

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 15, 2021
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met November 15, 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.

Pastor Jim Thomas of the First Baptist Church provided the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Houser moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 21-558 and Treasurer Report – October 2021. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Report-

Mayor Spieth stated fallen Baxter Springs firefighter Malachi Brown's funeral will be 1:30 p.m. Sunday, November 21 at the Tennessee Prairie Friends Church. Mr. Brown died from complications from injuries received while responding to a structure fire last month. He acknowledged Columbus firefighters are participating in the Honor Guard and assisting with Baxter fire department coverage during this time according to Columbus Fire Chief Steven Burton.

Staff Reports-

City Administrator Daniela Rivas provided a 2021-year end budget projection report noting that this is an estimate and numbers will be trued up in January once all the expenditures have been settled. She estimated the City's unencumbered cash balance will exceed 15% of operating costs as recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association. (Full report attached.)

Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt provided a year end summary for the department. (Full report attached.)

City Administrator noted Police Chief Daniels and Officer Holt have been continuing work on the building permitting and code enforcement process and asked for council input whether to make this discussion part of the next work session or to have a special meeting just for this topic. Consensus was to have a special work session 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 14 for this topic and to discuss any city operational matters.

Property/Parks Director Randy Coble announced that the new public works building is coming along. The structure is framed and crews will be installing sheeting later this week.

Coble noted the contractor portion of the new splash pad is complete. City crews will finish up dirt work and fencing before spring.

Coble announced work on the City Welcome sign on High School Street by the Dollar Store has begun and is anticipated to be complete before the end of the year. The same contractor will be building the bathrooms at the splash pad location and at Reeves Park.

Rivas spoke about the Highschool project. She stated staff requested inspection services by PEC to be stopped effective November 12th . City staff will take over the remaining inspection days (whenever substantial completion is reached) in order to reduce the final cost of inspection to the City. Kansas Department of Commerce agrees with the decision. Rivas stated staff has reviewed the punch list and one item that remains outstanding is the lining of the new manholes. This portion of the project was pushed off by the contractor because of delays and now the subcontractor cannot complete the work until Spring 2022. We will request to Council to completely remove this item from the contract so that the City can close out this project and finalize liquidated damages. PEC reached out to the subcontractor (Mayer Specialty Services) and received a quote which is comparable to the price from Branco as a part of the High School Street project (\$31,000). PEC has also informed us that delay of this lining will not damage our new manholes in any way.

We will be bringing this change order to Council. Also, PEC is calculating any overage in days they inspected that exceeded the last supplemental agreement as well as finalizing our contract and liquidated damages with Branco to close this project out.

Utility Director Scott Bennett informed that McGuire Iron is refurbishing the water sphere at the City Park and noted work will be complete by Thanksgiving weather permitting.

New Business –

H.1.a .End of year department reports. Rivas noted she has tasked department supervisors to compile end of year reports for their respective department with presentations to council at the Monday, December 20 meeting.

H.1.b. Consider approval of City server purchase up to \$11,760.00 to be split equally between Fund 09-VIN Fund and Fund 21- Administrative Equipment Reserves. Rivas referenced information included in council packets explaining the options available for the City's computer servers. Staff recently learned of the need to upgrade servers to be compatible with meter reading and billing software systems. Rivas recommended the single server purchase noting it could supply the needs of both administration and police departments and handle the future addition of a records management system. Houser moved to approve the purchase of a computer server up to \$11,760.00 to be split equally between fund 09-VIN fund and fund 21 Administrative Equipment Reserves. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business –


Rivas was asked for the status of the Hospital Board meeting minutes request. She noted that none have been received. Rivas was directed to work with the City Attorney on the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Meetings:

Work Session – November 29, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.


Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

