

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
JULY 8, 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 Jen Riddle, Director of Children and Youth and Young Adult Ministries with First Presbyterian Church, who provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Grace Kestler led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Chris Bartels, Elaine Hilber, Jerone Wood, Kent Anderson, Frank Miller, Jay Foyst, Josh Burnett, Tom Dell, and Grace Kestler were present in person.
- D. Councilor Foyst made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on June 2, 2026, as presented. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Old Business

- A. None

III. New Business

First reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. 15, 2026 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COLUMBUS & BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.” Melissa Begley, Assistant Planning Director, presented this Ordinance. She explained the proposed Ordinance is a change related to “communication service exchange” from a permitted use to a conditional use. Melissa indicated the communication service exchange use has been found to have changed over time with regard to their scope, scale, characteristics, and compatibility with other uses. She stated a conditional use would require a public hearing so surrounding property owners would be notified of any protentional changes. Much discussion followed. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. Brad Davis with The Republic asked if the Planning Department had received any applications for data centers. Melissa reported they had not received any applications. President Miller closed the meeting for public comments. Councilor Dell made a motion to suspend the rules of order to pass the Ordinance in one reading. 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 to suspend the rules of order passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading and adopt the Ordinance. 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.

IV. Other Business

- A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Wood introduced Jacob, the new owner of Greeks Pizzeria. President Miller reported the 250th anniversary of USA celebration week was very successful.
- B. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**
- C. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:19 p.m.



Presiding Officer



Clerk of the City of Columbus