

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
July 6, 2026

A regular meeting of the mayor and council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on July 6, 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 1, 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 posted in the meeting room. Present were Mayor James Bulkley and Council Members Cynthia Alarcón, 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, Director of General Services Betsy Eckhardt, City Clerk Shuraya Choat, City Engineer Rick Bogus, Public Works Director Chuck Sliva, Police Chief Bret Strecker, Fire Chief Ryan Gray, Park and Recreation Director Sydney Mroczek, Library Director Jeri Kay Hopkins, Human Resource Director Tammy Orender, Finance Director Chris Norquest, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator Jean Van Iperen, 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. Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".
 - 4.A. **Minutes of June 15, 2026, City Council meeting.**
 - 4.B. **Reappointment of Russ Strehle and Bryan Kearney to the Board of Appeals for three-year terms.**
 - 4.C. **Title III-B (supportive services), Title III-C (nutrition), and Title III-E (family caregiver support) grant funding from Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging for the senior center.**

4.D. Resolution No. R26-84 authorizing payment of various improvement projects. Resolution No. R26-84 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, \$27,228.00; GEHRING CONSTRUCTION AND READY MIX CO., INC., CONCRETE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS 2026, \$102,479.85.

4.E. Finance department report.

4.F. 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=Srv & Supp; T=Trng. 7/17/26 payroll 991,165.91; 7M Cleaning 400.00 S; Ace Hdw 1,662.11 S; Addept Media 210.00 S; Advnc Auto 285.26 S; Ag Spray 4,037.01 S; Albion Vol Fire 40.00 T; Allo 148.07 S; Amrcn Legal 1,614.42 S; Amrcn Tmbr & Steel 1,212.95 S; Aqua-Chem 14,311.20 S; Armor Equip 1,784.34 S; Arnold Mtr Sup 3,228.71 S; AT&T 3,372.44 S; Auxiant 139,408.53 I; Awards & Eng 65.75 S; C Badstieber 50.00 R; Bnchmrk Gvrnmnt Sol 27.90 S; A Benesch 7,134.00 CP; Birdog Elec 255.00 S; Blue to Gold 720.00 S; Bomgaars 1,064.89 S; Burns & McDnnll 15,200.00 CP; CCC 677.00 T; Chesterman Co 1,848.48 S; City of Col 11,438.49 S; Club Prpht 517.00 S; Col Chamber 31,080.00 S; Col Cstm Emb 64.00 S; Col Motor Co 2,653.08 S; Cmmnwth Elect 27,228.00 CP; Core & Main 21,448.76 S; Crane River 475.00 T; Creative Panning 3,750.00 S; Creative Sites 438,897.00 CP; Culligan 86.00 S; D & K Prod 530.00 S; Digitech 9,164.67 S; Dultmeier 270.00 S; Dymaxion 2,040.00 S; Eakes 1,345.91 S; Ed M Feld 738.52 S; Edison Lghtng 516.17 S; Egan Sup 843.28 S; Elec Pump 11,128.00 S; Eltrcl Eng 38.10 S; Elctrnc Eng 1,461.86 S; Engnrd Cntrls 1,590.00 S; Envisionware 75.00 S; Frontier 89.84 S; Galls 249.80 S; Gehring Const 138,160.58 CP; Gen Trffc Cntrls 701.00 S; Golden Wst Ind Sup 2,078.05 S; Grainger 116.48 S; Grt Plns Bldg Sup 1,346.52 S; Hawkins 9,428.61 S; R Haynes 160.00 S; HDR 29,851.88 CP; Heiman 1,403.08 S; Hmtwn Lsng 708.59 S; Ingram Lbry 2,068.46 S; Jackson Serv 2,200.84 S; J Parker 60.00 R; JEO 4,377.50 CP; J Deere 34.42 S; Kanopy 1,500.00 S; Kansas Trnpk Auth 9.54 S; Keep Col Btfl 704.94 I; Kelly Sup 469.97 S; Koch Excvtng 359.76 S; A Laborde 4,100.00 S; Lakeview Small Eng 527.82 S; LARM 1,000.00 P; Lawson Prod 77.90 S; J Levander 862.45 E; Lncln Jrnl Star 844.80 S; Lncln Wnwtr Wrks 2,461.91 S; Loup 1,970.76 S; Love Signs 37.00 R; MacQueen 658.13 S; Matteo Sand 1,044.00 S; P McCulloch 1,015.00 S; McMaster-Carr 25.00 S; Mech Sales 80.00 S; Menards 954.54 S; MARC 1,745.50 S; Mdwst Machine 1,285.25 S; Mdwst Turf 3,911.16 S; Miller & Assoc 541.26 S; L Morris 102.99 S; Motion Ind 171.90 S; Motion Pict 1,246.60 S; Motorola 37,956.96 S; Mueller Sprnklr 38.86 S; J Mullinix 3,774.00 S; NAPA 430.49 S; NE Law Enf 432.00 S; NE Pblc Hlth 1,541.00 S; Newsbank 230.00 S; Nippon Sanso Math 372.22 S;

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Nrflk Daily News 1,062.22 S; C Norquest 353.65 S; NoSwett 999.00 S; Occ Hlth Serv 1,893.00 S; Oliver Pckgng 308.08 S; One Source 2,228.95 S; O'Reilly 997.85 S; Pete Lien 7,800.45 S; Petty Cash 127.68 S; Pitney Bowes 569.43 S; Platte Cnty Elec Comm 100.00 P; Platte Vily Humane Soc 21,000.00 P; Points Cnsltng 7,613.45 CP; Prestox 167.26 S; Pyramid Tarp 667.00 S; Quadient 1,000.00 S; R & R Prod 187.00 S; RDO Truck 30.00 S; Reardon Lawn 804.42 S; River Valley Tire 20.00 S; Rvrsd Prtbls 590.00 S; Rutt's 495.00 S; R Sauer 300.00 S; Sayler Scrnpntng 116.00 S; Schieffer Sgns 273.00 S; Security Equip 770.52 S; Srvcstr by Shvln 2,661.00 S; Shevlin Sup 1,383.51 S; Shirts R Us 176.00 S; Sipple, Hansen, Emerson 3,975.65 S; Small House Cakes 3,150.00 S; Stargrd Elite 3,360.00 S; State Fire Mrshl 400.00 T; Stericycle 73.96 S; Stomp Chomp Roar 475.00 S; Super Svr 90.25 S; SW Firefighting Foam 2,201.70 S; T-Bone 13,815.15 S; The Pttbrgh Paints 2,486.76 S; Tire Outlet 3,649.56 S; Total Fire & Sec 480.00 S; Truck Cntr 1,607.59 S; True Ag 732.46 S; Turfwerks 1,604.49 S; UL LLC 3,595.00 S; USA Blue Bk 576.55 S; Vandenburg Elect 4,730.00 S; Wemhoff Rfg 783.57 S; White Cap 259.98 S; Wildlife Encounters 595.00 S; Window Medics 2,300.00 S; Zimco 378.71 S. Total \$2,128,838.02.

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 - General Administration.** Lindberg noted that the General Administration team consists of himself, Eckhardt, Van Iperen, Norquest, Choat, Orender, and Soukup. He outlined the goals of the Administration team and each team member provided updates for their respective departments.
10. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:** None
11. **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None
12. **REPORTS ON LEGISLATION:** None
13. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- 13.A. **Appointment of Henry Juarez Basilio as police officer.** The mayor's appointment of Henry Juarez Basilio as police officer was ratified with a motion by Bahr and a second by Palensky. Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Basilio thanked the council and said he looks forward to serving the community.
- 13.B. **Application from Knights of Columbus for special designated liquor license at 26th Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets August 7, 8, and 9, 2026, for Columbus Days.** The application from Knights of Columbus for a

special designated liquor license for August 7, 8, and 9, 2026, was approved with a motion by Palensky and a second by Jablonski. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

13.C. Comments from mayor and city council members. There were no comments from the mayor or council members.

14. RESOLUTIONS:

14.A. Resolution R26-85 awarding bid to Danielle's Approach, LLC in the amount of \$245,070 for PAPI on Runway 32 and Beacon project for the airport. CIP #26-15 Bogus noted that the City received a \$371,970 state grant to support several airport projects, a portion of which will be used to help fund this project. Resolution No. R26-85 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AWARDING CONTRACT TO DANIELLE'S APPROACH, LLC FOR THE BASE BID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$245,070 FOR THE PAPI ON RUNWAY 32 AND BEACON PROJECT AT COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (STATE AID GRANT NO. OLU SA-11(G07)); TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Bahr. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

14.B. Resolution No. R26-86 approving Medical Collection Services Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with Automated Collection Services, Incorporated for collection processing of delinquent accounts for emergency medical services. Resolution No. R26-86 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, APPROVING THE MEDICAL COLLECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT WITH AUTOMATED COLLECTION SERVICES, INC.; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Alarcòn and a second by Schilling. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

14.C. Resolution No. R26-87 authorizing submission of grant application to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in the amount of \$250,000 for the Pawnee Park West Trail Connection Project. Resolution No. R26-87 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION FOR A RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FOR THE PAWNEE PARK WEST TRAIL CONNECTION PROJECT; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF

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THE CITY; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HERewith was adopted with a motion by Palensky and a second by Schilling. Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

- 15. **ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:** None
- 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 6:22 p.m.

Presented and approved this 20th day of July 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

: Shuraya Choat