

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
April 6, 2026

A regular meeting of the mayor and council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on April 6, 2026, at 6 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 April 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, Chief Building and Code Official Andy Woehrer, Finance Director Chris Norquest, Human Resource Director Tammy Orender, Communications Director Rachel Pensick, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator Jean Van Iperen, Communications Manager Matt Lindberg, Computer Network Technician Matt Soukup, and Communication Specialists Diane Drummond and Jennifer Lovell.
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 March 16, 2026, City Council meeting.**
 - 4.B. **Minutes of March 16, 2026, Community Development Agency meeting.**
 - 4.C. **Minutes of March 30, 2026, Civil Service Commission meeting certifying police officer candidates Alexander Keller, Henry Juarez Basilio, and Dalton Weidner; and additional police officer candidates Rudolph Brunkhorst, Kyle Troost, and Christopher Mcelwain for potential position in the future.**

4.D. Resolution No. R26-50 authorizing payment of various improvement projects. Resolution No. R26-53 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, \$5,250; GEHRING CONSTRUCTION AND READY MIX CO., INC., CONCRETE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS 2026, \$7,200; RUTJENS CONSTRUCTION, INC., COLUMBUS NORTH WELL NO. 20, \$93,510.

4.E. Payroll and bills on file. B=Bnd Pymnts; CP=Capt'l Proj; E=Expns; G=Grnts; I=Insrnc; L=Lic; M=Mbrshp; P=Pyemt; R=Rfnd; RT=Rent; S=Srcv & Supp; T=Trng. 4/10/26 payroll 907,149.22; 4/10/26 quarterly payroll 12,976.32; 7M Cleaning Sol 400.00 S; Ace Hdwr 696.20 S; Adept Media 110.00 S; Advance Auto 40.59 S; Allo 146.07 S; Amer Legal 10.00 S; Amer Red Cross 762.00 T; Armor Equip 331,060.84 CP; Arnold Mtr Sup 848.93 S; AT&T 1,604.22 S; Auburn Mem Lbry 15.00 S; Auxiant 170,258.44 I; Bauer Blt Tire 220.26 S; A Benesch 13,403.00 CP; Blackstone Pub 171.95 S; Blue to Gold 1,665.00 T; Bomgaars 1,078.57 S; Bound Tree Med 2,112.80 S; B Husmann 100.00 S; Chesterman Co 58.76 S; City of Col 4,158.82 S; Clay Hills 283.60 S; Club Prophet 517.00 S; Col Chmbr of Cmmrc 840.00 S; Col Cstm Emb 70.00 S; Cmmnwth Elect 5,250.00 CP; Core & Main 49,218.60 S; Culligan 582.80 S; DAS St Acctng 1,663.99 S; Dell Mrktng 2,640.49 S; Digitech 2,409.82 S; Drain Srgn 550.00 S; E. H. Wachs 642.98 S; Eakes 1,774.34 S; Ed M Feld 3,462.00 S; Egan Sup 628.88 S; Elect Pump 4,488.08 S; Elect Eng 389.72 S; Engnrd Cntrls 1,590.00 S; Fas-Break 315.00 S; Fedex 8.00 S; 1st Intrst Bank 37.50 S; Front Line Mble Hlth 28,500.00 S; Frontier 115.53 S; Galls 4,042.76 S; Gehring Const 12,088.44 CP; Gene Stffy 577.17 S; Gnrl Trffc Cntrls 2,851.00 S; Gldn West Indstrl Sup 1,649.60 S; Grainger 238.71 S; Grt Plns Bldg Sup 73.87 S; Grt Plns Comm 209.95 S; G Young Chev GMC 888.77 S; H2 Equip 546.00 S; Hach 909.59 S; Hawkins 3,610.75 S; HD Sup 76.48 S; HDR 13,948.76 CP; Hrtlnd Off Clnrs 535.00 S; Hmtwn Lsng 708.59 S; Ingram Lbry 3,382.11 S; Island Sup 430.45 S; Jackson Serv 3,466.15 S; J Deere Fin 98.72 S; T Kapels 16.76 E; Kelly Sup 1,561.43 S; Koch Excvtng 3,884.93 CP; M Krzycki 27.01 R; La Quinta Inn 707.70 S; Lacal Equip 811.00 S; LARM 17,803.56 I; Lawson Prod 165.66 S; J Levander 92.25 E; Lfgrd MD 215.00 S; Lncln Jrnl Star 863.54 S; Lncln Wnwtr Wrks 9,412.34 S; Logan Cntrctrs Sup 187.66 S; M Lugo & S Garcia 83.42 R; M & O Door 9.83 S; Matheson-Lnwld 65.43 S; McMaster-Carr 703.56 S; Menards 2,560.53 S; MARC 458.00 S; Mdwst Ptrlm Equip 8,750.58 S; Mdwst Srcv & Sales 8,400.00 S; Mdwst Tape 47.22 S; Mdwst Turf 2,229.16 S; Miller & Assoc 500.00 S; Miracle Pysystems 5,397.12 S; Mission Comm 2,779.20 S; Mitchell 4,668.00 S; Motion Ind 1,693.74 S; MPH Ind 28,590.42 CP; Mueller Sprnklr 193.70 S; NAPA 11,029.56 S; NE Law Enfrcmnt 75.00 T;

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NE Lbry Comm 5,957.00 S; NE Mun Fire Chiefs Assn 173.00 M; NE Pblc Hlth 726.00 S; NE State Fire Schl 600.00 T; NE St Vol Firefighters Assn 60.00 M; Newman Sgns 921.85 S; L Nickeson 144.31 E; North Amer UV 2,020.00 S; NW Elect 4,592.19 S; NoSwett 295.00 S; Obrist 152.29 S; Occptl Hlth 624.00 S; Olson's Pest 503.00 S; One Source 19.00 S; O'Reilly 619.78 S; Parbar Co 298.00 S; Pete Lien 7,666.37 S; Petty Cash 166.90 S; Pioneer Mfng 22.50 S; Platte Vllly Humane Soc 21,000.00 P; Points Cnsltng 3,450.00 CP; Prestox 152.32 S; Pncpl Life Ins 10,475.09 P; Proj Lfsvr 83.57 S; R & R Prod 1,177.65 S; Reardon Lawn 1,990.93 S; K Reid 2,210.00 S; Relentless 749.00 T; Rensenhous 192.62 S; Rvrsd Prtbls 110.00 S; M Rolf 48.00 R; Rutjens Const 93,510.00 CP; Rutt's Htng 6,444.81 S; Schaeffer Mfg 681.76 S; Schieffer Sgns 2,752.00 S; R Schilling 161.00 E; Security Equip 28,794.04 CP; Srvcmstr by Shevlin 2,661.00 S; Shevlin Sup 504.49 S; Sipple, Hansen, Emerson 2,791.65 S; Sleddens Trust 26.05 R; Southern Water Serv 2,382.75 S; Stericycle 73.96 S; Stryker Sales 701.25 S; Super Svr 86.46 S; The Golf Shop 44.76 S; Tire Outlet 1,250.00 S; Titan Mach 732.45 S; TK Elvtr 850.00 S; Trctr Sup 39.99 S; Traditions 1,100.00 S; Truck Cntr 2,027.39 S; True Ag & Turf 607.13 S; Turfwerks 1,382.85 S; Tweet's 140.00 S; UPS 2.00 S; USA Blue Bk 1,525.62 S; Van Wall 190.49 S; T Vasicek 2,419.80 T; Water Envrnmnt Fed 89.00 M; Water Sfty Prod 629.20 S; Wemhoff Rfg 2,164.34 S; Whentowork 1,540.00 S; White Cap 52.99 S. Total \$1,944,901.10.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Included in Consent Agenda
6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
 - 6.A. **Proclamation declaring April 12 through April 18, 2026, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.** Bulkley read the proclamation declaring the week of April 12, 2026, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and presented it to Pensick, Drummond, and Lovell.
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None
8. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None
9. **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:**
 - 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. Application from Advanced Consulting Engineering Services on behalf of Keyes Development, LLC for preliminary plat of Sock Pond Addition and request for waiver of subdivision regulations for length of cul-de-sac to exceed 350-feet (14th Street west of 48th Avenue). (Planning Commission recommends denial.)** John Zwingman, Advanced Consulting Engineering Services on behalf of the applicant, clarified that following the Planning Commission meeting, suggested changes were presented at a second meeting held with the property owners. He noted that the length of the cul-de-sac will be approximately 1342 feet which is 15 feet shorter than the proposed plat and comparable to other cul-de-sacs previously approved. Zwingman also discussed the 40-foot street right-of-way platted within the existing four lots and explained that he has been working with city staff to determine the most appropriate layout. He outlined two potential street design options: a 27-foot-wide street with a 4-foot sidewalk, allowing for parking on one side, or a 24-foot-wide street with a 4-foot sidewalk and no on-street parking, which would increase the buffer between the street and existing homes. It was noted that both options would require city council approval, as they do not conform to the current standards set forth in the Columbus Land Development Ordinance. Zwingman clarified that this would only apply to the four existing lots and that the street within the subdivision would have a 60 ft right-of-way. He stated that the projected traffic count meets the Local-road designation of the subdivision. Zwingman also explained that this preliminary plat is a replat of the existing K&S subdivision, which was approved by Platte County several years ago, and confirmed that the property, currently zoned R-1, will be rezoned in conjunction with the final plat and will allow for the development of 16 duplex units. Steve Blaser, 4829 14 Street and Bryan Muhsman, 1454 48 Avenue expressed concerns regarding the proposed street layout in the right-of-way, increased traffic, loss of buffer space, and parking during the construction period, especially for homeowners requiring handicap-accessible accommodations. Vasicek clarified that the developers must maintain reasonable access for the homeowners during the construction period. Both residents spoke in favor of the 24-foot-wide street with a 4-foot sidewalk on the north side. Bogus clarified that the sidewalk could be moved up next to the street curb line. Muhsman stated he preferred that option with the understanding he would be responsible for snow removal of that sidewalk. Bulkley reiterated the importance of communication between the developers and the existing homeowners throughout the entirety of the project. The public hearing closed with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". The preliminary plat of Sock Pond Addition including a 24-foot street right-of-way with a 4-foot sidewalk in the existing four lots and a waiver of subdivision regulations for length of cul-de-sac was approved with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, and Palensky, voted "Aye" and Roth and Schilling voted "Nay".
- 13.B. Quote from Downey Drilling, Inc. in the amount of \$48,918 for repair, replacement parts, and lining for Well No. 11.** The quote from Downey

Drilling, Inc. for repair, replacement parts, and well lining 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 acknowledged attending high school seniors Evan Pavlik and Howard Kloke who expressed interest in learning more about city government.

14. RESOLUTIONS:

14.A. Resolution No. R26-51 requesting extension of the completion date for Community Development Block Grant No. 23-DTR-003 for downtown revitalization to May 14, 2027. Resolution No. R26-51 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO REQUEST AND APPLY TO THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE COMPLETION DATE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT NO 23-DTR-003 FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION TO MAY 14, 2027, was adopted with a motion by Bahr and a second by Schilling. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

14.B. Resolution No. R26-52 accepting proposal from BergankDV for audit services for fiscal years ending September 30, 2026, 2027, and 2028. Resolution No. R26-52 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM BERGANKDV FOR AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBUS FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, 2027, AND 2028, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN BY THIS REFERENCE; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS; AND TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH was adopted with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

14.C. Resolution No. R26-53 approving Amendment No. 1 to the engineering services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$90,749.40 for right-of-way acquisition services for the 8th Street and 12th Avenue intersection project. CIP #25-35 Bogus explained that the amendment is for right-of-way land acquisition services to construct a roundabout at the intersection of 8th Street and 12th Avenue. Resolution No. R26-53 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HDR ENGINEERING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$90,749.40 FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION SERVICES FOR THE 8TH STREET AND 12TH AVENUE INTERSECTION PROJECT; A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO

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AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; 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 Palensky. Alarcòn, 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 7:09 p.m.

Presented and approved this 20th day of April 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

: Shuraya Choat