND DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY TO BE A PART OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." (Sandeep Kumar Bhowra Annexation) Jeff Bergman offered no additional information. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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 seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- C. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 11, 2025, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM AP (AGRICULTURE: PREFERRED) TO CR (COMMERCIAL: REGIONAL)." (Sandeep Kumar Bhowra Rezoning) Jeff Bergman offered no additional information. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Kestler made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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 seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- D. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE CONSULTING FUND

FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025.” Jeff Bergman presented this Ordinance. He stated that this additional appropriation was for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the entity through which the City receives federal funds to advance transportation improvement projects. Jeff explained that the administrative costs are split 80% Federal, 18% City, and 2% County, and that these administrative funds can be carried over from previous years. The current request is to capture those previously-allocated Federal funds from last year and apply them to other projects for this year. Jeff stated that the City has approximately \$58,000 in Federal funds from last year that could be allocated if the City provides the 20% match, bringing the requested additional appropriation to \$72,488 for the MPO’s Consulting Fund. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

- E. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025.” Jim Hartsook, Director of Technology, presented this Ordinance. Jim stated that the request was for an additional appropriation of \$147,000.00 for transferring the City’s Microsoft Office license to Office 365 and to obtain server licensing with Software Assurance. He explained that the current state of these products has an end-of-life of October 2025. Jim also requested \$10,000 for consulting fees to aid in the migration to the new software and servers. He stated that \$36,000 of the requested additional appropriation was for a server management system and password management solution. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

- F. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. 14, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE COLUMBUS REDEVELOPMENT FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025." Mikala Brown, Assistant Director of Redevelopment Commission, and Mike Richardson, Director of Security and Risk, presented this Ordinance. Mikala explained the request was for an additional appropriation of \$324,925.00 from the Columbus Redevelopment Fund for operational and maintenance expenses associated with the ownership of the Sears building. Discussion followed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comment. Kerri Sinibaldi asked about the status of the insurance claim for the building. She indicated there were some questions as to the first insurance claim and the possibility of an additional \$25,000 insurance claim if one should arise. She doesn't believe the City should be paying \$50,000 for something that isn't covered. Inaudible response from Mary Stroh, Legal Counsel for the Redevelopment Commission. City Clerk, Luann Welmer, read a prepared statement from John Brian Slater. President Miller closed the public portion of the meeting. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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 seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- G. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2025, 2025 SALARY ORDINANCE." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley, Director of Human Resources, presented this Ordinance. Arlette briefly explained that the changes in the Parks Department salaries were not additional appropriations, just adjustments of salary bands to help the City with recruitment and retention. She stated that the Finance Department is requesting to eliminate a Senior Accounting Specialist position and create a Deputy Controller position. Arlette stated that the Information Technology Department would like to convert one part-time position into a full-time position, and to add a position to the department. Much discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Anderson made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed.

III. New Business Requiring Council Action

None

IV. Other Business

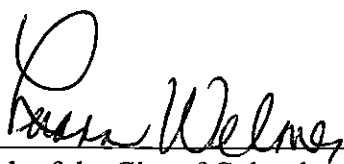
- A. Public request to speak from Jim Elkins. Mr. Elkins would like to create a village for all of the people experiencing homelessness. He suggested a Pallet build and provided details around his ideas. Mark Stewart, President of United Way, spoke in favor of Mr. Elkins' proposal.
- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Kestler provided an update on housing at The Villas. President Miller reported on a successful food truck festival.
- C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**
- D. Councilor Kestler made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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 seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:52 p.m.



Presiding Officer



Clerk of the City of Columbus