

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 17, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members absent: None.

Toni Spieth representing the First Presbyterian Church of Joplin, Missouri provided the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spieth asked for a motion to remove item H1B. Consideration of Ordinance 1506 adopting the LKM Fourth Edition Code of Procedures for Kansas Cities noting not all of the council members have had the opportunity to review the booklet. The ordinance will be introduced at a later date.

Pryor moved to remove item H1B. considering ordinance 1506 from the January 17, 2023 council agenda. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriations Ordinance 22-590, Appropriations Ordinance 23-591, Council Minutes – November 7, 2022, Council Minutes – November 21, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2022, Municipal Court Docket Summary – January 9, 2023, and Treasurer’s Report – January 13, 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Christy House approached the council with concerns about a recent encounter with the police department. Police Chief Jason Daniels was out of town for training and not in attendance. Ms. House’s information was collected for the Chief of Police to contact her regarding the matter when he returns.

Mayor Spieth read a letter from Wes Houser noting his resignation from Columbus Land Bank board. Mr. Houser indicated he has moved from the area and feels the board would be better served by someone in the community. Spieth noted the Land Bank is instrumental in returning properties to the tax rolls.

Mayor Spieth informed council members of training opportunities through LKM (League of Kansas Municipalities). He advised that some of these are virtual trainings that can be viewed at your convenience once you are registered.

Staff Reports-

City Clerk Report -

- offered to register council members for the LKM training opportunities mentioned by Mayor Spieth adding that the City will cover the registration fee.
- noted preliminary interviews with city clerk applicants began this week. Successful candidates will advance to the next round, interviewing with the council.
- advised that the utility bill transition to postcards is still in the works. It is taking much longer than anticipated to bring this project about.

Police Chief Report –

- Lieutenant Dave Justice informed that Chief Daniels and Sergeant Clark are at training.
- Square9 records management set up continues.

Fire Chief Report -

- No report.

Community Development Coordinator Report-

- CDRR (Chronic Disease Risk Reduction) site visit. Working with Larry Hiatt for two of his business locations to take part in the indoor tobacco cessation program. The goal is to have three local businesses participate.
- working with Betha Elliott at the Health Department to locate participants to complete the KaTCH (Kansas Tobacco Cessation Help) online modules. KaTCH is an online training program that informs participants of the dangers associated with using various types of commercial tobacco products. This is one of the requirements of the CDRR grant.
- working on mid-year CDRR financial and Pathways reporting requirements.
- attending quarterly Pathways meeting on Friday.
- I will be out of the office next Tuesday – Thursday for CDRR conference, Kansas Community Health Promotions Summit.

Superintendent Report –

- first day back for Kenny Mitchell. The sanitation department is fully staffed.
- shelving is in and staff have been organizing materials in the new Public Works building.
- met with County representatives today, county trucks will help haul rock for the stormwater project on West Country Road. The rock is coming from the Owens Corning Plant at no cost to the City.

City Administrator -

- noted preliminary interviews with City Clerk applicants will wrap up on Thursday. Letner suggested a special meeting on Monday, January 23 for those candidates moving to the next round to interview with the council. This could take the place of a work session.
- toured Community Building last week to prioritize needs. A remodel list will be provided at a future meeting. The budget is limited, and we will not be able to fix everything, however it will be a step in the right direction.
- End of year report planned for March once the books are closed, with 2022 audit and 2024 budget preparations following.

New Business-

H.1A. Consider Ordinance 1505 updating Mayoral duties and business category appointments. City Attorney Barbara Wright pointed out the only change to the previous ordinance is adding the provision for a second council member appointment to each business category and allowing the Mayor to make the appointment. Pryor moved to approve Ordinance 1505 updating Mayoral duties and business category appointments. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

H1C. Consider Charter Ordinance 1504 revising the hiring process for non-appointed officers and employees. Mayor Spieth noted this ordinance was not properly passed at the January 3 council meeting. According to statute, a charter ordinance must pass by a two-thirds vote of the entire Governing Body and not just a simple majority like a regular ordinance. The Mayor as part of the Governing Body has a vote

on a charter ordinance. Nothing in original document changed, it is being readdressed due to the vote. Doherty moved to approve Charter Ordinance 1504 revising the hiring process for non-appointed officers and employees. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Letner informed council that there will be a kickoff meeting with the engineering firm on Friday for the city's stormwater project.

H5A.City Foreman position. Council Member Tom Pryor stated three candidates were interviewed on Monday, January 9 for the opportunity by a committee of Pryor, Council member Doherty, Administrator Letner, Superintendent Coble, and Assistant City Clerk Erin Williams. It was a unanimous decision that Rogers was the best candidate for the position. Justin has more than five years of public works experience with the City of Columbus, has extensive knowledge of the city's utility system and has established a solid rapport with management and coworkers. Pryor moved to approve a conditional offer of employment as the City Foreman to Justin Rogers with a starting salary of \$21.48 per hour. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

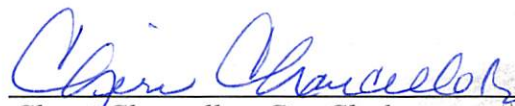
ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Upcoming Events:

Council Meeting

Monday February 7, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.


Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

