

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

City Council Vice President Tom Dell 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 Naqsha Biliangady who provided the invocation.
- B. Councilor Grace Kestler led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call was taken: Chris Bartels, Elaine Hilber, Jerone Wood, Frank Miller, Kent Anderson, 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 August 18, 2026, as presented. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed.
- E. *Councilor Foyst made a motion to suspend the rules of order to add an item to the agenda for the election of a new Council President and Vice President, following the resignation of President Frank Miller. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion to suspend the rules of order. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.*
- F. *Councilor Foyst made a motion to elect Kent Anderson as Council President and Elaine Hilber as Vice President. Councilor Bartels seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

II. Old Business

- A. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2026, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FISCAL PLAN FOR PROPERTY TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS." (Abundant Home Solutions Annexation) Melissa Begley, Assistant Planning Director, presented this Resolution, and the following two Ordinances (Items B and C) 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 that the Columbus Plan Commission reviewed the annexation and rezoning 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. Melissa stated city departments reported they were able to provide services for the development. Much discussion followed. President Anderson opened

the meeting for public comments. Jackie Streitlemeier, 5015 Sanibel Drive, questioned how many Council members physically go out and look at a site that is proposed to be developed. She asked if there has been a feasibility study done on Sawin road as being able to handle the increased traffic. Jane Cooney, 4942 Delray Drive, questioned what comes first as far as updated roads and how Abundant Homes are compensated. She asked Council members what the ultimate goal is for the city. Alma Gommer, 5144 Sanibel Drive, stated if you take away the safety and the country feeling from Stonecrest Villas, she is afraid the value of their properties will go down. She expressed concern over the influx of traffic in the area. Jason Major, 3241 Overlook Drive, suggested cross-taxpayer funded entity conversations with the School Board, County Council, and City Council to discuss community growth. President Anderson closed the meeting for public comments. Mr. Hodgson responded to questions from the public. Much discussion followed. President Anderson opened the meeting for public comments. Jane Cooney, 4942 Delray Drive, asked what other areas are being looked at for future development. President Anderson closed the meeting for public comments. Discussion followed. City Engineer, Andrew Beckort, stated roadway plans going forward include a two-lane road with curbs and gutters. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the Resolution as presented. Councilor Kestler seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- B. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2026, AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING AND DECLARING CERTAIN TERRITORY TO BE A PART OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA." (Abundant Home Solutions Annexation) Melissa Begley provided no additional information. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

- C. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 27, 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 offered no further information. Councilor Foyst made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

III. New Business

- A. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, 2027 SALARY ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PAYROLL CALENDAR YEAR." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley, Director of Human Resources, presented this Ordinance. She explained this Ordinance is for Fire Department sworn personnel, including a 3.5% base increase. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Kestler made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Hilber seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	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.

- B. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, 2027 SALARY ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PAYROLL CALENDAR YEAR." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this Ordinance. She stated the Ordinance is for the Police Department and includes a 3.5% base increase. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye

Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	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.

- C. First reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR THE 2027 PAYROLL CALENDAR YEAR AS REQUIRED BY INDIANA CODE §36-4-7-3 AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER UNTIL DULY CHANGED.” Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this Ordinance. She explained this Ordinance is for civilian, non-sworn personnel, except for Columbus Utilities. Arlette stated the Ordinance includes a 3.5% increase. She discussed the proposed new positions, including Public Works Assistant Mechanic, Parks and Recreation Fitness Coordinator, and Planning Intern. Much discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Hilber made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	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

- D. First reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE ELECTED COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2027 PAYROLL CALENDAR YEAR.” Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this Ordinance. She stated the request is for a 3.5% increase for Common Council members. Much discussion followed. President Anderson opened the meeting for public comments. Jason Major, 3241 Overlook Drive, discussed School Board pay, and challenged Council to have the courage to say no to a raise. President Anderson closed the public portion of the meeting. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the first reading and place in proper channels. Councilor Dell seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Nay
Elaine Hilber	Nay
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye

Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and two (2) opposed

- E. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, FIXING THE SALARIES OF THE ELECTED MAYOR AND CLERK FOR 2027 PAYROLL CALENDAR YEAR." Arlette Cooper-Tinsley presented this Ordinance for elected Mayor and Clerk. She stated the Ordinance includes a 3.5% increase. Discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the first reading of the Ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Nay
Jerone Wood	Aye
Frank Miller	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Josh Burnett	Aye
Tom Dell	Aye
Grace Kestler	Aye

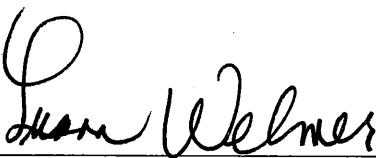
Motion passed by a vote of eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

IV. Other Business

- A. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports
- B. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**
- C. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Foyst seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.



Presiding Officer



Clerk of the City of Columbus