

COMMON COUNCIL  
 COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
 CITY HALL  
 JANUARY 6, 2026

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 Mackenzie Phillips, Associate Pastor with First United Methodist Church, who provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Jay Foyst led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken. Elaine Hilber, Jerone Wood, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Josh Burnett, and Tom Dell were present in person. Chris Bartels and Grace Kestler were 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 December 2, 2025, as presented. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris 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. Election of City Council President and Vice-President Slate for 2026**

Councilor Anderson made a motion to nominate Frank Miller as Council President and Tom Dell as Council Vice President for calendar year 2026. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris 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.

**III. City Council Slate of Appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees for 2026**

President Miller asked Clerk Luann Welmer to read the slate of City Council appointments as follows:

Public member appointments/reappointments:  
New appointments noted with an \*.

Columbus Redevelopment Commission  
Scott Ballard  
Shannon McDonald

Columbus City Utilities Board  
\*Melissa Lin (4-year)

Commons Board  
Erin Hawkins (4-year)

Economic Development Commission  
Michael Kinder (2-year)

Insurance Review Committee  
Lori Rowan  
Brian Walsh

Councilor, Member, and Liaison appointments changes for 2026:

Parks and Recreation Board..... Frank Miller  
Solid Waste Management District Board..... Josh Burnett

Councilor Hilber made a motion to approve the appointments. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris 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.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2026, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM RM (RESIDENTIAL: MULTI-FAMILY) TO CO (COMMERCIAL: PROFESSIONAL OFFICE)." (National Road Professional Plaza Rezoning) Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this Ordinance. He explained the National Road Professional Plaza includes two parcels – one of 1.5 acres at the immediate northwest corner of National Road and Sycamore Court that contains office buildings, and one of 0.28 acres further north along Sycamore Court that contains a small parking lot. Jeff stated the smaller lot is zoned RM (Residential: Multi Family). The National Road Professional Plaza Owners Association is proposing to rezone the smaller lot to CO (Commercial: Professional Office) to match the zoning of the other parcel. Jeff displayed maps and photographs of the area. He reported the Columbus Plan Commission forwarded the application to City Council with a favorable recommendation by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 opposed. Brief discussion followed. 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:

Chris 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.

**V. New Business**

A. None

**VI. Other Business**

- A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Hilber stated the Winter Markets have been very successful and the next one is scheduled for Saturday, January 17 at S.E.A.R.S. Councilor Burnett announced that Kathy Dell (wife of Councilor Tom Dell) will be formally recognized in February as a BCSC Education Hall of Fame Award winner. Mayor Mary Ferdon reported that the Martin Luther King Breakfast is scheduled for Monday, January 19, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Commons with Councilor Jerone Wood’s sister as the guest speaker. She also announced the State of City Address is booked for Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Commons.
- B. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**
- C. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris 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. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m.

  
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 Presiding Officer

  
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 Clerk of the City of Columbus