

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
JANUARY 20, 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 Grace Kestler introduced Bishop Johnny Edwards, with Abundant Harvest Ministries International, 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, Josh Burnett, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Jerone Wood was absent during roll call but joined the meeting via WebEx at approximately 6:08 p.m. after approval of the meeting minutes. 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. Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Old Business

- A. None

III. New Business

A. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM CN (COMMERCIAL: NEIGHBORHOOD) TO RE (RESIDENTIAL: ESTABLISHED)" (8th & Hutchins Rezoning) Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, presented this Ordinance. He explained this rezoning involves ten (10) lots near the intersection of 8th Street and Hutchins Avenue. Jeff stated the Planning Department's observation is that these lots do not have a future commercial development potential and that this current commercial zoning both misidentifies their true potential future uses and unnecessarily burdens the existing homes. He displayed a site location and surrounding zoning map of the area. Jeff reported the Columbus Plan Commission forwarded the rezoning to the City Council with a favorable recommendation by a vote of eight in favor and zero opposed. Brief discussion followed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Brad Davis with *The Republic* asked if this was a particular plan initiative or continuous review. Jeff stated this is something that cumulatively came together. President Miller closed the meeting for public comments. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the Ordinance on the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Kestler 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. Other Business

- A. Department of Public Works update and discussion – Bryan Burton, Director of Public Works, and Brenda Renner, Operations Assistant, presented a slide show titled “What does DPW do?”.
- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Tom Dell reported the Columbus Airport will take down the old beacon and a new one will be installed. He also stated the new tower is still on schedule to be built. Councilor Anderson indicated he participated in an AIM (Accelerate Indiana Municipalities) Zoom call regarding SB1. Councilor Burnett stated the Martin Luther King Breakfast with speaker Whitney Wood-Gaines provided a great message. He also mentioned the girl’s wrestling team’s success. Councilor Wood reported February is Black History Month.
- C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**
- D. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Dell 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 6:51 p.m.



 Presiding Officer



 Clerk of the City of Columbus