PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
August 3, 2026

A regular meeting of the mayor and council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on August 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Columbus Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on July 30, 2026, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the city clerk. Notice of this meeting was given simultaneously to the mayor and members of the city council, with a copy of the acknowledgment of receipt of notice being on file in the office of the city clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the mayor and city council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

1. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT:** Mayor Bulkley announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available in the meeting room at the agenda table. Present were Mayor James Bulkley and Council Members Cynthia Alarcòn, Charlie Bahr, Troy Hiemer, Rich Jablonski, Kat Lopez, AJ Palensky, Prent Roth, and Ron Schilling. City staff members included City Attorney Neal Valorz, City Administrator Tara Vasicek, City Clerk Shuraya Choat, City Engineer Rick Bogus, Public Works Director Chuck Sliva, Building and Code Official Andy Woehrer, Library Director Jeri Kay Hopkins, Police Captain Jaymee Levander, Joint Communications Manager Rachel Pensick, Police Officer Rachel Windle, and Communications Manager Matt Lindberg.

2. **PRAYER:** Hiemer led in prayer.

3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The National Anthem was played and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following items are considered to be routine by the city council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a city council member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from consent status and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The items on the consent agenda were approved as presented with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Bahr. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

4.A. **Minutes of July 20, 2026, City Council meeting.**

4.B. **Change date of first meeting in September 2026 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, September 8, 2026, due to Labor Day holiday.**

4.C. **Reappointment of Chuck Whitney as delegate to the Nebraska Cooperative Government Commission for one-year term.**

4.D. **Annual renewal of Motorola console lifecycle and maintenance support contract in the amount of $37,956.96 for the joint communications center.**

4.E. **Resolution No. R26-94 continuing Columbus/Platte County Enhanced 911 service surcharge of $1 per month on each local exchange access line physically terminating in the 911 service area.** Resolution No. R26-94 is entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, CONTINUING THE ENHANCED 911 SERVICE SURCHARGE FOR THE COLUMBUS/PLATTE COUNTY ENHANCED 911 SYSTEM OF $1.00 PER MONTH ON EACH LOCAL EXCHANGE ACCESS LINE PHYSICALLY TERMINATING IN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, 911 SERVICE AREA.

4.F. **Resolution No. R26-95 authorizing payment of various improvement projects.** Resolution No. R26-95 is entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THAT A CHECK BE ISSUED AND MADE PAYABLE TO THE RESPECTIVE CONTRACTOR(S) FOR LABOR, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIALS FURNISHED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATED DISTRICTS AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, ALL AS SET FORTH ON THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATES OF PROGRESS PREPARED BY THE RESPECTIVE SPECIAL ENGINEER TO WIT: COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC COMPANY, FRANKFORT SQUARE LIGHTING, $16,848.60; GEHRING CONSTRUCTION AND READY MIX CO., INC., CONCRETE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS 2026, $930,594.11; RUTJENS CONSTRUCTION INC., COLUMBUS NORTH WELL 20, $340,656.30.

4.G. **Finance department report.**

4.H. **Payroll and bills on file.** B=Bnd Pymnts; CP=Capt'l Proj; E=Expns; G=Grnts; I=Insrnc; L=Lic; M=Mbrshp; P=Pymt; R=Rfnd; RT=Rent; S=Srvc & Supp; T=Trng. 8/14/26 payroll 942,548.93; Ace Hdwr 631.34 S; Addept Media 110.00 S; Ag Spray 102.78 S; Allo 148.69 S; Amrcn Fence 5,952.00 CP; A Tomasevicz 250.00 P; Aqua-Chem 7,258.40 S; Arnold Mtr Sup 2,570.62 S; Auto Zone 84.25 S; Auxiant 177,386.51 I; D Balesteri 450.00 S; A Benesch 9,052.50 CP; Bomgaars 739.45 S; BS&A 578.00 S; J Bulkley 234.90 E; Calico Quilt Club 200.00 S; CCC 6,644.54 S; Chesterman Co 3,835.01 S; Cmmnwlth Elect 16,848.60 CP; Core & Main 8,055.18 S; Crete Pub Lbry 18.00 S; Crowne Plaza 179.95 S; Culligan 182.00 S; D & K Prod 17,279.00 S; Danko 1,429.16 S; DAS Acctng 1,894.39 S; Eakes 910.49 S; Ecolab 1,227.37 S; Eltrcl Eng 1,280.31 S; Fire Catt 8,578.90 S; Galls 188.00 S; Gehring Const 933,572.59 CP; G Steffy Ford 210.22 S; Geocomm 18,384.19 S; Golden Wst Ind Sup 732.30 S; Grainger 956.06 S; Grt Plns Comm 209.95 S; Gunslngrs 1,189.00 S; Hawkins 7,141.26 S; HD Spply 840.07 S; Holiday Inn 278.00 S; Hmtwn Lsng 708.59 S; I/O Sol 125.00 S; Ingram Lbry 2,784.00 S; Jackson Serv 1,861.73 S; J Deere 139.06 S; Kelly Sup 122.40 S; Kings III Emrgncy 390.00 S; Krkhm Michael 34,506.33 CP; LARM 257.97 P; Lncln Wnwtr Wrks 5,954.34 S; Medline 112.15 S; M Osborn 272.00 R; Menards 1,553.48 S; MARC 995.50 S; Mid-State Eng 3,906.00 CP; Mdwst Serv 2,218.00 S; Mdwst Turf 1,314.45 S; NAPA 1,053.49 S; NE Pblc Hlth 330.00 S; NE Rural Water 500.00 S; Nippon Sanso Math 69.75 S; NE NE Econ Dev 47.50 S; NoSwett 10,121.00 CP; Occ Hlth Serv 1,883.00

S; O'Reilly 1,012.98 S; Petty Cash 152.34 S; Platte Vlly Comm 125.00 S; Quadient 1,202.75 S; R & R Prod 451.50 S; R Alexander 417.74 R; Rensenhouse 47.44 S; Rvrsd Prtbls 360.00 S; Rutjens 340,656.30 CP; Schieffer Sgns 25.00 S; Schwing Bioset 16,012.77 S; G Sealock 150.00 S; Shevlin Sup 510.61 S; SE Lbry Systm 305.00 S; Speicher Elect 250.00 S; Stericycle 73.96 S; Super Svr 93.00 S; Swank Mot Pctrs 390.00 S; The Pttsbrgh Paints 5,321.76 S; Tire Outlet 2,110.00 S; Truck Cntr 1,741.82 S; Ty's Outdoor 235.68 S; USA Blue Bk 4,320.07 S; Van Wall 2,316.80 S; C Wagner 88.00 S; Wemhoff Ref 36,276.04 S/CP; Wilson & Co 1,189.95 S. Total $2,667,425.16.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Included in Consent Agenda

6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** None

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

8. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None

9. **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:** Finance department report included in Consent Agenda

9.A. **Columbus in Focus - Building and Infrastructure.** Woehrer presented on behalf of the Building and Infrastructure Leadership Group which includes Bogus, Woehrer, Sliva, and Vasicek. He provided a 90-day update for the engineering, public works, and community development departments. He also thanked city staff Renee Whiting and Lindsay Smith for helping prepare the presentation materials.

10. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

10.A. **Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee - August 3, 2026.**

10.A.1. **2027 Pavement Management Plan and Priority List.** Bogus explained the program and the process for creating a priority list based on need and funding availability each fiscal year. He clarified that approximately $2 million is allocated for the pavement management plan, which is determined and approved by the City Council. The committee recommended approval. The report was adopted with a motion by Lopez and second by Schilling. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

10.A.2. **2027 One and Six Year Road Plan.** Bogus explained the various forms noting that submittal is required annually to continue receiving highway user revenue funding. He noted that the plan consists of short term and long-term planning mixed with budgeted city projects and private developments. The committee recommended approval. The report was adopted with a motion by Hiemer and second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

10.A.3. **Request to dissolve the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Committee.** Bogus explained that, over the years, there have been very few meetings or agenda items for the committee, and that the meetings are rarely attended by members of the public. He noted that, overall, the committee has become more informational than operational, adding that the current process would continue with action items being handled internally by staff, and if necessary, forwarded to the Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee or other appropriate committee prior to City Council approval. The committee recommended approval. The report was adopted with a motion by Lopez and second by Roth. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

10.A.4. **Amend city code chapters 70 and 71 to include definitions, regulations, and penalties regarding e-bikes, hoverboards, and lightweight e-scooters.** The committee recommended approval. The report was adopted with a motion by Hiemer and second by Bahr. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

11. **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None

12. **REPORTS ON LEGISLATION:** None

13. **NEW BUSINESS:**

13.A. **Quote from CDW Government in the amount of $34,641.74 for computer lab equipment for the library. CIP# 26-22** The quote from CDW Government for computer lab equipment was accepted with a motion by Alarcòn and a second by Bahr. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

13.B. **Quote from B-D Construction, Inc. in the amount of $29,690.40 for steel wall and pit bumper repairs for the transfer station.** The quote from B-D Construction, Inc. for steel wall and pit bumper repairs was accepted with a motion by Palensky and a second by Alarcòn. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

13.C. **Comments from mayor and city council members.** Bulkley reminded the public that Columbus Days begins this week at Frankfort Square.

14. **RESOLUTIONS:**

14.A. **Resolution R26-96 approving relocation assistance payment packages for Tract 1: Lot 1 and the east 10 feet of Lot 2, Block 174, Original City of Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska in the amount not to exceed $114,700; Tract 2: Lot 8, Block 139, Original City of Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska; in the amount not to exceed $114,700; and Tract 3: Lot 1 and the north 1 foot of Lot 2, Block A, Outlot 34 and part of Outlot 35, Jones Addition to the City of Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska in the amount not to exceed $154,000, in conjunction with the 8 Street and 12 Avenue intersection improvements project (8th Street and 12th Avenue intersection). CIP #25-35** Bogus explained that the relocation assistance payment packages follow the Federal Uniform Act and approval will allow HDR

Engineering, Inc. and consultant Midwest Right-of-Way to begin relocation discussions with property owners and tenants. Resolution No. R26-96 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, APPROVING THE RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PAYMENT PACKAGES FOR TRACT 1: LOT 1 AND THE EAST 10 FEET OF LOT 2, BLOCK 174, ORIGINAL CITY OF COLUMBUS, PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $114,700; TRACT 2: LOT 8, BLOCK 139, ORIGINAL CITY OF COLUMBUS, PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $114,700; AND TRACT 3: LOT 1 AND THE NORTH 1 FOOT OF LOT 2, BLOCK A, OUTLOT 34 AND PART OF OUTLOT 35, JONES ADDITION TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $154,000, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 8TH STREET AND 12TH AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT was adopted with a motion by Palensky and a second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

15. ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:

15.A. Ordinance No. 26-15 amending city code chapters 70 and 71 to include definitions, regulations, and penalties regarding e-bikes, hoverboards, and lightweight e-scooters. On its first reading, Ordinance No. 26-15 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA AMENDING COLUMBUS CITY CODE (ORDINANCE NO. 24-01) SECTION 70.001 OF CHAPTER 70 OF TITLE VII, TO INCLUDE DEFINITIONS FOR E-BIKE, ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICE, HOVERBOARD, AND LIGHTWEIGHT E-SCOOTER; TO ADD SECTION 71.015 INTO CITY CODE CHAPTER 71 OF TITLE VII TO INCLUDE REGULATIONS REGARDING THESE MOTORIZED DEVICES; TO AMEND SECTION 71.999 OF CHAPTER 71.999 TO INCLUDE PENALTIES FOR PERSONS VIOLATING SECTION 71.015; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM was read by number only. Bulkley mentioned that most cities of similar size are developing or have adopted regulations to better address the increasing use of e-bikes, with the overall goal of promoting safe and responsible operation of these devices. Levander explained that the proposed ordinance would update existing city code language to include clearer definitions, operating regulations, and penalties for electric motor devices that currently are not specifically addressed. She added that it would not prohibit the use of e-bikes, e-scooters, or hoverboards, but rather establish reasonable operating restrictions intended to help manage safety risks for riders and other roadway users. One of the proposed public safety provisions would restrict operation of these devices on streets with a posted speed limit higher than 25 mph. Levander said the restriction is intended to address safety concerns related to the limited protection available to riders compared to that of motor vehicle occupants. In light of the proposed changes, Levander also stated that the Columbus Police

Department plans to conduct an educational campaign to help residents understand how to safely use these devices in the community. The campaign will include printed materials, graphic social media content, and partnerships with community organizations. In response to Bret Kumpf, 3930 39 Avenue, Levander explained that even with limited staff, enforcing these regulations and educating the public remain an important priority. Bulkley noted that the Public Property, Safety, Works Committee had suggested potentially requiring e-bike registration; however, the council decided to proceed with the language as presented without additional changes. After group discussion regarding the effective date of the ordinance, the proposed changes will be presented for a second reading at the August 17, 2026, City Council meeting to allow for additional public input.

16. ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING: None

17. ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING: None

18. PAYROLL AND BILLS ON FILE: Included in Consent Agenda

19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

20. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Presented and approved this 17th day of August 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
: Shuraya Choat