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Luann G. Welmer, City Clerk

City Council Members

All terms are January 01, 2024-December 31, 2027

Frank Miller, District 4 – President
Jerone Wood, District 3
Josh Burnett, At-Large

Dr. Christopher Bartels, District 1
Kent Anderson, District 5
Tom Dell, At-Large

Elaine Hilber, District 2
Jay Foyst, District 6
Grace Kestler, At-Large

Information provided in compliance with I.C. 5-14-9

City Council Meeting Agenda Council Chambers Wednesday, July 8, 2026 6:00 P.M.

I. Meeting Called to Order

- A. Invocation
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
- D. Acceptance of Minutes

II. Old Business

- A. None

III. New Business

- A. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO.____, 2026 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COLUMBUS & BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS."
(Melissa Begley)

IV. Other Business

- A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports

B. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

C. Adjournment

Meetings of the Columbus City Council are open to the public and can be watched live on the City of Columbus website:
<https://www.columbus.in.gov/video/live-streaming/>.

Columbus City Council Meetings are accessible to people of all abilities. The City of Columbus works to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require an accommodation to attend a meeting, please contact Jody Coffman at (812) 376-2302 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

A Public Comment session for non-agenda items is provided at the end of the Council meeting as an opportunity for residents to address the City Council Members about matters pertaining to the City. Participation is encouraged, however, to respect others who wish to speak, public comment is not intended to be a public conversation. Before speaking, a person must provide their name and address for public record. Each speaker is given a reasonable amount of time to speak (determined by the City Council President). Any speaker that engages in personal attacks and/or acts in an uncivil manner will be stopped and may be prohibited from future opportunities to publicly address the Council. All requests to speak must be submitted in writing prior to the meeting either online at <https://www.columbus.in.gov/addressing-city-council-sign-up-form/> or by filling out a paper form located on the Tech Table in Council Chambers.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Columbus City Council Members

FROM: Melissa Begley

DATE: June 18, 2026

RE: Communication Service Exchange Zoning Ordinance Revision

Attached is a proposed ordinance to change a “communication service exchange” from a permitted use to a conditional use. 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. Per the zoning ordinance, these facilities are currently listed as a permitted use in the CO (Commercial: Office), CC (Commercial: Community), CR (Commercial: Regional), P (Public / Semi-Public Facilities), I1 (Industrial: Light), I2 (Industrial: General), and I3 (Industrial: Heavy) zoning districts. As a conditional use, they require case-by-case approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Please note that these proposed changes will be considered by the Plan Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00pm on Wednesday, July 8, just before your meeting on this topic. The Commission’s recommendation will be shared when the Council meets.

ORDINANCE NO.: ____,2026

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE
COLUMBUS & BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE
FOR THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS**

**Favorably Recommended by
Columbus Plan Commission General Resolution #2026-01**

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2008 the Columbus Common Council passed Ordinance No. 13, 2008 adopting a replacement zoning ordinance, including zoning maps, for the jurisdiction of the City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, since that ordinance's effective date of April 3, 2008, its effectiveness has been monitored, reviewed, and evaluated by the Columbus Plan Commission and its professional staff; and

WHEREAS, this on-going review of the zoning ordinance was both an expected and planned component of its long-term maintenance, and periodic revisions to ensure its relevance and appropriateness have been anticipated; and

WHEREAS, following review by the Plan Commission's staff and consideration by the Commission, communication service exchanges have been found to have changed over time with regard to their scope, scale, characteristics, and compatibility with other uses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed zoning ordinance amendment was prepared for the purposes described by Indiana Code Section 36-7-4-601(c) including (1) the securing of adequate light, air, convenience of access, and safety from fire, flood, and other danger; (2) lessening or avoiding congestion in public ways; and (3) promoting the public health, safety, comfort, morals, convenience, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus Comprehensive Plan, adopted in a series of elements from 1999 through 2023, provides the policy guidance appropriate for the creation and periodic revision of the zoning ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission did, on July 8, 2026, hold a legally advertised public hearing on this zoning ordinance amendment and has certified a favorable recommendation to the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has considered the criteria listed by Indiana Code Section 36-7-4-603; including (1) the Comprehensive Plan, (2) the current conditions in each district, (3) the most desirable use for land in each district, (4) the conservation of property values, and (5) responsible growth and development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, as follows:

SECTION 1: Zoning Ordinance Amended

The provisions of the Columbus & Bartholomew County Zoning Ordinance for the jurisdiction of City of Columbus are amended as follows: a communications service exchange is changed from a permitted use to a conditional use in the CO (Commercial: Office), CC (Commercial: Community), CR (Commercial: Regional), P (Public / Semi-Public Facilities), I1 (Industrial: Light), I2 (Industrial: General), and I3 (Industrial: Heavy) zoning districts.

SECTION 2: Repealer

All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this ordinance shall be repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 3: Severability

If any provision, or the application of any provision, of this ordinance is held unconstitutional or invalid the remainder of the ordinance, or the application of such provision to other circumstances, shall be unaffected.

SECTION 4: Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective upon and after the date and time of its adoption, the fulfillment of any condition(s), and the recording of any commitment(s), as provided in Indiana law.

ADOPTED, by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, this _____ day of _____, 2026 at _____ o'clock ____p.m., by a vote of _____ ayes and _____ nays.

Presiding Officer

The Clerk's page attesting to the passage of this ordinance, documenting the vote of the Common Council, and verifying approval by the Mayor is attached to and made a part of this ordinance.

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the foregoing within and attached Ordinance was duly passed by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, at a meeting thereof held on the 8th day of July 2026, by the following vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Chris Bartels (District 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elaine Hilber (District 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jerone Wood (District 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank Miller (District 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kent Anderson (District 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jay Foyst (District 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josh Burnett (Councilor at Large)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Dell (Councilor at Large)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grace Kestler (Councilor at Large)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The foregoing within and attached Ordinance passed by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, on the 8th day of July 2026, is presented by me this 9th day of July 2026, at 10:00 o'clock A.M, to the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Indiana.

Luann Welmer
Clerk of the Common Council

The foregoing within and attached Ordinance passed by the Common Council of the City of Columbus, Indiana, on the 8th day of July 2026, is approved by me this 9th day of July 2026, at o'clock _____.M.

Mary K. Ferdon, Mayor