

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 20, 2021
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 20, 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.

Jay Evan of Center Christian Church provided the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriations Ordinance 21- 554, September 7, 2021 council meeting minutes, and September 2021 Treasurer Report as presented. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Report –

Mayor Spieth reported several City staff attended the recent Cherokee County Economic Development Recognition Breakfast in Baxter Springs. Four area businesses were recognized at the event for their contributions the county: Derfelt Funeral Homes, Davis Real Estate, Columbus News Report and Riggs Chiropractic. Spieth noted three of the four winners have offices in Columbus.

Staff Reports –

Utility Director Scott Bennett informed council that work on the Lion’s Park water standpipe has been delayed due to weather. Maguire Iron staff hope to be able to begin work tomorrow morning. Adjoining streets may be closed to traffic for a time.

Chief of Police Jason Daniels announced the arrival of a 2019 Dodge Charger last Friday that was purchased from the Kansas Highway Patrol. Council approved the purchase of two Chargers at the April 19, 2021 meeting. Daniels noted he hoped to have the second unit by the end of the year.

Daniels informed that Police Officer Saul Farfan-Ulloa is attending the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. A virtual graduation is scheduled for Friday, October 22, more information will be available in the coming weeks.

Officers will be on hand for Friday’s football homecoming game and parade.

Cherokee County Health Department is planning their annual drive through flu clinic for Wednesday, September 29 and have asked approval to close the 100 block of East Walnut Street.

CLOSE STREET FOR FLU CLINIC

Houser moved to close the 100 Block of East Walnut Street, Wednesday, September 29, 2021 to allow the Cherokee County Health Department to conduct a drive through flu clinic. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Daniels noted he will be on vacation next week and to contact Lieutenant Justice in his absence.

Discussion ensued around the traffic cluster last Saturday morning with the beginning of the fall youth soccer season. It was noted that parking striping has begun and should help the matter once it is complete. Comments revealed the situation improved last year when police officers directed traffic to enter from Maple and exit to 20th Street.

ONE WAY TRAFFIC – *Crossland Lane*

Doherty moved to allow Crossland Lane to be limited to east to west one-way traffic on Crossland Lane from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays during soccer season. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Property/Parks Director Randy Coble announced B-3 has completed the old public works building demo. He will be working with contractors on the new concrete pad and utility work in the coming days.

The High School Street project concrete work should be finished this week with the asphalt work starting next week.

Davis Construction crews are prepping the south half of the 100 block of North Magnolia getting it ready for paving.

Rivas noted she and Coble will be looking at cemetery columbarium examples in the coming weeks.

Fire Chief Steven Burton and Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt provided information on the recent structure fire in the 100 block of North Illinois Street. It is speculated that the residents burning items in a barrel near the home is the probable cause of the fire. The State Fire Marshal's office did not investigate as the property was not covered by insurance at the time of the incident.

Community Development Coordinator Jake Letner informed council that he is looking at engineering prospects in the event the City moves forward with a stormwater study. He noted he will have information available at the next work session and asked council to consider whether they prefer a specific target area study versus a city-wide study. Storm water is one of the avenues being considered for the City's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

New Business –
None.

Old Business –
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Houser moved to go into a thirty-minute executive session at 7:01 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to discuss an employee issue with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk in attendance. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting will resume in the council chambers at 7:31 p.m.

Regular session 7:31 p.m.
No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Houser moved to go into a ten-minute executive session at 7:32 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to continue discussion of an employee issue with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk in attendance. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting will resume in the council chambers at 7:42 p.m.

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Regular session 7:42 p.m.

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Meetings:

Work Session

Monday September 27, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting

Monday October 4, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.


Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

