

As a long time chairmen of the finance committee I have been involved in the budget process annually. The basic amount to fund our City is by annual taxes paid by the “residents of the City”. This tax Rate is controlled/limited by the State. Many have the illusion that if the live or work near the City they pay taxes to the city which is incorrect. The City is also very fortunate to annually receive a nice stipend for perpetuity from the “Roundy Foundation”, thanks to the Beryl Roundy estate. A third source is grant money from sources such as “Riverboat foundation”, Louisa Development Group”, and others via grants written by Council and Staff, additional funding is from utilities billing, licenses, and various fines.

The City Ambulance is basically a financially self-supporting entity that bills individuals, insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid for the services. Additional funding is received via Grand Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) and Emergency medical services (EMS) subsidies. As Chairmen of the Finance Committee my priorities are a balance budget that provides the best services to the City at a minimum impact to the resident tax payers.

8. What role should the community play in supporting our school district and the education of our children?

Community support is absolutely necessary!! The City of Columbus Junction council has long believed the success of our City is directly correlated to the success of our schools! The City welcomes our partnership with the Columbus school. The City makes an annual contribution to the School resource officer of \$10,000, plus and annual \$10,000 stipend to the pool. Several years ago the City made a standing offer of a \$200,000 contribution towards a new pool.

9. How do you, as a board member, feel about negative comments from either employees or teachers about the city or school which you are employed at on Facebook for all to see?

This one is easy – If I was the decision maker they would be terminated. I would gladly listen and discuss their concerns in a private discussion, however, negative Facebook postings are not acceptable in this issue.

SEAN DOHRMANN
Candidate for City Council

1. Please tell us a little bit about yourself and your ties to the community. If you could attach a heads hot that would be great!



I have lived in CJ since 2008, after moving from Muscatine when I began dating my now wife, Vicky Martin Dohrmann. Vicky grew up here, and her family has strong ties to the community, which has deepened my commitment to this community. Together we are raising three children—Isaac (24), Cambree (19), and Aiden (15). I currently work as an Advanced Maintenance technician with HNI.

Over the years, I’ve watched my wife volunteer her time with numerous community

groups, and seeing the impact of her efforts has inspired me to step forward as well. This community has given so much to my family, and I feel it is my turn to give back. I’ve grown to truly love living here, and I’m eager to find new ways to get involved and contribute to making CJ an even better place to live.

2. What are the top three things that need fixed/addressed with in our city? What do you think is currently going well in our community?

For me, the top three areas that need to be addressed in our community are:

1. Road conditions – Our roads are showing wear and tear, and keeping them maintained is essential for safety, accessibility, and long-term cost savings.

2. Water main conditions – We have experienced several water main breaks which have led to costly repairs, and service disruptions. Upgrading and maintaining this infrastructure is critical.

3. Community growth and engagement – In a small community like ours, it’s important to focus on creating opportunities that keep people here and bring new families in. Whether that’s through supporting local businesses, improving amenities, or encouraging volunteerism, strengthening community involvement is key to keeping CJ vibrant and sustainable for the future.

As far as what is going well in our community, I would have to say that we have some beautiful natural surroundings. The work that Bev Nielsen, Twyla Peters, and additional volunteers have done for our walking trails, parks, and swinging bridge is amazing. And it is great living in a community where we have volunteers like this that instill that local pride and tradition. When I moved here, I didn’t realize how significant a celebration Columbus Day was – but the event has grown over the last several years thanks to the members of the Community Club and their dedication to showing how great this community is. I believe this pride in CJ is a huge asset to this little town – we have some very dedicated people.

3. What are the most pressing issues currently facing the success of our city?

Right now, one of the most pressing issues facing our town is the impact of the Highway 92 detour. With so many heavy trucks coming through, our roads are taking a lot more wear and tear than usual. That extra traffic not only speeds up road deterioration but also puts added stress on the sewer and water systems that run under those streets. We need to start planning now for the repairs that will be necessary once the detour ends,

including looking for grants and state aid to help cover the costs and ease the financial burden on the city

4. If elected, what are the priority issues you would want to address during your term?

If elected, my top priorities would be addressing road conditions and the longevity of our water mains. With the current detour routing more traffic through town, our roadways are experiencing added wear and will deteriorate faster if we don’t stay ahead of maintenance. At the same time, repetitive water main breaks continue to disrupt daily life for residents and businesses.

I believe focusing on these core infrastructure issues is essential because they affect everyone, every day. By investing in our roads and water systems now, we not only make daily life easier and safer, but we also strengthen the long-term foundation of our community. These are the mainstays that keep CJ moving forward, and they need to be a priority.

5. One of our communities’ strengths is our diversity. What are some ways to continue to incorporate the diversity of our community.

I see many ways to incorporate diversity. We can encourage more community wide events that bring people of all backgrounds together, we can also ensure that committees, volunteer boards, and city initiatives are open to people of all ages, backgrounds, and perspectives so decisions reflect the whole community. We also should continue to invest in our public spaces, such as the parks, trails, libraries, and gathering areas – these tend to naturally bring people together.

6. Communication is very important and the perception that our council is not very transparent with community members. How can you change that perception moving forward? What are some ways to improve the communication process?

I believe leadership should be approachable. Hosting open forums, listening sessions, or informal “coffee with a council member” events would give residents the chance to share ideas and concerns directly. I also think that rather than expecting residents to always come to us, we should make an effort to attend community events, neighborhood gatherings, and school activities to hear from people where they are.

We need to make sure council agendas and meeting minutes are posted early, are easily understandable, and are readily available so that residents follow along and take an interest in what is being discussed.

Every inquiry needs thorough follow-up. It’s not enough to just listen. Residents should be able to see how their input influences decisions, whether that’s through public updates, summary reports, or follow-up discussions.

7. Can you explain where the money to fund our town comes from? What are your budget priorities?

Most of the money that runs our town comes from property taxes, utility payments like water and sewer bills, and state or federal funds we qualify for. Property taxes are the steady part, utilities should pay for themselves, and then we try to grab extra grants or special funds when we can. Those outside funds are never guaranteed, so we have to budget carefully.

My top priority is to keep up with our basic infrastructure — our roads, water, sewer, and drainage systems. If we don’t take care of those first, everything else struggles. At the same time, I want to make sure we’re supporting our small businesses because they keep our community alive. That means improving incentives for business districts, making downtown more inviting, and helping businesses access resources to grow.

I also think we need to plan ahead, not just put out fires year to year. A 3–5 year plan for projects, a savings cushion for emergencies, and communicating with the community concerning how we spend each dollar are key elements. If I’m on council, I’ll work to make sure people understand where their money goes, and that every dollar is used to strengthen the town for the future.

8. What role should the community play in supporting our school district and the education of our children?

The entire community must support our schools and kids. That could be going to games and cheering on our teams, helping with fun activities for kids and families, or volunteering as a tutor to give kids a little extra help. Even small acts — showing up at an event, spending a little time with a student, or helping out at school — make a difference. When our whole community gets involved, our kids respond and our town becomes stronger

9. How do you, as a board member, feel about negative comments from either employees or teachers about the city or school which you are employed at on Facebook for all to see?

I believe that an employee of the city or school has a responsibility to support the community — and sometimes that means standing behind decisions or initiatives he/she

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Regular Council Meeting City of Fredonia October 13, 2025 Officer Present: Mayor Sam Braden Council Members: Alexia Allison, Rob Bright, Olivia Cook, Rebecca Bean, Julie Frank. Council Absent: None Meeting was called to order by Mayor Braden at 6:00 p.m. Motioned by Cook, seconded by Frank to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motioned by Cook, seconded by Allison to approve the minutes from September 8, 2025. Motion carried. Motioned by Cook, seconded by Bean to approve the bills to be paid. Motion carried.	Motioned by Bright to accept the bid submitted by Rick Ball for park cleanup, seconded by Bean. Motion carried. Motioned by Frank, seconded by Bean to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. /s/ R. Samuel Braden, Mayor, /s/ Kristen Clark, City Clerk. City of Fredonia October 2025 Bill Disbursement General Fund Alliant Energy City Hall Utilities83.57 Hydra Communications Website Host.....235.00 Wemiga Trash & Recycle.1,289.75 SEIRPC Dues.....471.00 Visa Office Supplies.....11.99	Visa Mulch for Parks.....1,885.20 Rick Stroud Maintenance....455.40 Rick Stroud Mowing.....196.50 Columbus Gazette Publication61.50 Alexia Allison 3rd Qtr. Meetings ..64.64 Rebecca Bean 3rd Qtr. Meetings ..96.97 Sam Braden 3rd Qtr. Meetings195.59 Julie Fank 3rd Qtr. Meetings.96.97 Rob Bright 3rd Qtr. Meetings96.97 Kristen Clark Sept Wages...561.54 General Fund.....5,834.94 Sewer Fund Alliant Energy Sewer Lift Station205.46 City of Columbus Jct WW Usage & Mgmt.....1,268.20 Sharon Torres Sept Wages...581.22	IPERS PR Liabilities.....194.00 ClerkBooks, Inc. Monthly Software Contract.....64.40 Visa Postage.....234.00 R. Stroud Mowing.....26.25 IRS PR Liabilities.....759.51 IDR PR Liabilities.....92.51 Sewer Fund.....3,425.58 Road Use Alliant Energy Street Lights478.62 Road Use.....478.62 ARPA Visa Wood Steps to Deck....333.67 Rick Stroud Labor to build steps294.20 IPI Handicap Sign.....49.50 ARPA.....677.37 Total.....10,416.48 Published Wednesday, October 22, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Conesville Council Meeting 10-13-25 Meeting called to order by Mayor Tom Van Aukun at 5:30pm. Present: Mayor Tom Van Aukun Council Members: Kit Carson, Corey Clevenger, Azure Van Aukun, City Clerk: Carol Zuniga, Police Chief: Zack Murdock Absent: Cory Conaway, Carolina Izaquierre Pledge of Allegiance-Consent Agenda: Motion by Kit, 2nd by Azure to approve 9-8-25 meeting minutes. Pass 3-0 Grounds-Need sign or City building. Motion by Corey, 2nd by Kit to purchase signs for City	Shed and Lift Station for under \$200. Pass 3-0 Police- Police Chief Zack Murdock provided an update on activities. Police car is repaired. Clerk Report- Sept. deposits: Garbage-\$3060.57, Sewer-\$7493.13, Interest-\$756.58, Local Option Tax-\$4536.04, Road Use Tax-\$5162.02, Insurance Claims-\$64257.40, Community Rental-\$600.00, Tickets-\$96.00, Property Tax \$1258.23, Total Deposits: \$87219.91. Current Bills: Advanced Pest \$33.92, Alliant \$1450.41, Arthur Tax-\$900.0, A. Conaway-\$1200.00, Bells Fuel-\$275.23, Bow Tie Automotives-\$4203.60, Cedar Val-	ly Outfitters-\$174.95, City of Muscatine-\$504.00, Columbus Gazette-\$98.40, ESI-\$220.00, IPERS-\$817.33, IPI-\$288.75, IRS-\$1137.59, Overhead Door-\$1600.00, Oveson-\$3608.00, Rental Deposit returned-\$200.00, Two Rivers-\$73.00, Uniform Den-\$329.50, Windstream-\$132.54. Total Bills: \$17247.22. P a y r o l l - D . Conaway-\$234.80, C. Zuniga-\$1436.52, Mindy Conaway-\$193.37, Zack Murdock-\$1656.36. Total: \$3521.05. Motion by Azure to approve clerk report, 2nd by Kit. Pass 3-0. * Asked to order small electronics for under \$350.00. Motion by Kit, 2nd by Azure to order electronics.	Pass 3-0. Mayor- Old Business- *Discussed old Fire Station Roof-anyone have old pictures of the old City Hall/Fire Station Building? *Discussed first 2 houses for Junk Car Nuisance. Each address has 5+ cars in weeds. Motion by Kit, 2nd by Corey to send nuisance letters to 109 Washing and 209 N. Washington. Pass 3-0. *Discussion on contacting companies for mowing yards for next year. * Post Office would like to start delivering mail to City Hall. Motion by Kit, 2nd by Corey to discontinue Post Office Box as it is no longer Free. City Hall address is 102 3rd St. Pass 3-0. New Business-*Motion by	Kit, 2nd by Azure to accept the FY2025 Street Finance Report. Pass 3-0.*Motion by Kit, 2nd by Corey to approve the City Annual Financial Report for FY ending June 30th 2025. Pass 3-0. *Clerk to post 2-year accomplishments to Facebook. *Clerk to attend Muscatine County Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting #1 Oct. 23. *Halloween set for Friday, Oct. 31st from 5-8pm. Any community member can set up at City Hall. Hot Dogs and treats at City Hall! To be posted to Facebook. *Motion by Kit, 2nd by Azure to adjust Police pay and hours to \$32/hr and 24/hr week. Pass 3-0. *Web Page will be getting upgraded and done in house in next couple of weeks.	Any old picture of town would be great to include! Discussion on tree trimming ordinance, no action taken. Council Items: Mayor wants to start a Watermelon Day Committee for Next Year. First meeting Oct. 27th at 5:30pm. at City Hall. Anyone wanting to be on committee can attend but must be willing to put in some time! Make Watermelon Days bigger and better next year! Post to Facebook as well. Adjourn: Motion by Corey to adjourn at 6:40, 2nd by Kit. Pass 4-0. /s/ Tom Van Aukun, Mayor, /s/ Carol Zuniga, City Clerk. Published Wednesday, October 22, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Columbus City, Regular Council Meeting Monday, October 13, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall Call to order by Mayor Dave Kauffman at 6:00 PM Council present: Ron Cutkomp, Shelley Reed-Wulf, Devin Carrier, Marisol Madriz, Kevin Conrad Absent: Others present: Donna Mincer, City Clerk, Lynn Whaley All present recited the pledge of allegiance. Moved by Marisol Madriz and seconded by Kevin Conrad to approve the agenda. All ayes This being the time and place for the public hearing to consider the adoption of Ordinance 146 and there being proper notice published and no one present to speak in favor of or against said	ordinance; i I moved by Devin Carrier and seconded by Shelley Reed-Wulf to adopt said Ordinance 146, “Manufactured and Mobile Homes”. All ayes Moved by Devin Carrier and seconded by Kevin Conrad to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance 146, “Manufactured and Mobile Homes”. All ayes Moved by Shelley Reed-Wulf and seconded by Marisol Madriz to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025 meeting. All ayes Moved by Devin Carrier and seconded by Marisol Madriz to approve the claims for October 2025. All ayes. Clerk’s report given by Donna Mincer Moved by Ron Cutkomp and seconded by Shelley Reed-Wulf to accept the bid from Oveson	Refuse and Recycling of \$10.50 per month per house with weekly pickup for a period of three years. All ayes Moved by Marisol Madriz and seconded by Shelley Reed-Wulf to set Trick or Treat night in Columbus City for Friday, October 31, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. All ayes Moved by Marisol Madriz and seconded by Shelley Reed-Wulf to approve the building permit for House to House Investments at 2903 Water Street. All ayes Moved by Marisol Madriz and seconded by Shelley Reed-Wulf to approve the building permit for Salvino Solis at 2703 Water Street. All ayes Moved by Marisol Madriz and seconded by Shelley Reed-Wulf to approve the building permit for Agustin Solis at 2502	Chestnut Street. All ayes. Moved by Marisol Madriz and seconded by Kevin Conrad to adjourn. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m. /s/ David D. Kauffman, Mayor, /s/ Donna S. Mincer, City Clerk CLAIMS FOR October 2025 Monthly receipts Community Bank.....\$ 33485.35 PUBLIC SAFETY Columbus Junction Police Department.....\$1,293.37 TOTAL.....\$1293.37 PUBLIC WORKS Alliant-well building.....22.85 Alliant-street lights.....585.19 Iowa River Sanitation (city hall).. ..20.00 Municipal Supply-Supplies...31.00 L L Pelling-seal coating 202528552.95 Two Rivers Market-fuel.....139.00 TOTAL.....29350.99 CULTURAL/RECREATION	PS3 Enterprises-Park Porta Potty110.00 Total.....\$110.00 GENERAL GOVERNMENT Alliant-City Hall.....143.68 Mediacom-phone.....46.15 Louisa Communications-internet69.95 BretMcConahay42.25hour913.87 Bret McConahay-phone & mileage.....30.00 Donna Mincer-20 hours.....432.60 Donna Mincer-cell phone & mileage.....32.80 IPERS.....379.52 Columbus Gazette.....132.23 Mitchell Law Office.....787.60 Louisa County Solid Waste Agency.....490.00 Arthur Tax & Accounting.1430.00 TOTAL.....\$4888.40 WATER FUND City of Columbus Junction (988,000 gallons).....3408.60 Bret McConahay 42.25 hr.913.87	Donna Mincer-67.5 hours.1460.03 Tim Wilson-water operator.300.00 Southeast Iowa Drain & Excavating-meter installation.....5880.00 Badger Meters.....180.25 Postmaster.....495.00 State Hygeinic Lab.....15.50 TOTAL.....\$12653.25 SEWER FUND Alliant-Mulberry lift.....116.08 Alliant-North lift.....246.26 City of Columbus Junction (Septemrber sewer).....1775.00 Kemp & Son (hydro-vac)...775.00 Iowa River Sanitation-contract2334.00 Wemiga Waste Inc.-144 accounts858.00 Selectric-Troubleshoot and replace start float.....120.00 TOTAL.....\$6038.34 GRAND TOTAL.....\$54334.35 Published Wednesday, October 22, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette