

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
AUGUST 18, 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: 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 August 4, 2026, as presented. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

I. Old Business

- A. None

II. New Business

- A. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING AND DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY TO BE A PART OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." (Abundant Home Solutions Annexation) Melissa Begley, Assistant Planning Director, presented this Ordinance and the following Ordinance (Item B) at the same time. She explained the applicant, Abundant Home Solutions, LLC proposes that a property of 80 acres be annexed to the City of Columbus and rezoned for future residential development. Melissa stated the property is located on the north side of Sawin Drive, between Taylor and Talley Roads. It is generally across Sawin Drive from the Villas of Stonecrest neighborhood. She indicated the property's current zoning is AP (Agriculture: Preferred) and the proposed zoning is RT (Residential: Two-Family). Melissa displays maps and photographs of the area. She reported the Columbus Plan Commission reviewed the applications and forwarded both to City Council with favorable recommendations; the annexation by a vote of 11 in favor and zero opposed and the rezoning by a vote of ten in favor and one opposed. Much discussion followed. Daryl Hodgson with Abundant Home Solutions spoke about the project and estimated timeline for engineering and development. President Miller opened the meeting for public comments. James Farless, 5145 Sanibel Dr., asked if there will be an HOA for the development with a covenant for maintenance of the properties and questioned if there were any conceptual drawings of the homes. Wayne Kacedan, 4982 Delray Dr., stated the recent rains have flooded the proposed property, and he believes there is a sinkhole problem. He indicated the transmission towers will need to be moved at some point and at what cost will that be

to the city. Alma Gommer, 5144 Sanibel Dr., a broker with RE/MAX for 39 years, stated that Stonecrest Villas are a unique subdivision and they pay more taxes than any other subdivision in town. She stated bringing a subdivision across the road will decrease the value of their homes. Ann Winters, 4992 Delray Dr., questioned what the applicant meant by "step up" in home values. Mr. Hodgson responded to questions from the public. Much discussion followed. Councilor Foyst made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

- B. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM AP (AGRICULTURE: PREFERRED) TO RT (RESIDENTIAL: TWO-FAMILY) (Abundant Home Solutions Rezoning) Melissa Begley provided no additional information. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

III. Other Business

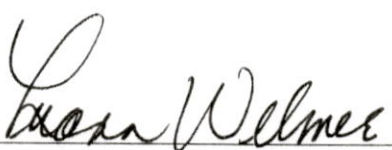
- A. Mike Kenney, 3579 Cardinal Lane, reported unsafe walking paths on the people trails. He stated young teenagers and some adults are riding motorized bikes making the paths unsafe and unwalkable.
- B. City Grant Presentation and Discussion – Claire Powell, Grant Writer /Administrator, provided an update of priority needs, grant tracking information, and recent highlights.
- C. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Dell stated the new airport tower is progressing. Councilor Anderson reported Indiana National Guard has been busy at the Armory.
- D. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

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E. 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 7:31 p.m.



Presiding Officer



Clerk of the City of Columbus