

City of Columbus Council Proceedings

September 8, 2026
Unofficial Minutes

The September meeting of the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:02 pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, by Council President Darla Westernness at the Columbus City Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was determined.

Members Present: Darla Westernness, Katie Nygard, Amber Nygard and Scott Sandy; Auditor Sandy Raines. Absent Mayor Chris Kihle.

Guests Present: Brian Julius, Ackerman-Estvold Engineering and Debbie Casteel.

Agenda: Motion by Sandy and second by K. Nygard to approve the agenda as presented. The council president called for the vote. Ayes: Sandy, K. Nygard and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Minutes: Motion by K. Nygard and second by Sandy to approve the City Council minutes of August 3, 2026, as presented. The council president called for the vote. Ayes: Sandy, K. Nygard and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Public Comment: There being no members of the public wishing to comment, president Westernness proceeded with the meeting.

• **City Engineer:** City Engineer Brian Julius encouraged the city to begin formulating a plan for infrastructure replacement to present a project for funding in twelve months, assist in completing the financials which is necessary for loans, grants, and to determine the city's portion.

• **City Attorney:** No report.

• **City Maintenance:** Mowing, lagoon release started due to exceptional rainfall; fogging for mosquitoes.

• **Auditor:**

• **2020 Financial Report:** The 2020 City financial report has been approved by the State Auditor's office.

• **Building Permits:** Motion by K. Nygard and second by A. Nygard to

approve building permit: Permit #2026-014 Parcel #7108000 600/602 Robin St to construct a 12 X 16 shed on concrete slab. The council president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved. Motion by Sandy and second by A. Nygard to approve the following: Permit #2026-012 Parcel #7294000 608 Main St – replace roof; Permit #2026-013 Parcel #07235000 206 4th Ave W – replace roof, siding, and windows; Permit #2026-015 Parcel #7148000 100 3rd Ave E – replace roof. The council president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, A. Nygard, and Sandy. Nays: None. Motion approved.

• **Financials:** Motion by K. Nygard and second by Sandy to pay the September bills and file the August financial statement. The president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.

Old Business:

• **Fee Structure:** Utility rates, fines, and ordinance violations – ongoing.

• **Water and Sewer:** Reviewed water usage versus amount billed. All delinquent utility accounts will receive final bill before sent to special assessment with the County.

• **Columbus Community Club:** Next meeting, September 18th at 6pm; Game Feed at Comm. Center October 10th 11-7; Update on basketball court. Motion by K. Nygard and second by Sandy to purchase two purple, eight-foot benches with backs, from Barco Products at the cost of \$759 each. The president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, A. Nygard, and Sandy. Nays: None. Motion approved.

• **AARP Livable Community Grant** – Motion K. Nygard and second by Sandy to order 12 x 24 loose lay tile from Teagan's Flooring in Crosby. The president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, A. Nygard, and Sandy. Nays: None. Motion approved.

• **Toddler-Preschool Playground:**

No update

• **Tree Grant** – Received total amount of the grant \$10,906.00.

• **Vault Toilet:** No update

• **Nuisance Properties** – 1) 612 Robin St. Motion by K. Nygard and second by Sandy to bill owner \$3000 to cover mowing, use of skid steer, removal and disposal of tires. The president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, A. Nygard, and Sandy. Nays: None. Motion approved. 2) 203 1st Ave W. Received quit claim deed and release of liability on impounded vehicles. Auditor will file the deed with the County. Motion by Sandy and second by K. Nygard to scrap the two vehicles at City's impound lot. The president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, A. Nygard, and Sandy. Nays: None. Motion approved.

New Business:

• **Casteel:** Owner has completed a sewer relining project and is requesting city to take care of roots in sewer main in the 100 block of Robin St. Plumber will send video results to maintenance and will review with city engineer for next steps.

• **Parent-Child Play Group:** Motion by Sandy and second by K. Nygard to approve request from Kay Grindeland to host a parent/child playgroup at the Community Center two times a week. The president called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, A. Nygard, and Sandy. Nays: None. Motion approved.

• **Alert System:** Two proposals presented to the council for approval of an alert/text system to notify residents of emergency notices and reminders, rather than using social media for such information. Tabled for next meeting.

• **Assistance requested for a resident's roof:** Council suggested this type of request be forwarded to Columbus Community Club.

Announcements:

• **Vaccination Clinic** at Columbus Fire Hall on September 12th, Cats 9-10; Dogs 10-11.

• **Next meeting is Monday, October 5th, 2026, at 7:00 pm** following Public Budget Hearings for the Columbus City, Park District, and Airport.

• **Adjournment:** Motion by K. Nygard and second by A. Nygard to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Bills to Pay: Intuit \$409.63; BDEC \$11.50; Verizon \$288.69; NWRW \$4154.95; NCC \$439.05; EFTPS \$1392.46; MDU \$972.25 & 1065.13; BC Sheriff \$400; Burke County

Tribune \$106.64; Circle Sanitation \$1905.50; First District Health \$58.00; Jacob's Hardware \$204.10; Jerry's Transfer \$28.00; One Call \$3.60; Visa Maintenance \$1908.21; Visa Auditor \$93.99; Solotek \$7212.26; On the Spot \$57.90; ND DEQ \$57.18. K Lesmeister \$369.44; Interstate Billing \$1165.34;

SafetyFirst Playground \$62,416; Bank of North Dakota \$9,937.50.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Raines, Auditor
September 16, 2026