

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

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Pryor moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Council Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2021, Work Session Minutes – October 25, 2021, Appropriation Ordinance 21-559, Personnel Report – November 2021 and Treasurer Report – November 2021. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Spieth opened the condemnation hearing for 121 North Illinois and asked if anyone present would like to address the council regarding the property. Seeing none, Code Officer Gary Holt provided photos of the property and report, acknowledging no substantial work has been completed. Holt added owner nor tenant have not been in contact with him since notification of the condemnation hearing. A check with the Cherokee County website shows property taxes are in arrears. Mayor Spieth closed the condemnation hearing at 6:50 p.m.

**DEMOLITION – 121 NORTH ILLINOIS**

Houser moved to proceed with demolition of property located at 121 North Illinois and allow the City Attorney to prepare resolution and the Mayor to sign. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**Mayor Report-**

Mayor Spieth read a resignation letter from Council Member Jan Houser. The document explained she and her husband have sold their home in Columbus and she will no longer qualify to serve as a member of the Council, Tonight will be her last meeting.

Spieth thanked Houser for her service and dedication to the community and welcomed her to visit any time.

**Staff Reports-**

City Administrator Daniela noted Utility Director Scott Bennett and Property/Parks Director Randy Coble are at training and unable to be at tonight's meeting. They provided updates to pass along to council:

- Water tower maintenance is complete and both towers are fully functional. Dirt work and sidewalk repair to the area are being completed by the contractor.
- Culvert on South Delaware has been repaired as requested by Council.
- Trash carts arrived today. They will be put together and delivered in the coming days.
- The High School Street project is at substantial completion. This means we can meet with PEC and Branco negotiate liquidated damages.

Rivas noted as these projects are wrapping up, bid requests will be going out in the coming weeks for upcoming CCLIP, Safe Routes to School and mill and overlay projects for 2022.

Rivas informed that City staff met today with representatives from Farmer's COOP, Spring River #19, and Rural Water District #3 to discuss providing water to the Farmer Coop Agronomy Center. Consensus is the City and RWD #3 will draft agreement noting RWD #3 will supply water to the main structure and the City of Columbus will service the surge tank and other needs.

### **New Business –**

**H.1a. Consider closing City Hall at noon on Thursday, December 23 and Thursday, December 30 in observance of Christmas and New Year's holidays.** Rivas explained that council often approves closing City offices at noon on the eves of these holidays. With the holidays falling on Saturday this year policy is to observe the holiday and close on Friday. She stated it is not typical to close on a Thursday, but it would be a nice perk for employees who may be traveling to have a head start. Houser moved to close City Hall and City offices at noon on Thursday, December 23 and Thursday, December 30 in observance of Christmas and New Year holidays. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.1b. Consider 2021 Budget Amendment and set public hearing date for 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 20, 2021.** Pryor moved to approve 2021 budget amendment and set public hearing date for 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 20, 2021. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.2a. Consider rescinding November 1 council approval to purchase a 48-niche horizontal columbarium from West Chestnut Monument and approve purchase of same through Derfelt Funeral Home, Columbus at a cost of \$13,500 to be paid from Fund 20, Capital Equipment – Cemetery Columbarium Reserves.** Rivas noted that City staff were not aware that this item could be sourced locally until after the November council meeting and apologized for the oversight. Houser moved to rescind November 1 council approval for 48-niche horizontal columbarium from West Chestnut Monument and approve purchase of same through Derfelt Funeral Home, Columbus at a cost of \$13,500 to be paid from Fund 20, Capital Equipment – Cemetery Columbarium Reserves. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.2b. Consider Ordinance 1488 updating Cemetery section of the City Code.** Pryor moved to approve Ordinance 1488 as presented updating the cemetery section of City Code. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.2c. Consider renaming Crossland Lane.** Mayor Spieth explained that the City has received a request to rename Crossland Lane. City Attorney Wright stated it would be appropriate to hold a public hearing on the matter to receive input on the topic. Houser moved to hold public hearing to consider renaming Crossland Lane at 6:45 p.m. Monday, December 20, 2021. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.3a. Consider purchase of 2010 Ford F350 from Calvin Greene in the amount of \$20,000 to be paid from Fire Capital Equipment Reserves.** Fire Chief Steven Burton informed council the department became aware of this vehicle and is requesting permission to move forward with the purchase if the unit checks out and is a good deal. Burton explained that when looking at used vehicles for the department he often misses opportunities due to the time constraint of coming to council for approval. Doherty moved to allow Fire Chief to purchase 2010 Ford F350 in the amount of \$20,000 to be paid from Fire Capital Equipment Reserves. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.4a. Consider Utility Director temporary expenditure authority up to \$45,000 to purchase a new vehicle for the sewer department to replace 2004 Chevy one ton, to be paid from Public Works Reserve Fund/Animal Control shelter re-allocation.** Houser moved to approve Utility Director temporary spending authority up to \$45,000 to purchase a new vehicle for the sewer department to replace 2004 Chevy one ton, to be paid from Public Works Reserve Fund/Animal Control shelter re-allocation. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.4b. Consider Property/Parks Director temporary expenditure authority up to \$50,000 to purchase two public works vehicles to replace blue 2000 Ford F-150 and Silver 2010 Ford F-150 to be paid from Public Works Reserve Fund/Animal Control shelter re-allocation.** Pryor moved to approve Property/Parks Director temporary spending authority up to \$50,000 to purchase two public works vehicles to replace blue 2000 Ford F-150 and Silver 2010 Ford F-150 to be paid from Public Works Reserve Fund/Animal Control shelter re-allocation. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**H.4c. Consider Butch Burriss bid for curb removal and reconstruction on the east and west sides of 200 South Pennsylvania and three patch repairs on the square in front of Los Lunas, The News Report and Evans Drug in the amount of \$14,916 to be paid from Street Reserves.** Houser moved to approve Butch Burriss bid for curb removal and reconstruction on the east and west sides of 200 South Pennsylvania and three patch repairs on the square in front of Los Lunas, The News Report and Evans Drug in the amount of \$14,916 to be paid from Street Reserves. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**Old Business –**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**Meetings:**

**Christmas Party**


**Monday, December 13, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Special Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 14, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**City Council Meeting**

**Monday, December 20, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.**

  
Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

