

COMMON COUNCIL  
 COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
 CITY HALL  
 MAY 19, 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 provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Grace Kestler led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Elaine Hilber, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Josh Burnett, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Chris Bartels and Jerone Wood were absent.
- D. Councilor Foyst made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on April 21, 2026, as presented. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

**II. Old Business**

- A. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2026, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM RMc (RESIDENTIAL: MULTI-FAMILY WITH COMMITMENTS) TO RS4c (RESIDENTIAL: SINGLE-FAMILY 4 WITH COMMITMENTS)." (Chase Point Rezoning) Melissa Begley, Assistant Planning Director, presented this Ordinance. She explained Chase Point Capital proposes to rezone an area of 8.755 acres from RMc (Residential Multi-Family with commitments) to RS4 (Residential: Single-Family 4). Melissa stated the area to be rezoned is located generally on the north side of State Road 46 between county road 500 West and Belmont Drive. She displayed maps of the area. Councilor Dell asked whether the site has direct access off of State Road 46. Melissa clarified that access is only available on Belmont Road and 500 W. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion passed by a vote of six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- B. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2026, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM CN (COMMERCIAL: NEIGHBORHOOD) TO RE (RESIDENTIAL: ESTABLISHED)." (10<sup>th</sup> & Lafayette Rezoning) Melissa Begley presented this Ordinance. She explained the rezoning was initiated by the Planning Department to address a mismatch between the commercial zoning on the properties and their long-term residential use. Melissa stated the rezoning involves 11 lots near the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Lafayette Avenue and the area of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Pearl Street. Councilor Dell clarified that this Ordinance would be changing the zoning to reflect current uses, and asked if there would be more rezonings like this forthcoming. Melissa replied that she

was not aware of any similar rezonings at this point. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Kestler made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. President Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

- C. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 14, 2026, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ADJUSTED SCHEDULE FOR WATER RATES AND CHARGES BY THE CITY OF COLUMBUS UTILITIES WATER SYSTEM AS DIRECTED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY SYSTEM." Stan Gamso, Legal Counsel, and Roger Kelso, Executive Director of Columbus City Utilities, presented this Ordinance. Stan stated the Utility Service Board adopted a long-term master plan and rate regulation increases for infrastructure projects. He indicated that the City Council approved a rate increase; however, the IURC (Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission) would only approve the 2025 rate. Stan stated if these rates are approved by Council, they would be implemented in June of 2026 and are looking at a rate decrease. Roger reported this is a good thing since they are still able to fund all their projects and customers are receiving a small break in fees. Councilor Burnett asked if it is common practice for a business owner or individual to get a notification if they are using more water than usual. Roger stated that the Utilities Department provides automated alerts on extreme changes. President Miller asked how the Utilities Department planned to communicate the new rates to customers. Roger stated that there would be a note on their bill that refers customers to the Columbus City Utilities website, which has all the information about current rates. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Foyst 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
Kent Anderson	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

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

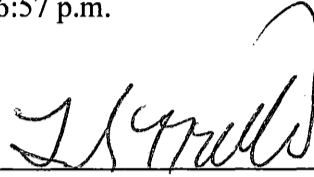
### III. New Business

- A. None.

### IV. Other Business

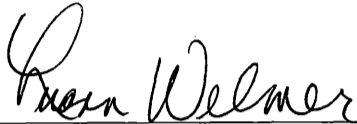
- A. Columbus Fire Department and Columbus Police Department Updates and Discussion – Fire Chief Andy Lay, Fire Marshall Troy Todd, and Civilian Data Analyst Paula Honebrink presented an update on the Columbus Fire Department. They gave an overview of building inspection statistics and discussed common violations. Police Chief Steve Norman, Deputy Chief Matt Martindale, and Public Information Officer Lieutenant Skylar Berry presented an update on the Columbus Police Department. They gave an overview of the department's CALEA accreditation and shared statistics about crime reduction. Lieutenant Berry also discussed community engagement classes and the new Encampment Task Force that assists people experiencing homelessness.

- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Mayor Ferdon announced that there is a ribbon cutting for the new Department of Public Works facility at 1350 Arcadia Dr. on Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m. Councilor Dell announced that the Philharmonic Salute Concert honoring veterans will be at the airport on Friday, May 22. Councilor Anderson reported that the City hosted a visitor from the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. earlier this month.
- C. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:57 p.m.



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Presiding Officer



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Clerk of the City of Columbus