

COMMON COUNCIL  
 COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
 CITY HALL  
 NOVEMBER 18, 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 Jay Foyst introduced Pastor Paul Burton with Christ Fellowship Church in Edinburgh who provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Jay Foyst led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Chris Bartels, Elaine Hilber, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Josh Burnett was present via WebEx. Jerone Wood was 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 November 4, 2025, as presented. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	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 eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

**II. Old Business Requiring Council Action**

- A. None

**III. New Business**

- A. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 15, 2025, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE UTILITY SERVICE BOARD AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." Roger Kelso, Executive Director of Columbus City Utilities, Ashley Getz, Associate Director of Engineering, and Stan Gamso, Legal Counsel for Columbus City Utilities, presented this Resolution. Roger offered to answer any questions regarding the 2026 calendar year budget. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the Resolution as presented. Councilor Kester seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye

Elaine Hilber                      Aye

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

B. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 16, 2025, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, ESTABLISHING THE DISTRIBUTION OF RECEIPTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025." Ben Reinhart, Deputy Controller, and Regina McIntyre, Controller, presented this Resolution and the following Resolution (Item C) at the same time. Ben explained House Enrolled Act 1392 went into effect on July 1, 2025, and the change allowed local government to determine how they want to distribute Financial Institutions Tax (FIT) and Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax (CVET) funds. Ben presented a distribution history for the two funds. He stated they are proposing receipting the funds for calendar years 2025 and 2026 into the General Fund where they are currently budgeted. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the Resolution as presented. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	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 eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

C. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 17, 2025, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, ESTABLISHING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TAX (FIT) AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE EXCISE TAX (CVET) RECEIPTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026." Ben Reinhart and Regina McIntyre presented this Resolution. They offered no additional information. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Foyst made a motion to pass the Resolution as presented. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

D. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND – CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025." Ben Reinhart and Regina McIntyre presented this Ordinance and the following four (4) Ordinances (Items E, F, G, and H) at the same time. Regina stated Department Heads are present and available for any questions. She explained the Department of Public Works is requesting an additional appropriation of \$25,000 for vehicle parts and repair supplies.

Bryan Burton, Director of Public Works, discussed the expense of costly repairs this year.

Regina stated the Animal Care request is for an additional appropriation of \$11,150 for HVAC repairs and maintenance. Nichol Birdwell-Goodin, Director of Animal Care Services, explained there have been both heating and air conditioning issues this year.

Regina explained the Administration Department request for additional appropriation is a total of \$15,420 from a calculation error from the 2025 budget.

Ben reported City Hall Maintenance is requesting an additional appropriation of \$2,020 for overtime pay due to hours worked during Ethnic Expo.

Regina explained Engineering is requesting an additional appropriation of \$1,500,000 for thoroughfare expenses related to the FTA Flex Fund projects. Andrew Beckort, City Engineer, stated the requested amount will help build about \$2.1 million in bike and pedestrian projects funding from the FTA Flex Fund. He indicated the City will receive 80% of this money back. Discussion followed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Keri Sinibaldi, 524 10<sup>th</sup> Street, questioned that when going through a budget process, did they not know about the changes beforehand when the budget was presented. She also asked about documentation in terms of transparency as to who makes sure the funds are spent on the intended purchase. President Miller closed the meeting for public comments. Regina replied that she was not aware of the HEA change until later in the year. Discussion followed. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Kester seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

E. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND – ANIMAL CARE DEPARTMENT FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025." Ben Rinehart and Regina McIntyre presented this Ordinance. They offered no additional information. Brief discussion followed. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

- F. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND – ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025." Ben Rinehart and Regina McIntyre presented this Ordinance. They offered no additional information. Councilor Foyst 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:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	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 eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- G. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND – CITY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025." Ben Rinehart and Regina McIntyre presented this Ordinance. They offered no additional information. 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:

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

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

- H. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_, 2025, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE THOROUGHFARE FUND FOR THE BUDGET YEAR 2025." Ben Rinehart and Regina McIntyre presented this Ordinance. They offered no additional information. Brief discussion followed. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	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 eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

#### IV. Other Business

- A. President Miller stated he received a request to address City Council from the Indiana Sentinels Hockey Team. Gavin Campbell, 1203 Blackthorne Trl, Plainfield, IN, Garrett Campbell, 1203 Blackthorne Trl, Plainfield, IN, Everett Thompson, Deerfield St., MI, and Rick Powell, 14000 Shady Ln, Lot 48, Seymour, IN, all spoke about the positive economic impact on the community. They encouraged everyone to attend upcoming games.
- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Dell reported the Columbus Airport tower groundbreaking was a success. Councilor Kestler announced several December events: December 6, 2025, the Festival of Lights Parade, December 5, 2025, the Historical Society is hosting a home Christmas tour, and December 4, 2025, is the Not So Silent Night event.
- C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**
- D. Councilor Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	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 eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:01 p.m.



Presiding Officer



Clerk of the City of Columbus