COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

City Council President Kent Anderson 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 Deacon John Cord with St. Bartholomew Church who provided the invocation.

B. Councilor Grace Kestler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call was taken: Chris Bartels, Jerone Wood, Frank Miller, Kent Anderson, Jay Foyst, Josh Burnett, and Grace Kestler were present in person. Tom Dell was present via Webex. A quorum was established and the Policy for Electronic Participation was followed. *Elaine Hilber was absent during roll call and approval of the minutes but arrived at approximately 6:04 p.m.*

D. Councilor Foyst made a motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on September 1, 2026, as presented. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Chris Bartels	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 eight (8) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Old Business

A. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 28, 2026, 2027 SALARY ORDINANCE: AN ORDINACE 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 stated this is a second reading and offered to answer any questions. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Kestler made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. 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

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 ORDINACE 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

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. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 29, 2026, 2027 SALARY ORDINANCE: AN ORDINACE 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. Brief discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Foyst made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. 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.

C. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 30, 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 the previous Ordinance contained a scrivener's error and sent a corrected version of the Ordinance to President Anderson and others. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Miller made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. Councilor Foyst 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. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 31, 2026, AN ORDINACE 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 this is the second reading of the Ordinance and welcomed any questions. There were no comments from the public. President Anderson made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the ordinance. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

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

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

E. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. 32, 2026, AN ORDINACE 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. There were no comments from the public. Councilor Dell made a motion to pass the second reading and adopt the Ordinance. President Anderson 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 one (1) opposed.

III. New Business

A. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, 2026, AN ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES." Regina McIntyre, Controller, presented this Ordinance. Mayor Mary Ferdon began the presentation by discussing the importance of staff, funding of benefits, public safety, and capital & maintenance. Regina presented slides detailing estimated revenue, property tax rate, local income tax, expenses, capital, and other services & charges, etc. Much discussion followed. There were no comments from the public. President Anderson made a motion to pass the first reading of the ordinance and place in proper channels. Councilor Burnett seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Grace Kestler	Aye
Tom Dell	*Unable to vote on WebEx*
Josh Burnett	Aye
Jay Foyst	Aye
Kent Anderson	Aye

Frank Miller	Aye
Jerone Wood	Aye
Elaine Hilber	Nay
Chris Bartels	Aye

Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and one (1) opposed.

IV. Other Business

A. President Anderson introduced Ed Eckerly, 935 Beechtree Drive, who asked to address Council. Ed explained that he and his wife frequently use the local people trails. He stated during the last year he has seen an increase in electric bikes and electric scooters that are causing accidents and disruption on the people trails. He asked Council to continue working on safety issues on the trails.

B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports

C. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

D. Councilor Hilber made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of nine (9) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:01 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Clerk of the City of Columbus