

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

The following are the minutes for the regular meeting of the City Council held at 7:00 pm on Monday, October 14, 2019, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 590 40th Avenue N.E., Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Schmitt; Councilmember Buesgens; Councilmember Murzyn, Jr.; Councilmember Novitsky; Councilmember Williams

Also Present: Gloria Bergstrom; Kelli Bourgeois, City Manager; Maria Davis; Mark Dillon; Elizabeth Hammond, City Planner; Kevin Hansen, Public Works Director; Jim Hoeft, City Attorney; Rachel James; Joseph Kloiber, Finance Director; Gregory Logacz; Reverend Bob Lyndes; Justin Pletcher, Police Sergeant; Ben Sandell, Communications Coordinator; Patty Sweep, Human Resources Manager; Nicole Tingley, City Clerk; Jackie Zillmer, Assistant Finance Director

2. INVOCATION

Invocation provided by Reverend Bob Lyndes, Crest View Senior Communities.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. MISSION STATEMENT, Read by Mayor Schmitt

Our mission is to provide the highest quality public services. Services will be provided in a fair, respectful and professional manner that effectively address changing citizen and community needs in a fiscally responsible manner.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Schmitt announced amendments to the Consent Agenda, being the addition of Item 6A, "Terry Nightingale Community Service Award, Truck or Treat Announcements and Teen Academy," the addition of Item 6B, "Lee Carlson Center Gala," renaming to Item 6C "Polish American Heritage Month Proclamation," and a correction to \$335,500 from \$295,500 under Item 6G, "Approve City Hall Architectural Services Contract."

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to approve the agenda as amended. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

6. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITION, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GUESTS

A. Terry Nightingale Community Service Award, Truck or Treat Announcements and Teen Academy
Sergeant Pletcher read the nomination criteria for the annual Terry Nightingale Community Service Award. Nominations may be directed to Captain Erik Johnston (ejohnston@columbiaheightsmn.gov or 763-706-8131) and will be accepted until October 31.

The second annual Truck or Treat will be held 1:00-4:00 pm on Saturday, October 26, at Huset Park East, 3965 Jefferson Street NE. There will be free coffee, hot chocolate, cider and food for sale by the Boosters Club. HeightsNEXT will be having a bonfire and offering free smores, and the Lions Club will be distributing candy.

A highlight will be vehicles on hand to explore from the Anoka County Sheriff's Office Swat Team, Army National Guard, Police Department, Fire Department and Allina as well as tow, mail and dump trucks, a school bus and State Patrol helicopter. Entertainment will be the Puppet Wagon, a dog costume contest and St. Matthews fishpond. Children are welcome to wear costumes and visit vehicle stations to get stamps on their postcards to turn in for bags of candy.

The annual Teen Academy will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18, for Columbia Heights High School students who are interested in law enforcement. Registration is not closed, and those interested may contact Officer J.P. at the school.

B. Lee Carlson Center Gala

Maria Davis, a Columbia Heights resident, announced the 40th Anniversary of the annual Lee Carlson Center Gala that will be held 5:30-8:00 pm on Thursday, October 17, at the Grand Olympian Ballroom, 6310 Highway 65 in Fridley. Tickets are \$100 per person, and more information may be obtained at leecarlson.org/gala or by contacting Kate King (kking@leecarlsoncenter.org or 763-230-7836). Proceeds will be directed to Bridgeview vans, which assist adults living at the Drop-In Center.

C. Polish American Heritage Month Proclamation

Mayor Schmitt read the Columbia Heights proclamation declaring October 2019 at Polish American Heritage Month and presented a certificate to Gloria Bergstrom, Columbia Heights Sister Cities Committee, who accepted it and then delivered to Mayor Schmitt on behalf of Columbia Heights a medallion from officials in Lomiaki, Poland.

Ms. Bergstrom then introduced Mark Dillon, a new member of the Committee and Minnesota Bureau Chief Columnist for the Polish American Journal, who reported he is writing an article on the Committee's recent visit to Lomiaki, Poland, and will be featured in the journal's November issue. Ms. Bergstrom then stated that there is an established English learner's library in one of the Lomiaki schools and was very pleased to learn on the Committee's visit that Columbia Heights is very much recognized as a Sister City.

Gregory Logacz of the Columbia Heights Sister Cities Committee spoke on behalf of the Columbia Heights Sister City in Poland, who thanked the City Council "for their affirmation and countless contributions Polish Americans are making." He said the Columbia Heights proclamation will be presented to Lomiaki, Poland, representatives.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

(These items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted as part of the Consent Agenda by one motion. Items removed from consent agenda approval will be taken up as the next order of business.)

A. Approve Minutes of the City Council

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the City Council Work Session of October 3, 2016.

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the City Council Work Session of November 7, 2016.

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the City Council Work Session of October 22, 2018.

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the City Council Work Session of November 5, 2018.

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the City Council Executive Session of November 26, 2018.

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of September 23, 2019.

B. Accept Board and Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Move to accept the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of June 3, 2019.

MOTION: Move to accept the minutes of the EDA meeting of June 24, 2019.

MOTION: Move to accept the minutes of the EDA meeting of July 22, 2019.

MOTION: Move to accept the minutes of the EDA meeting of September 3, 2019.

MOTION: Move to accept the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of September 4, 2019.

MOTION: Move to accept the minutes of the Library Board meeting of September 4, 2019.

MOTION: Move to accept the minutes of the EDA meeting of September 23, 2019.

C. Entering into a Contract with Medica for Employee Health Insurance and Entering into a Contract with NICE Healthcare for Home Health Care Services

MOTION: Move to approve Medica as the City's health insurance provider for 2020 and authorizing the City Manager to sign the contract.

MOTION: Move to approve contracting with NICE Health Care for 2020 for home health care services and authorizing the City Manager to sign the contract.

D. Approve a Purchase Agreement with Albrecht Sign Company for Up to \$18,000 Plus Electrical Work and Authorize Staff to Enter into a Related Lease Agreement with Heartland Tire Company for a Shared Pylon Sign

MOTION: Move to approve a purchase agreement with Albrecht Sign Company for up to \$18,000 plus electrical work and authorize staff to enter into a related lease agreement with Heartland Tire Company for a shared pylon sign.

E. Approve DNR Contract for the Silver Lake Boat Launch

MOTION: Move to accept the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Contract for the Silver Lake Boat Landing Reconstruction and, furthermore, to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract for the same.

F. Approve Resolution 2019-78 Authorizing Execution of an I/I Grant Agreement

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2019-78, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 2019-78 authorizing the City of Columbia Heights to execute an agreement with Metropolitan Council Environment Services (MCE) for reimbursement of I/I reduction costs in the amount of \$50,000 and, furthermore, to authorize the City Engineer to act as the designated representative.

G. Approve City Hall Architectural Services Contract

MOTION: Move to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Leo A. Daly for Architectural consultant services for the new City Hall design and construction administration in an amount not to exceed \$335,500, appropriated from Fund 411-51911-3050, and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract for the same.

H. Approve Resolution 2019-79, Development Contract for Friends of Prodeo, Inc.

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2019-79, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 2019-79, being a resolution authorizing the execution of the Development Contract between Friends of Prodeo Academy, Inc. and the City of Columbia Heights.

I. Approve Business License Applications

MOTION: Move to approve the items as listed on the Business License Agenda for October 14, 2019, as presented.

J. Review of Bills

MOTION: Move that in accordance with Minnesota Statute 412.271, subd. 8, the City Council has reviewed the enclosed list of claims paid by check and by electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$1,489,171.43.

Motion by Councilmember Murzyn, Jr., seconded by Councilmember Novitsky, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Resolution 2019-75, Approving the Zoning Amendment (Rezoning) for the Property Located at 4230 Central Avenue NE (PID 35-30-24-14-0075)

Planner Hammond provided specifics and reported that Tapia Investments, LLC is requesting a rezoning of its property located at 4230 Central Avenue NE, from Limited Business Commercial zoning to General Business Commercial zoning, which would allow for the property to accommodate additional types of uses in the future. The Planning Commission reviewed the request at their October 1, 2019, meeting and voted unanimously to recommend approval.

Mayor Schmitt opened the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Murzyn, Jr., seconded by Councilmember Novitsky, to close the public hearing and waive the reading of Resolution Number 2019-75, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to adopt Resolution Number 2019-75, being a resolution approving a zoning amendment for the property located at 4230 Central Avenue NE. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

B. Resolution 2019-76, Adopt an Assessment Roll and Levy a Special Assessment for Delinquent Accounts

Assistant Director Zillmer reported on the Finance Staff's annual recommendation to the City Council to adopt a special assessment levy to collect miscellaneous charges on customer accounts that reached delinquent status within the previous year. The noted charges are for City services required to maintain property conditions in accordance with City ordinances. The Finance Department recommends a resolution to adopt an assessment roll and levy a special assessment with a one-year term for certain delinquent accounts.

Responding to a City Council concern, it was recommended that the interest rate be cited at 3%, a reduction from 4% the previous year. Current delinquent property owners may make their outstanding payments up to 4:15 pm on November 14 at City Hall, to avoid the special assessment being added to their taxes.

Mayor Schmitt opened the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Novitsky, seconded by Councilmember Murzyn, Jr., to close the public hearing and to waive the reading of Resolution 2019-76, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion by Councilmember Novitsky, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to adopt Resolution 2019-76, being a resolution to adopt an assessment roll and levy a special assessment with a one-year term for certain delinquent accounts at a 3% interest rate. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

9. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Other Ordinances and Resolutions

a. Resolution 2019-77, Adopt Rates for Water, Sewer and Refuse Services Billed on or after January 1, 2020

Director Kloiber provided specifics and reported that the combined effect, if approved, of raising the billing for the three utilities would be averaged for a homeowner to 4-1/2%, or \$13 per quarter. He noted that some of the main costs in utilities are those that the City has no control over, such as buying water from the City of Minneapolis and being required to dispose of sanitary sewage through the Metropolitan Council's Environment Service. The primary cost driver in the Storm Sewer Fund is the need to either replace or improve infrastructure and meet newer levels of storm water standards that didn't exist a decade ago.

Director Hansen stated that after the end of 2019, three years remain of a five-year refuse contract.

Mayor Schmitt expressed concern regarding a discount for senior income-qualified homeowners, and Director Kloiber said discount applications are available and questions may be directed to the Utility Department.

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to waive the reading of Resolution 2019-77, there being ample copies available to the public.

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to adopt Resolution 2019-77, being a resolution adopting rates for water, sewer and refuse services billed on or after January 1, 2020.

B. Bid Considerations

None

C. New Business and Reports

None

10. CITY COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Councilmember Buesgens had accompanied Sergeant Justin Pletcher and Police Officer Darry Jones on a recent Police Ride-Along, which was interesting and quite busy, and complimented the Department on their great staff and thorough work. She volunteered for the HeightsNEXT Annual Fall Plant Exchange at Lomianki Park, which received a good turnout; volunteered at the Fix-It Clinic (hosted by HeightsNEXT, Anoka County and Community United Methodist Church), which 41 people attended and over 200 pounds were saved from the landfill, and she thanked all the volunteers and sponsors.

She attended the Fire Department Open House; the Library Board Meeting and Strategic Planning Meeting, where significant progress was made creating their vision and mission statements and future plans for the Library. She's also attending the October 14-15 Recycle Conference in Brooklyn Park, where there will be discussion on circular economies. She noted that only 35.5% of items are currently recycled in the United States and recycling centers do not want cans or cartons crushed because their robotic machines do not pick up two-dimensional items.

Responding to the water rate increase just approved, Councilmember Williams stated that he believes Columbia Heights has some of the purist water in the United States due to the Minneapolis filtration system. He attended the Traffic Commission Meeting, where two cases were discussed (one approved for limited parking and another regarding stop signs, which was not approved) and said he enjoyed the meeting and recommended the Commission to anyone interested in participating on it and moving up into a future City Council position.

Councilmember Murzyn, Jr. reported there were great turnouts for the Fire Department Open House and the VFW Flag Retirement. He commended Scotty Rockstad on his retirement after 40 years of dedicated service at Murzyn Hall.

Councilmember Novitsky also attended the Fire Department Open House as well as the Columbia Heights Homecoming game and tailgating and thanked everyone who attended. He participated in the Lions Clean-up on University (which included assistance from the Kiwanis Key Club and ICS eighth graders), when 20-25 bags were picked up, and the City's paper shredding event, when 30 garbage cans were emptied into the truck.

Mayor Schmitt attended the "Bricks to Broadway" musical at St. Matthew; the Fire Department Open House; and the Mississippi Watershed bus tour, which she found interesting and showed different projects over the years such as bump-outs, traffic slowdowns, plantings, underground water basins, unique handicapped parking signage, water treatments and island overlook. She and Manager Bourgeois met with staff from Representative Ilhan Omar's office to see how their office might assist in different ways for Columbia Heights.

Manager Bourgeois reported that MEA will occur the week of October 14, so there will be additional programming at the Library and Recreation Center for children. She thanked the City Council and all the groups, noting those that were cited during the evening's meeting, that do much on behalf of the City of Columbia Heights.

11. COMMUNITY FORUM

Rachel James, Columbia Heights resident, requested that, in the future, the City recognize Indigenous People's Day, noting that there are numerous Native American veterans and citizens living in Columbia Heights. She said City sixth-grade students have learned about the traditions of the Dakota people, State Representative Mary Kunesh-Podein recently spoke at a HeightsNEXT First Lutheran event about her work in the State Legislature regarding a bill for murdered and missing indigenous women, and there is a lot that can be done to help lift up those residents of the City.

Mayor Schmitt recommended that Ms. James inquire whether some local students would like to write up a proclamation for next year.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Novitsky, to adjourn. All Ayes, Motion Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Tingley, City Clerk/Council Secretary