

PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL
May 5, 2025

A regular meeting of the mayor and council of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on May 5, 2025, 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 30, 2025, 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 Administrator Tara Vasicek, City Attorney Neal Valorz, City Clerk Shuraya Choat, City Engineer Rick Bogus, Police Captain Doug Molczyk, Public Works Director Chuck Sliva, Finance Director Heather Lindsley, Parks and Recreation Director Betsy Eckhardt, Project Manager Braden Labenz, and Communications Manager Matt Lindberg.
2. **PRAYER:** Jablonski 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 with a motion by Jablonski and a second by Bahr. Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".
 - 4.A. **Minutes of April 21, 2025, City Council meeting.**
 - 4.B. **Minutes of April 21, 2025, Community Development Agency meeting.**
 - 4.C. **Minutes of April 28, 2025, Civil Service Commission meeting certifying Lynn Fear and Doug Molczyk as police chief candidates.**
 - 4.D. **Reappointment of Doug Moore and Elicia Micek to Employee Retirement Committee for two-year terms.**
 - 4.E. **Resolution No. R25-70 authorizing payment of various improvement projects.** Resolution No. R25-70 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: GEHRING CONSTRUCTION & READY MIX CO., INC., CONCRETE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS 2025, \$114,020.80.

4.F. Payroll and bills on file. B=Bond Payments; CP=Capital Projects; E=Expenses; G=Grants; I=Insurance; L=License; M=Membership; P=Payment; R=Refund; S=Service & Supplies; T=Training; 5/9/25 payroll 877,214.28; 10 Cnty Title 3.94 S; 402 Content Mrktng 1,000.00 S; 911 Custom 140.00 S; ABDO Books 517.00 S; Ace Hrdwr 1,365.65 S; Ag Spray 188.78 S; Allo 190.54 S; Aqua-Chem 6,507.72 S; Arnold Motor 888.39 S; Auxiant 125,238.81 I; Bauer Undrgrnd 5,951.37 CP; Benchmark Gvrnmnt 1,979.65 S; Blackstone Pub 516.98 S; BCBSNE HMO 20.70 R; BCBSNE 4.64 R; B McDonald Grg Door 180.00 S; Bobcat of Omaha 477.28 S; Bomgaars 679.81 S; Bnd Tree Med 1,617.71 S; BS&A 34,238.00 S; Capital One-Walmart 501.73 S; K Cash 100.00 T; CDW Gvrnmnt 11,466.94 S; Cntr for Mun Sol 9,200.00 S; Central Plains Lib 83.95 S; Chesterman 84.22 S; Chrome N Steel 50.00 S; Clay Hills Ag 370.00 S; Col Cstm Emb 453.00 S; Col Plmbng 205.95 S; Col Tire 25.00 S; Core & Main 5,632.40 S; Creative Sites 91,970.00 CP; D & K Prod 2,955.64 S; Danko 1,150.00 S; DAS St Acc 1,663.99 S; Demco 52.73 S; Eakes 775.35 S; Eaton Corp 27,592.94 S; Evident 2,371.36 S; Fastenal 682.59 S; W Fleischacker 330.00 S; Frontier 89.58 S; G.I. Trailer 1,801.78 S; Gale 232.56 S; Galls 5.00 S; Gehring Const 115,280.40 CP; Gerhold Cncrt 521.47 S; Grt Plns Bldg Supp 608.16 S; Grt Plns Comm 209.95 S; H2 Equip 173.97 S; Hach Co 60.55 S; Hadley Brthwt 199.80 S; Hawkins 4,385.98 S; HD Sply 171.67 S; Heiman 7,872.77 S; High Plains Pwr 27,550.00 CP; Hoich Irrgtn 1,200.00 CP; Hmtwn Lsng 634.33 S; J Hopkins 122.50 E; Humanex Vntrs 5,000.00 T; Imagetrend 8,081.30 S; Jackson Srvc 1,786.17 S; J Bethune 700.00 S; JLO Prop 10,071.22 CP; John Deere 1,106.55 S; Kelly Sup 834.79 S; King III 290.94 S; J Knapp 50.00 R; Koch Excvtng 4,214.45 S; Lakeview Smll Eng 94.39 S; LCC Telecom 7,575.00 S; League of NE Mun 535.00 T; Lncln Winwtr Wrks 1,282.60 S; Loup Power 4,272.28 S; M & O Door 75.46 S; Macqueen Equip 3,518.86 S; Mech Sales 5,720.79 S; Medline 583.04 S; Menards 1,902.59 S; MARC 477.25 S; Midstates Data 4,650.00 CP; Midwst Tape 698.72 S; Naughton Ind 300.00 CP; NE Hrvstr 177.39 S; NE Law Enf 50.00 S; NE Pub Hlth 558.00 S; NE Rural Water 550.00 M; Nelson Sys 29,759.90 CP; Newman Sgn 296.94 S; NE NE Econ 30,444.70 M; NoSwett 145.00 S; O'Reilly 149.67 S; Otis Elev 960.00 S; Otte Elec 1,859.07 CP; Pace Anlytcl 1,141.60 S; Paulke Jr Brito 13.00 R; Pete Lien 6,753.59 S; Petty Cash 2,620.00 E; Platte Villy Comm 266.25 S; Playaway Prod 51.99 S; Prestox 134.24 S; Provantage 7,362.00 S; Reeder Const 541.69 S; Rensenhouse 302.86 S; RFCC 1,983.42 CP; River Villy Tire 330.00 S; Samson 8,154.49 S; Schemmer Assoc 10,988.55 CP; SCP Dist 102.46 S; Srvcmsr by Shevlin 2,559.00 S; Settje Plmbng 88.76

S; Shelby Lmbr 74,850.00 CP; Shevlin Spplly 142.90 S; Sirius Comp 230.00 CP; Stanley Ptrlm 420.00 S; Super Svr 93.94 S; The Lifeguard Str 8,773.40 S; Tire Outlet 1,380.50 S; Titan Mach 408.65 S; Tooley Drg 66.38 S; Truck Cntr 7,576.51 S; Turfwerks 1,085.85 S; Tweet's 89.97 S; USA Blue Bk 444.36 S; Verizon Wrls 2,700.96 S; Wemhoff Refrg 229.45 S; B Zakrzewski 125.17 E. TOTAL \$1,648,543.52.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Included in Consent Agenda

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

6.A. Proclamation declaring week of May 4, 2025, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Bulkley proclaimed the week of May 4, 2025, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week and thanked the staff in the city clerk's office for all the work they do.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

7.A. Public Hearing - authorization of acquisitions of various interests in real estate for Lift Station No. 15. No public testimony was heard. The public hearing closed 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".

8. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

9. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:

9.A. Update on revised hours and rules for Recycling Trailer. Sliva provided an update on the challenges and recent changes related to the new recycling trailer. He explained that the first load of recyclables was rejected due to improper disposal of various non-recyclable items. The trailer was shut down this past week while staff worked to find a vendor willing to accept the load as is. Moving forward, new procedures have been implemented to improve recycling quality, which includes the sorting of items into individual totes to reduce contamination. Additionally, new operating hours have been established: Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to noon and Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. During these hours, the site will be temporarily staffed by Keep Columbus Beautiful employees who will assist with proper sorting and monitor for improper disposal. Bulkley reiterated the importance of following the rules.

10. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

10.A. PUBLIC PROPERTY, SAFETY, AND WORKS COMMITTEE - May 5, 2025

10.A.1. Authorizing acquisition of interests in various tracts of real property by purchase or eminent domain for Lift Station No. 15. The Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee recommended approval. Bogus noted that the current lift station is in a State of Nebraska right of way and needs to be relocated. The report was adopted with a motion by Schilling and a second by

Hiemer, Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

10.A.1.a. Purchase agreement with JLO Properties LLC in the amount of \$10,071.22 for Lift Station No. 15. CIP #20-93 The Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee recommended approval. The report was adopted with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Schilling. Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

10.A.2. Purchase from Nebraska Department of Transportation for Maintenance Yard 31000 in the amount of \$950,000 for multi-department use. The Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee recommended approval. Vasicek explained that purchasing this maintenance yard would provide additional property to meet the operational needs of both the Wastewater division and the Parks and Recreation department, offering a much more cost-effective solution than constructing new facilities. She added that the purchase would enable the City to enhance public service delivery, expand recreational amenities, and support long-term infrastructure and maintenance planning. Additionally, it would create an opportunity for the Police Department to expand at the current Park Maintenance site. Vasicek clarified the facility is still in pretty good shape for its age, however, future upgrades or maintenance needs may need to be addressed over time. The report was adopted with a motion by Roth and a second by Bahr. Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

10.A.3. Determine necessity for sidewalk improvements at 1404 14 Street with final completion by August 5, 2025, and authorizing the City Engineer to proceed on a Notice of Construction. The Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee recommended approval. The report was adopted with a motion by Schilling and a second by Alarcón. Alarcón, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.

10.A.4. Amending Schedule I of Chapter 74 of Title VII of Columbus City Code to change speed limits for Howard Boulevard from 110 feet southeast of 53rd Avenue to 530 feet northwest of 63rd Avenue to 50 mph and 160 feet east of the intersection of 18th Avenue to the intersection of East 14th Avenue to 45 mph, add speed limit of 55 mph from the intersection of East 14th Avenue to the east corporate limits, 1320 feet east of East 14th Avenue, and amend various street and location descriptions. The Public Property, Safety, and Works Committee recommended approval. Bogus clarified that the State conducted a speed study to determine the speed limits and have recommended changes to these areas along US-81 and US-30. The report was adopted with a motion by Bahr and a second by Schilling. Alarcón, 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. Application from The Friedhof Room at Schwesers for special designated liquor license at 13th Street and 27th Avenue (southwest corner of Frankfort Square) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 24, 2025, for a car show.** The application from The Friedhof Room at Schwesers for a special designated liquor license was approved with a motion by Bahr and a second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.
- 13.B. Quote from Snap-On Industrial in the amount of \$11,244.88 for truck repair software for street department. CIP #25-22** The quote from Snap-On Industrial for truck repair software was accepted 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”.
- 13.C. Quote from Sid Dillon Fleet & Commercial Dealership in the amount of \$34,730 for pickup for wastewater treatment plant. CIP #25-56** The quote from Sid Dillion Fleet and Commercial for a pickup was accepted with a motion by Lopez and a second by Hiemer. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.
- 13.D. Quote from Electric Pump in the amount of \$165,000 for lift station replacement panel and spare pump for wastewater collection. Reallocated from CIP #21-81** The quote from Electric Pump for a replacement panel and spare pump was accepted with a motion by Palensky and a second by Bahr. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.
- 13.E. Plans, specifications, estimate of cost in the amount of \$95,000, and authorization to advertise for bids for 7th Avenue and 2nd Street Sewer Improvements. (Plans and specs on file in the engineering department) Reallocated from CIP #21-81** The plans, specifications, estimate of cost, and authorization to advertise for bids was approved with a motion by Alarcòn and a second by Jablonski. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”.
- 13.F. Comments from mayor and city council members.** Bulkley mentioned that a survey is available on the City’s website as part of the Safe Streets For All Project, which aims to identify areas in Columbus that present current or future safety concerns.

14. RESOLUTIONS:

- 14.A. Resolution No. R25-71 authorizing acquisition of interests in various tracts of real property by purchase or eminent domain for Lift Station No. 15.** Resolution No. R25-71 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AFTER NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING THEREON, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS INTERESTS IN VARIOUS TRACTS OF REAL PROPERTY, BY

PURCHASE OR BY EMINENT DOMAIN, LOCATED IN LOT 2, PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK C, EVANS PLUGGE SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS ALL LOCATED IN PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA was adopted with a motion by Roth and a second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

14.B. Resolution No. R25-72 approving purchase agreement with JLO Properties LLC in the amount of \$10,071.22 for Lift Station No. 15. CIP #20-93 Resolution No. R25-72 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH JLO PROPERTIES LLC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,071.22 WITH RESPECT TO THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPRETY AND PERMANENT EASEMENTS ON A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK C, EVANS PLUGGE SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SANITARY SEWER LIFT STATION NUMBER 15 PROJECT was adopted with a motion by Alarcòn and a second by Lopez. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

14.C. Resolution No. R25-73 approving necessity for sidewalk improvements at 1404 14 Street with final completion by August 5, 2025, and authorizing the City Engineer to proceed on a Notice of Construction. Resolution No. R25-73 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, APPROVING THE NECESSITY FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE EAST AND SOUTH PROPERTY LINES OF PARCEL 71000189 LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF 14TH AVENUE AND 14TH STREET AND FINAL CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION BY AUGUST 5, 2025 was adopted with a motion by Schilling and a second by Hiemer. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".

15. ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:

15.A. Ordinance No. 25-07 amending Schedule I of Chapter 74 of Title VII of Columbus City Code to change speed limits for Howard Boulevard from 110 feet southeast of 53rd Avenue to 530 feet northwest of 63rd Avenue to 50 mph and 160 feet east of the intersection of 18th Avenue to the intersection of East 14th Avenue to 45 mph, add speed limit of 55 mph from the intersection of East 14th Avenue to the east corporate limits, 1320 feet east of East 14th Avenue, and amend various street and location descriptions. The rules were suspended and Ordinance No. 25-07 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SCHEDULE I OF CHAPTER 74 OF TITLE VII OF COLUMBUS CITY CODE TO CHANGE THE SPEED LIMITS FOR HOWARD BOULEVARD FROM 110 FEET SOUTHEAST OF 53RD AVENUE TO 530 FEET NORTHWEST OF 63RD AVENUE TO 50 MPH AND 160 FEET EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF 18TH AVENUE TO THE

INTERSECTION OF EAST 14TH AVENUE TO 45 MPH, ADD SPEED LIMIT OF 55 MPH FOR THE INTERSECTION OF EAST 14TH AVENUE TO THE EAST CORPORATE LIMITS, 1320 FEET EAST OF EAST 14TH AVENUE, AND AMEND VARIOUS STREET AND LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HERewith; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM was read by number only with a motion by Hiemer and a second by Schilling. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Ordinance No. 25-07 was adopted 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".

16. ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING:

16.A. Ordinance No. 25-06 amending section 133.04 of Chapter 133 of Title XIII of the Columbus City Code regarding fireworks discharge time for December 29 and 30 stated on the required signage at all fireworks sale locations and various other changes that align with the city's current inspection procedures. The rules were suspended and Ordinance No. 25-06 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA AMENDING SECTION 133.04 OF CHAPTER 133 OF TITLE XIII OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-01 (COLUMBUS CITY CODE) REGARDING THE FIREWORKS DISCHARGE TIME FOR DECEMBER 29 AND 30 STATED ON THE REQUIRED SIGNAGE AT ALL FIREWORKS SALE LOCATIONS AND OTHER VARIOUS CHANGES THAT ALIGN WITH THE CITY'S CURRENT INSPECTION PROCEDURES; 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 with a motion by Bahr and a second by Palensky. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, Jablonski, Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Ordinance No. 25-06 was adopted with a motion by Bahr and a second by Alarcòn. Alarcòn, Bahr, Hiemer, +Lopez, Palensky, Roth, and Schilling voted "Aye" and Jablonski voted "Nay".

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 6:33 p.m.

Presented and approved this 19th day of May 2025.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

: Shuraya Choat