

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 6, 2022  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members absent: Stephanie Farstvedt.

Paul Jaeger representing Center Christian Church provided the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING**

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing was opened at 6:32 p.m. for the purpose of exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate and giving taxpayers an opportunity to comment on the budget.

Pryor moved to approve Resolution No. 635, levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the 2023 budget. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing was closed at 6:34 p.m.

**2023 CITY BUDGET HEARING**

The 2023 City Budget Hearing was opened at 6:34 p.m. for the purpose of giving taxpayers an opportunity to comment on the budget prior to the budget adoption.

The 2023 City Budget Hearing closed at 6:36 p.m.

Doherty moved to approve the 2023 budget as published with a mill levy of 60.321 mills for the City's General Fund, Employee Benefits Fund and the Library Fund. The Recreation Commission intends to levy 1.5 mills, which will be collected by the City and conveyed to the Recreation Commission. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Spieth stated that Resolution No. 633 was going to be removed from the consent agenda and would be considered separately after the awards and presentations.

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 22-580, Council Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2022, Work Session Minutes – August 22, 2022, Treasurer Report – August 31 and Quarterly Report, Municipal Court Docket Summary – August 22, 2022, August 2022 Personnel Report, Resolution No. 630 – Adopting Personnel Handbook Article XI – Discipline and Separations, Resolution No. 631 – Adopting Personnel Handbook Article IX – Leave Provisions, Resolution No. 632 – Adopting Personnel Handbook Article X – Holidays, Resolution No. 634 – Forfeiting Water Line to USD 493. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Susan Schultz asked Council for permission to host a Suicide Prevention Awareness Community Walk on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 pm. The walk would begin at the Cherokee County Courthouse fountain, go to High School Street, and then return to the Courthouse fountain utilizing City sidewalks. Schultz stated she participated in a similar walk in Pittsburg last year and would like the opportunity to bring awareness by walking and representing lost loved ones in our own community. Doherty asked that she contact the VFW to represent lost veterans and Opela asked if this would be an annual event. Schultz stated she would like for it to grow and continue each year as this offers a unique opportunity to meet other survivors and a time to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental illness have affected our lives and our loved ones. Opela said it is a great for awareness and healing.

Opela moved to approve the Annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Community Walk. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

## **Mayor Report-**

Mayor Spieth stated he was asked by the commissioners if the City would approve another five years of the Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, as it is set to expire at the end of this year. City Administrator, Jake Letner, stated that the program was increasing in popularity. Opela and Pryor stated they support the extension as it is a good incentive.

## **Awards and Presentations-**

Mayor Spieth presented a Years of Service Award to Utility Billing Clerk, Kelly Wells who has been with the City for 10 years. He thanked Mrs. Wells for her dedication and service to the citizens of Columbus.

## **Staff Reports-**

Police Chief, Jason Daniels, provided the council with an Animal Shelter update, as the renovations are almost complete. The updates that were made were based on the recommendations of Dr. Gregory. Updates were made to the fence, adding a restroom/washroom area, they placed Astro turf and rock which will allow easier maintenance to treat parvo.

Daniels also provided details of the barbeque competition the Police Department is hosting for Columbus Days including the judges for the competition will be Judge Bullard, Mayor Spieth, Amy Ross, and Robert Myers. He also provided an update from the closing of the street for football games stating there was no negative feedback.

Property and Parks Director, Randy Coble, informed council that he purchased a vinyl cutter to give him the ability to produce street signs at a reduced rate. Opela asked if he was redoing the City flags, he informed council the City didn't own the artwork to the flags so he had them redone so we could also get them at a lower cost.

Letner updated council on the CCLIP project, stating the project was complete with only a few details needing to be repaired. He informed the council that the new public works building was coming along,

and he was planning to have an open house with a target date of Thanksgiving. He also stated the Splash Pad was closed for the year.

#### **New Business –**

**Consider approval of Personnel Handbook Article XVII – Travel Policy.** Opela moved to approve Personnel Handbook Article XVII – Travel Policy. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**Consider approval of Resolution 633 – Adopting Personnel Handbook Article XVII – Travel Policy.** Opela moved to approve Resolution 633 – Adopting Personnel Handbook Article XVII – Travel Policy. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**J.1.A. Select two LKM business meeting voting delegates and one alternate to represent Columbus on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at the annual LKM conference.** Opela moved to approve Mayor Grant Spieth and City Administrator Jake Letner as voting delegates, and Councilmember Lindsay Shoemaker as the alternate voting delegate for the 2022 LKM annual conference on Monday, October 10th. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Shoemaker. Motion carried 3-0-1.

**J.1.B. Consider Commercial Rehabilitation Grant Application – Maple Uncommon.** Pryor moved to approve the Commercial Rehabilitation Grant Application for Maple Uncommon as presented. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Community Development Coordinator, Jacob Spencer, stated that Laura Green the owner of Maple Uncommon was unable to provide the required two itemized like bids due to the contractors not willing to itemized the bids. Council agreed to accept the bids as is.

**J.5.C. Consider Ordinance No. 1502 – Sanitation Rate Increases.** Opela moved to approve Ordinance No. 1502, authorizing Sanitation Rate Increases. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Utilities Director, Zachary Davis, informed council that Republic Services was raising our rates so we would need to pass that increase onto the customers. The increase estimation is around \$0.50 for residents with a poly cart and \$2.00 for residents with a dumpster. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**J.5.D. Consider Allgeier, Martin, and Associates Proposal – Sewer Line Capacity Evaluation.** Utilities Director, Zachary Davis provided council with an update of the sewer line they have been testing. He stated that his crew borrowed the tanker truck from the Fire Department and filled it with red-dye tablets and ran the water through a two-inch hose. Six to seven hundred gallons of water were emptied into the main and the water began to backup. This leads him to believe that the main is either plugged or has a large amount of debris blocking the flow. He recommended to postpone the study until they can further test this section. He plans to borrow a larger jet rodder from a surrounding community to see if they can find anything else first. Doherty questioned if this line was a part of an old sewer plant that was located behind the COOP. He also stated that when they used the camera in the line it went about 15-feet in and then it got to a dark hole. They discontinued going further so they

would not potentially lose the camera. Mayor Spieth agreed that it was best to wait on the study. Opela stated the more information we have the better off we will be to have this resolved by Spring.

**Old Business-**

Mayor Spieth stated that the sidewalk by Oz's and Hammer High still has not been replaced after they took it out over six to eight weeks ago. He also mentioned that the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree took out part of a sidewalk adjacent to Walnut and it ends at rock now. He stated they also have not finished striping the road for parking. City Attorney, Barbara Wright, reminded council that they were granted use only of the easement not ownership. Coble stated that depending on what the agreement said the City could stripe the area.

Pryor asked when the sidewalk project on Country Road would begin. Letner stated it was set to begin next year pending on cooperation with the railroad and the eminent domain proceedings that have begun. The appraisers are currently determining the value of the easement, but if the property owners don't agree the case will go to trial at District Court.

**ADJOURNMENT**


Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**Meetings:**

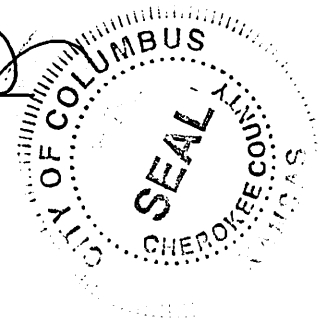
**Columbus PRIDE meeting- September 13, 2022, Noon.**

**City Council Meeting – September 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

**City Council Work Session – September 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**



*Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk*



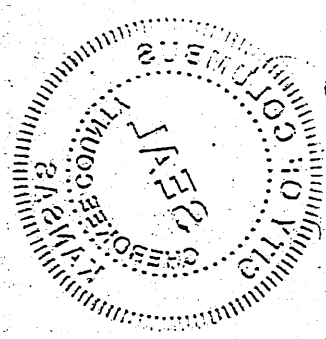
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