

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 21, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met February 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt (7:12 p.m.) Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members absent: None.

Kathy Doherty provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 23-594, Council Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2023, Municipal Court Docket Summary – February 13, 2023, Treasurer’s Report – February 16, 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Report-

Mayor Spieth made 2023 Business Category vice chair appointments of Administrative – Tom Pryor and Kathy Doherty; City Property – Lindsay Shoemaker & Stephanie Farstvedt; Emergency Response – Open, Tom Pryor; Streets/Alleys/Bridges/Stormwater – Kathy Doherty, Lindsay Shoemaker; Public Works – Stephanie Farstvedt, Open.

COUNCIL BUSINESS CATEGORY VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS

Pryor moved to approve the Mayor’s 2023 Council Business Category Vice Chair Representative appointments of Administrative – Tom Pryor and Kathy Doherty; City Property – Lindsay Shoemaker & Stephanie Farstvedt; Emergency Response – Open, Tom Pryor; Streets/Alleys/Bridges/Stormwater – Kathy Doherty, Lindsay Shoemaker; Public Works – Stephanie Farstvedt, Open. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Staff Reports-

City Administrator Report -

- Check out LKM Community Profile video on the City’s Facebook page which highlights Columbus.
- Met with Wallace Wilson with Ryan Insurance and had a good report with no high increase. He will be in person at the March 6th Council Meeting.
- Wrapped up 2022 financials, will present end of year financial report at the next meeting.

Assistant City Clerk Report –

-Discussed the vacant position in Public Works it was advertised as a Maintenance Worker and has been open for around a month. Only a handful of applications have been received HR & Superintendent feel it would be more beneficial to update the Parks Specialist job description to reflect a more mechanically inclined position. Together will work on a new job description for a Maintenance Worker II to be in line with the other Public Works titles, and present to council at the next meeting.

Police Chief Report –

-Had privilege of escorting the Titan girls wrestling team out of town as they left for the State Wrestling Tournament in Salina, KS.

Fire Chief Report –

-Nothing to report.

Superintendent Report -

-Bid letting for Phase 2 of Safe Routes To School project with KDOT was held on February 15th, KDOT selected Mission Construction for the project with the bid totaling \$493,441.75. Mission Construction also completed our curbs/sidewalks on the High School Street project.

-Bone Creek water usage was lower than usual this month only totaling 750,000 gallons of water.

-Water leak on Monday due to the gas company hitting a ¾ inch line.

New Business –

G.1.A. Consider Tax Abatement Application from Crossland Construction Company.

Shoemaker moved to approve the Tax Abatement Application from Crossland Construction Company. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Jim Dahmen & Ray Barnaby attended the meeting to inform the council of the project scope, adding 10,000 sq ft to the Crossland Building to house large equipment to make concrete panels on site and create 10-15 jobs.

G.1.B. Consider Resolution 639, a Resolution of Intent for the Issuance of Industrial Revenue Bonds for Crossland Construction. Pryor moved to approve Resolution 639, a resolution of Intent for the Issuance of Industrial Revenue Bonds for Crossland Construction. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Dahmen further explained the process needed for the project as the bond expert for Crossland, also requesting the City use Philip Wolfe as the bond underwriting attorney for the project. Next steps needed would be to pass a non-binding resolution of intent recognizing the project as Economic Development. The project would utilize taxable IRB's (Industrial Revenue Bonds) which are taxable by the IRS. Mr. Barnaby spoke to the mill rate not affecting the project and requested the City to follow the current policy outlined in Resolution 612. Letner discussed next steps which include a Cost/Benefit Analysis which he suggested to be conducted by GreenBush and contacting Mr. Wolfe to begin the bond underwriting process.

G.1.C. Consider removal of former City Clerk, Cherri Chancellor from Accounts Payable, Payroll, Checking Accounts and Visa Credit Card Account and add City Clerk, Ruth Hutley.

Pryor moved to remove former City Clerk, Cherri Chancellor from Accounts Payable, Payroll, Checking Accounts and Visa Credit Card Account and add City Clerk, Ruth Hutley. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

G.2.A. Discussion of Ordinance of 1405 – Animals Kept Within the City. Letner informed council that this discussion came at the request of Doherty who cited residents contacted her regarding wanting to be able to have chickens due to the rising costs of eggs. Mayor Spieth stated that the current Ordinance reflects 25-26 grandfathered properties in the City. These properties are allowed a maximum of six chickens and are subject to a \$25 annual registration fee and a completed chicken

inspection. Chief Daniels discussed the difficulty of enforcing chickens, access to properties would be needed and any loose chickens would have to be picked up by animal control and taken to a veterinarian's office to be housed which would increase fees. Council asked for the discussion to be continued at the next work session.

G.3.A. Consider giving Police Chief temporary expenditure authority up to \$25,000 to purchase a police vehicle from the Kansas Highway Patrol to be paid out of Reserve Funds. Daniels spoke to trading out current vehicles to self-sustain the departments fleet. He proposed waiting until a specific vehicle was located to allow for the specific total before getting council approval.

G.3.B. Consider Resolution 638, a Condemnation Hearing for 1212 W. Maple St. Code Enforcement Officer, Gary Holt, informed council that he was waiting on information back from the Register of Deeds regarding a possible lien on the property. City Attorney, Barbara Wright, recommended waiting for confirmation before moving forward.

G.3.C. Consider purchase of extrication tools from Rescue Specialists in the amount of \$32,420.00 to be paid from Fire Department – Equipment Replacement Reserves. Shoemaker moved to approve the purchase of three extrication tools from Rescue Specialists in the amount of \$32,420.00 to be paid from Fire Department – Equipment Replacement Reserves. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Chief, Steven Burton, discussed the need for the purchase of the three extrication tools to replace the existing tools. The purchase would be a 20–25-year investment as the new tools offers a “forever” warranty. The three tools requested are a spreader, a cutter, and a ram. After this purchase the fund will have around \$15,000 remaining and he plans to continue adding to it and trying to obtain grants for future projects.

G.4.A. Consider Storm Water and SSES Evaluation Agreement with BG Consultants. Pryor moved to approve the Storm Water and SSES Evaluation Agreement with BG Consultants in the amount of \$141,225.00 to be paid from ARPA Funds. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Letner discussed the updated proposal which split the difference of Option 1 & Option 2 that were provided at the work session. This option allows the City to get more CCTV footage which will allow the City to apply for CDBG grants in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried (4-0).

Upcoming Events:

City Council Meeting - Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.


Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk

