



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
05.13.25**

Absent: Dallas Fisher
Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Kyle Peterson called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance, Kyle Peterson, Marlys Dunne, Marie Rivers, Jeremy Dresel, MaryJo Wiatrak and Jason Houle.

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman. Nancy Hoffman from the County EDA/HRA was also present.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: May 13, 2025.

President Peterson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: April 08, 2025.

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April 8th minutes. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITIONS

5a. City Council Liaison Report -Marie Rivers

Commissioner River gave an update on the council meeting that was held April 22nd. Mark Legan 10875 Stinson Ave. was requesting help from the city to replace his water curb stop. The city did spend time and money locating the curb stop for him, council agreed since it is on his own private property it is his responsibility for location and repair. The Unexpected Company choir attended the council meeting to inform the council of their planned trip to the sister city in Sweden. The city is providing some gifts; T-shirts and city memorabilia that they can take with them. Joe Triplett gave an update on the Hwy 8 project.

Clutch Golf 29173 Karmel Ave. applied for a variance for two additions. Council accepted a water study that was done by Bolten and Menk. They approved an amendment for zoning regarding shipping containers and temporary structures.

The RFP for legal service was approved, and approved funding for ADA upgrades and lighting in the parks. A change order was accepted for the Old Towne Trail extension. The 2024 annual audit was approved.

Houle asked about the Old Towne Trail ending, Dresel explained it will end at the old entrance to Ojiketa Park.

5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates

Hoffman stated that there are a lot of housing items being addressed at the county, tax credits are being issued, and housing trust fund applications are being submitted. She is working on some senior housing tax credit projects. A housing trust fund project was approved on some existing housing in Chisago City, an owner has 5 different complexes in 3 different areas, they are 1960 homes and need some significant updates. Hoffman spoke about the funding received for the Childcare Coalition.

Dunne updated the commission, she had a meeting with a new business in Chisago City, Phyto Lab which is a cannabis testing site located in the Liberty Lane Industrial Park. This is one of only three sites in the state. The County is waiting for the state budget to come in, there is talk of some significant cuts. Dunne stated that there are more housing trust funds available and forgivable loans.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Monthly Financial Report.

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the Financial Report.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. 2025 Goals & Updates

1. Highway 8 Project

Pechman stated that at the last Highway 8 meeting the timeline of the project was discussed along with the process of acquiring land for the project. The start date is scheduled for fall of 2026. The design phase is at 90% completed.

2. Land Development

Pechman hasn't had much communication with Kendall Howard since the last meeting. Randy owner of Kendall Howard is hoping to have a master plan submitted by this summer, he did ask for permission to walk the land to get a look at it for layout design.

Pechman stated that June 6th is the lottery drawing at the state level for the growing portion of the cannabis license. If King Kind receives a license they are ready to go with the project.

3. Business and Residential Opportunities

Commission discussed the Chisago Lakes Apartments construction updates and schedule. Dunne spoke about how we identify the business that would be good for the area and go after them. In conversations with the public she said there were many residents that would love to see an Aldi come to town. Pechman stated that there is a lot of inquiry about a Dollar store as well.

4. Business Engagement Event & Community Outreach

Commissioner Houle submitted a marketing example of what the City of Columbus did for a business engagement event. Houle stated that the topics of discussion could be the Highway 8 project, the newer business in the city, and the mayor could speak at the event. Dunne loves the idea of the event and networking. She thought that by the time the event happened the design of the industrial park could be featured, the Highway project, city updates from the EDA and council along with county updates. Commission discussed the locations, speakers, and time frame. They would like the event to be in the evening, with a time frame of about six months to get the event planned and word out. Dresel discussed the date and if save the date notices would be beneficial to get the word out while planning is underway. Commission would like a speaker that is entertaining and informative. They agreed the event would take place on Thursday evening; Hoffman will investigate potential speakers. Dresel asked how many businesses there are in Chisago City and what the numbers would look like. Houle will put together a comprehensive plan and Hoffman will put together a list of speakers. She mentioned that the Lindstrom EDA does do a business appreciation breakfast every year and it has a good turnout. Dresel would like to see the Highway 8 project featured and the impact of the highway project on businesses.

9. New Business

10. Adjourn

Commissioner Rivers made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Dunne seconded; all ayes; the meeting adjourned.