

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
FEBRUARY 17, 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 provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Jay Foyst led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken. Chris Bartels, Jerone Wood, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Josh Burnett, and Tom Dell were present in person. Elaine Hilber, Kent Anderson, and Grace Kestler were absent.
- D. Councilor Foyst made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on February 3, 2026, as presented. President Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Old Business

- A. None

III. New Business

- A. None

IV. Other Business

- A. Housing update and discussion – Jake Sipe, Director of Community Development, provided a detailed update regarding housing in the area. He discussed the Providing Affordable Construction and Transportation (PACT) program that works with local builders to create new housing opportunities using infill lots or vacant houses that needed to be demolished. In 2025, eight homes were approved for PACT funding, and two were completed. Work is continuing on these projects in 2026. Jake also provided information about the Columbus Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), an owner-occupied rehabilitation program for lower- to moderate-income homeowners that helps owners improve HVAC systems, roofing, ADA accessibility, electrical wiring, and plumbing. Jake shared that 28 homes were improved through CHIP in 2025. Additionally, a partnership with the Columbus Housing Authority rehabilitated 24 single-family homes that were rentals in 2025. Jake also discussed the homelessness initiative in partnership with United Way of Bartholomew County that prevented homelessness for 192 individuals in 2025, in most cases by preventing eviction. Additionally, 62 percent of the individuals helped by the program increased their income or acquired a job, and 72 percent obtained health care. Finally, Jake discussed permanent supportive housing opportunities for the future, including a national grant competition that the City partnered with Purdue to enter that would build houses to help people buy their first home.

Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, reported that the Planning Department is exploring ways to update the City's current zoning regulations to provide more flexibility around middle housing projects such as small apartment buildings or cottage clusters. Jeff stated that the current zoning regulations

are very clearly defined for single-family homes, duplexes, and large apartment complexes, but do not address these middle housing projects as well. Much discussion followed the presentation.

- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Dell stated the staff at the Columbus Airport did a fantastic job clearing snow from the runway and sidewalks. Councilor Burnett announced the State of City was very well done.
- C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**
- D. Councilor Bartels made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:04 p.m.



Presiding Officer


Clerk of the City of Columbus