

COLUMBUS JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL

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council members Hal Prior, Tracy Harris and Kenan Todd in voting for the amendment.

Prior, Harris and Todd had been the only council members present at the June 11 meeting, where the amendment approval was unanimous.

According to previous discussions, the amendment will boost the current minimum rate of \$19 for the first 2,000 gallons to \$23, an increase of about 21 percent. Each amount over 2,000 will be increased from the current \$8.26 per 1,000 gallons to \$11.26 per 1,000 gallons, which would be a little over 36 percent more.

For water users located outside of the city, the current minimum rate of \$28.50 per 2,000 gallons will climb to \$34.50 per 2,000 gallons, the same 21 percent increase as users within the city will be facing.

Meanwhile, usage over the minimum amount will be increased from the current \$12.30 per 1,000 gallons to \$18.58 per 1,000 gallons, a nearly 50 percent boost for water users outside of the city.

Responding to a question from Mapel, who explained he had been contacted by citizens about the change, Huston said the increase will not affect sewer or garbage rates.

Huston and Harris both reported not hearing any comments from residents about the proposed increase, which

Huston estimated will raise around \$50,000 annually in additional revenue.

He said the extra funding was needed because the city had fixed a lot of water lines since the rates were last raised in 2019.

Huston pointed out some communities automatically raise rates each year, but he indicated Columbus Junction had followed a different approach and only looked at a rate increase when situations dictated one.

In a related but separate action, the council held a public hearing on a \$150,000, one-year, loan agreement with Washington State Bank. Huston said the loan will be used to cover water and sewer repairs and moving lines.

In a later action, the council passed a resolution approving the agreement.

Public works director Todd Salazar also updated the council on a couple of water/sewer utility issues, including recent pump problems at two city facilities. He reported a pump at the lagoon and one at the Springer Street lift station were not operating.

He said a repair crew would be looking at them to determine needed repairs.

Salazar also notified the council that the Iowa Department of Transportation had agreed to cover the cost of relocating some water lines that have been impacted by the Iowa Highway 92 widening

project on the west edge of town.

The council also approved a resolution formally setting city staff salaries for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. Officials said the salary increase was 3 percent for most employees. Funding for the salaries was already approved in the FY 2026 budget; and the salary resolution was a formality.

City officials also discussed establishing a development plan for Chautauqua Park; and Huston updated the council on the status of a 2018 REAP grant, which had been intended to repair the old park house.

Huston indicated portions of the \$57,000 grant had been spent on some work, but it was now apparent that because of the house’s condition, it would take substantially more money to complete the work.

He suggested demolition and replacement with a more open structure might be the best option. Although the council approved returning the money to the state, Huston said he would continue seeking its approval to use the funds on another park project.

In the meantime, city officials agreed a detailed development plan for the park would be helpful moving forward. No final decision was made, but Huston did indicate he would continue working on the idea.

In another park discussion, Todd reported young oak trees were growing in the

area of the park where a harvest of aging and dying timber had been conducted earlier this year.

He also reported the park had been studied for a Frisbee golf course, although he did not indicate if a design was being developed yet. He did report the community visioning committee was looking at several potential projects.

City officials will also continue to research the possibility of creating handicap parking spots in residential areas. A local couple recently asked the council to approve a spot, but officials are concerned about the precedent and also meeting state rules for such parking areas.

In another update as part of his report, Huston warned that flood forecasts were indicating the Iowa River was projected to rise around three feet, which would still keep the water level within the river’s banks. He indicated most of the increased flow was expected to come from the Cedar River, since the Coralville Reservoir should be able to hold excess water on the Iowa River.

Huston also reported detour issues related to the highway widening project appeared to be minimal, with some reduced traffic volume from the initial detour stop. He also highlighted the current ambulance service situation, explaining it was now running smoothly and its financial situation was much improved.

“We’ve gone from

that was a real issue to it’s probably the brightest spot for the city,” he said.

Prior agreed and said much of the credit was due to ambulance director Dan Conry and assistant director Jen Martin.

“We’ve got to figure out how to help those people. We have two people up there who have given up their lives basically right now for the ambulance,” he said.

H u s t o n a c k n o w l e d g e d increasing the staff was

still a priority for the service.

In final action, Louisa County Historic Preservation Commission Chair Kathy Jolly Vance notified city officials that a stop order has been placed on a federal grant that was to survey the Columbus Junction and Wapello downtown for historic resources.

She said if the stop order is eventually lifted, the effort to move forward with the project may continue.



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PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025, 5:30 P.M. CIVIC CENTER/CITY HALL</p> <p>PUBLIC HEARING-FOR LOAN AGREEMENT WITH WSB</p> <p>Mayor Huston opened public hearing, explaining we must hold a public hearing to enter into a loan agreement. The city needed to borrow money to help with moving the waterline on Highway 92.</p> <p>There being no comments or objections from the audience and none received by the City Clerk, motion was made by Mapel to close the public hearing, Prior second. The hearing was closed at 5:34pm.</p> <p>REGULAR MEETING CONSENT AGENDA</p> <p>Previous minutes, claims. Motion to approve consent agenda by Harris, second by Mapel. Prior-yes, Mapel-yes, Harris-yes, Todd-yes. Approved</p> <p>CITIZEN'S CONCERN-Kathy Vance reported that the Historical Preservation Grant was put to a stop work. They are hoping it will get started back up soon to help with preserving our old downtown buildings.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 062525 A LOAN AGREEMTN WITH WASHINGTON STATE BANK-Motion by Todd, second by Prior. Prior-yes, Mapel-yes, Todd-yes, Harris-yes. Approved</p> <p>RESOLUTION 062525 FY 26 SALARY RESOLUTION-Motion made by Prior to accept salary increases, second by Harris. Prior-yes, Harris-yes, Todd-yes, Mapel-yes. Approved</p> <p>2ND READING OF WATER RATE INCREASE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-The city has not raised water rates since 2019. With rising cost of insurance, regulations, and repairs, the City needed to increase rates. Harris made the motion to approve second reading and waive the third reading. Prior second the motion. Prior-yes, Harris-yes, Todd-yes, Mapel-yes. Approved. The rate increase will take effect August 1, 2025.</p> <p>PARK HOUSE GRANT-The</p>	<p>City applied for a REAP grant back in 2018 to remodel the park house as they started the project, they realized it was going to be a bigger project than what they had anticipated. Now since the project is not completed to city must decide what to do. The grant is closed, and the city will need to send the money back if the project is not completed. Mapel made the motion to send the money back, Prior second the motion. Prior-yes, Harris-yes, Todd-yes, Mapel-yes. Approved.</p> <p>HANDICAP PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL AREA-The city had some residents approach them on making a handicap parking spot on Second street in front of their house. The city did not know if they could have a handicap spot in a residential area. Councilman Prior wondered how we could manage the spot for just that house. Mayor Huston asked Chief Orr to investigate what other cities do. He had several examples of what stipulations towns have. The council decided to check into the parking regulations a little more before deciding.</p> <p>COMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <p>Utilities-Public works told council pump 3 isn't running as well as lift station on Springer is having issues too.</p> <p>Streets & Sidewalks-The DOT said they will pay for the few service lines that have to be moved up on Highway 92, where the widening is taking place.</p> <p>Public Safety-None</p> <p>Library Report-None</p> <p>Employee Safety & Health-None</p> <p>Ambulance-None</p> <p>MAYOR'S REPORT-Huston discussed that we are watching water levels. The city should be ok. He talked about possibilities at the park. Maybe installing more playground equipment, new shelter and a disc golf course. He feels like the detour is going ok. He had a few semis get in places they shouldn't have but overall going well. The ambulance seems to be doing better financially, but could really use some more workers.</p> <p>Motion by Harris, second by Mapel to adjourn. Meeting adjourned by Mayor.</p>	<p>/s/ Mark Huston, Mayor, /s/ Attest: Jodi Edwards, City Clerk.</p> <p>#1</p> <p>AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS JUNCTION, IOWA, 1996, BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO WATER RATES</p> <p>BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Columbus Junction, Iowa:</p> <p>SECTION 1. SECTION MODIFIED. Chapter 92, Section 02, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus Junction, Iowa 1996, Is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof: 92.02 RATES OF SERVICE. Water service shall be furnished at the following monthly rates within the City and outside City limits: (Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84)</p> <p>GALLONS USED PER MONTH RATE</p> <p>First 2,000 City Limits \$23.00 (minimum bill)</p> <p>All over 2,000 \$11.26 per 1,000 gallons</p> <p>First 2,000 Outside City \$34.50 (minimum bill)</p> <p>All over 2,000 \$18.58 per 1,00 gallons</p> <p>The foregoing rates shall be reviewed by the council prior to July 1st of each year</p> <p>SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.</p> <p>SECTION 3. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.</p> <p>Passed by the Council this 11th day of June, 2025 and approved this 25th day of June, 2025</p> <p>/s/ Mark Huston, Mayor, /s/ Attest: Jodi Edwards, City Clerk</p> <p>I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance NO. 1 on the 2nd day of July, 2025</p> <p>/s/ Jodi Edwards, City Clerk</p> <p>GENERAL</p>	<p>LIABILITIES</p> <p>AVESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION.....29.33</p> <p>COLLECTION SERVICE CENTER GARNISHMENT.....55.84</p> <p>EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....3,574.27</p> <p>IPERS/JULY IPERS.....2,516.14</p> <p>TRANSAMERICA EMPLOYEE BEN SUPPLEMENTAL.....37.88</p> <p>TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....345.05</p> <p>WELLMARK INC DENTAL HEALTH.....282.22</p> <p>050LIABILITIES TOTAL.....6,840.73</p> <p>POLICE</p> <p>WELLMARK INC HEALTH INSURANCE.....5,088.75</p> <p>110 POLICE TOTAL.....5,088.75</p> <p>ANIMAL CONTROL</p> <p>MUSCATINE CO. HUMANE SOC. AGREEMENT DUE.....100.00</p> <p>190 ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL.....100.00</p> <p>LIBRARY</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....523.16</p> <p>410 LIBRARY TOTAL.....523.16</p> <p>PARKS</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....184.68</p> <p>430 PARKS TOTAL.....184.68</p> <p>COMMUNITY CENTER/ZOO/MARINA</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....123.55</p> <p>460 COMMUNITY CENTER/ZOO/MARINA TOTAL.....123.55</p> <p>PLANNING & ZONING</p> <p>COLUMBUS COMMUNITY POOL ADMISSIONS.....3,300.00</p> <p>540 PLANNING & ZONING TOTAL.....3,300.00</p> <p>CITY HALL/GENERAL BLDGS</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....523.15</p> <p>IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES DUES.....1,424.00</p> <p>JANET PRETZ COVER OFFICE.....101.25</p> <p>DIANA ANDERSON CLAIM SHEETS.....179.90</p> <p>WELLMARK INC HEALTH INSURANCE.....893.11</p> <p>650 CITY HALL/GENERAL BLDGS TOTAL.....3,121.41</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....27.65</p> <p>690 MISCELLANEOUS TOTAL.....27.65</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p>GENERAL GOVERNMENT LOUISA REGIONAL CLOSURE</p>	<p>ER FEE.....2,287.50</p> <p>699 OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL.....2,287.50</p> <p>001 GENERAL TOTAL.....21,597.43</p> <p>AMBULANCE</p> <p>LIABILITIES</p> <p>AVESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION.....13.37</p> <p>EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....1,231.96</p> <p>IPERS ELECTRONIC IPERS787.60</p> <p>TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....139.78</p> <p>WELLMARK INC DENTAL HEALTH.....437.57</p> <p>050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.....2,610.28</p> <p>AMBULANCE</p> <p>AIRGAS USA LLC MEDICAL OXYGEN.....105.72</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....310.99</p> <p>FELD FIRE ADAM.....1,225.50</p> <p>HENRY SCHEIN INC MEDICAL SUPPLIES.....741.19</p> <p>MEDICOM BUSINESS INTERNET.....250.00</p> <p>WELLMARK INC HEALTH INSURANCE.....2,826.32</p> <p>160 AMBULANCE TOTAL.....5,459.72</p> <p>002 AMBULANCE TOTAL.....8,070.00</p> <p>ROAD USE TAX</p> <p>LIABILITIES</p> <p>EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....298.09</p> <p>IPERS IPERS REGULAR.....206.61</p> <p>TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....64</p> <p>050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.....505.34</p> <p>ROADS, BRIDGES, SIDEWALKS</p> <p>RIVER PRODUCTS ROADSTONE/SAND.....852.59</p> <p>210 ROADS, BRIDGES, SIDEWALKS TOTAL.....852.59</p> <p>STREET LIGHTING</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....2,516.47</p> <p>230 STREET LIGHTING TOTAL.....2,516.47</p> <p>110 ROAD USE TAX TOTAL3,874.40</p> <p>WATER</p> <p>LIABILITIES</p> <p>AVESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION.....16.71</p> <p>CITY OF COLUMBUS JUNCTION CC/DEBIT REIMB EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....629.52</p> <p>IPERS IPERS REGULAR.....454.19</p> <p>TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....79.59</p> <p>WELLMARK INC DENTAL45.43</p> <p>050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.....1,225.44</p>	<p>WATER</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....3,997.33</p> <p>COLUMBUS JUNCTION COLUMBUS JUNCTION SU SHOP SUPPLIES.....26.97</p> <p>NCH-RENEKER-ASSOCIATE HWY 92 WATERLINE.....3,185.90</p> <p>PESTPROS PEST CONTROL125.00</p> <p>PETTY CASH POSTAGE.....7.09</p> <p>US POSTAL SERVICE WINDOW ENVELOPES.....455.30</p> <p>USA BLUEBOOK SUPPLIES322.41</p> <p>WELLMARK INC HEALTH INSURANCE.....2,740.95</p> <p>810 WATER TOTAL.....10,860.95</p> <p>600 WATER TOTAL.....12,086.39</p> <p>METER DEPOSIT</p> <p>WATER CITY OF COLUMBUS JUNCTION METER DEPOSIT.....100.00</p> <p>810 WATER TOTAL.....100.00</p> <p>601 METER DEPOSIT TOTAL100.00</p> <p>SEWER</p> <p>LIABILITIES</p> <p>AVESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION.....11.32</p> <p>EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....1,026.62</p> <p>IPERS IPERS REGULAR.....708.80</p> <p>TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....115.16</p> <p>WELLMARK INC DENTAL45.43</p> <p>050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.....1,907.33</p> <p>SEWER/SEWAGE DISPOSAL</p> <p>ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....5,125.53</p> <p>OFFICE EXPRESS INK.....101.85</p> <p>PESTPROS PEST CONTROL75.00</p> <p>TEAM LAB SONAR TESTING1,800.00</p> <p>WASHINGTON STATE BANK INT LOAN.....434.00</p> <p>WELLMARK INC HEALTH INSURANCE.....1,829.08</p> <p>815 SEWER/SEWAGE DISPOSAL TOTAL.....9,365.46</p> <p>610 SEWER TOTAL.....11,272.79</p> <p>Accounts Payable Total.....57,001.01</p> <p>Invoices: Paid.....56,901.01</p> <p>Invoices: Scheduled.....100.00</p> <p>001 GENERAL.....21,597.43</p> <p>002 AMBULANCE.....8,070.00</p> <p>110 ROAD USE TAX.....3,874.40</p> <p>600 WATER.....12,086.39</p> <p>601 METER DEPOSIT.....100.00</p> <p>610 SEWER.....11,272.79</p> <p>TOTAL FUNDS.....57,001.01</p> <p>Published Wednesday, July 2, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette</p>