

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 3, 2021  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met May 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Nate Long.

Linda Griffitt provided the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriations Ordinance 21- 545, 2021, Treasurer's Report – April 2021, Council Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2021, May 2021 Personnel Report. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

2020 City Audit Review with Terry Sercer was rescheduled for the May 17, 2021 Council Meeting.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Proclamations: Economic Development Week (May 9-15) and National Police Week (May 9-15).

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS-**

Vicky Bagdriwicz, Executive Director of the Columbus Housing Authority provided a report on performance for the past year. Bagdriwicz mentioned the State of Kansas has recently changed the Housing Authority's inspection protocols to Inspire standards acting as a pilot location. They offer two, three and four-bedroom units and always have a waiting list. The units are the only ones in Columbus that are income-based and are funded by HUD. They recently renovated their playground, replacing rubber mulch with artificial turf and it has been well received by the children in the complex. The Columbus Housing Authority Board meets the third Wednesday of the month, every two months. They currently have four board members.

**STAFF REPORTS –**

City Administrator Ms. Rivas presented information regarding Senate Bill 13 and House Bill 2104 and the requirements of additional hearings that might be required if the Revenue Neutral Rate exceeds the property tax of the previous year. The City will receive a new Revenue Neutral Rate from the County Clerk in June. These changes will allow the City additional time to adopt the 2022 budget, pushing the deadline back to September. Rivas mentioned she will continue to update council on these bills as more information is provided to Cities. She requested a budget planning session at the next city work session.

Chief Burton reported that the Columbus Fire Department received a \$1,000 donation from Tamko, and they have plans to use the funds for a new accountability system which will be used to assign positions and for tracking purposes when fireman arrive on the scene. He also informed the council he applied for the 2021 Wildland Grant and that fire inspections are slated to begin soon.

Jake Letner, Community Development Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing current community development projects. Letner stated that due to the increased costs for the High School street project estimating approximately 25%, we submitted an application to KDOT for the cost share program to help close the financing gap. The Columbus Land Bank has obtained two properties and just sold their first. The Exterior Home Improvement Microgrant Program accepted 11 projects that should be complete by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Letner continued to mention recent grant application submittals include the AARP Challenge Grant which could provide Columbus with Wayfinding signs, and a KDHE Solid Waste Grant for new trash/recycle bins for the parks. The new Splash Pad should be shipping out June 1<sup>st</sup>, trees have been removed and he is working on a plan for fencing. Eddington Park Trail funded by BCBS Pathways has began and should be ready for use in the next one to two months. Letner stated he is finalizing a Health and Wellness assessment funded by Pathways and is currently working on a housing analysis tool to incentivize development.

Chief Daniels discussed that the Police Department is currently down two officer positions, but they should be filled by the end of the month. Code Enforcement cited six yards last week and sent out 14 this week, most are deceased homeowners or non-residents of Columbus. Animal Control and Police Department participated in Touch-A-Truck event at the school, and he thanked the community for inviting the City to participate.

Assistant City Clerk, Erin Williams, provided a staffing update stating 16 lifeguards were going to lifeguard certification this weekend at the Pittsburg YMCA. The City is currently advertising for three additional summer laborers/mowers, a utility technician, and a sanitation collector.

Utilities Director, Scott Bennett, informed the council that Spring Clean Up would be completed this week. He mentioned the City Standpipe rehabilitation is still in the works and the parts are in the manufacturing phase; the new trash carts arrived today and will be distributed in the coming weeks. Bennett also mentioned he will be working on opening the City pool in the coming weeks.

Property & Parks Director, Randy Coble, discussed the extensive damage that has been made to City streets over the winter. Coble purchased a load of asphalt for pothole fill but mentioned the approach to filling potholes will change. Pothole repair will be from the ground up rather the continuation of filling potholes. Coble also mentioned he is meeting with County Road Supervisor Cody Zook to go over a new, more cost-effective approach to repairing streets. Coble updated Council on the new public works building stating the temporary office and new mower came in this week, and despite being short staffed, his team continues to keep up on their mowing responsibilities.

#### **NEW BUSINESS-**

##### **H. 1(A) Consider approval of sign placement at 206 & 208 N. East Ave.**

Houser moved to approve sign placement at 206 & 208 N. East Ave. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

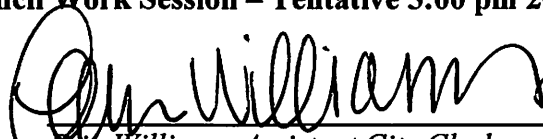
Council member Jan Houser made a mention that the City will be receiving a \$15,000 anonymous donation to be used to install restrooms at the new splash pad. These bathrooms will be located in the last two parking spots near the alley.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**Meetings:**

**Budget Planning session and City Council Work Session – Tentative 5:00 pm 2022-2025 Budget Planning Session.**

  
Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk

