

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
March 14, 2022
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members absent: None.

Mayor Spieth called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A.1 Community Development Coordinator, Jake Letner, spoke to council regarding two properties that are attempting to be donated to the Columbus Land Bank. Letner asked the council to consider waiving any and all special assessments against the properties located at 422 West Sycamore and 416 South Florida providing they are donated to the Columbus Land Bank. If the properties are unable to be donated, they will be on the list of properties for the next Cherokee County tax sale.

Property & Parks Director, Randy Coble, provided an update for the council regarding the disc golf course. After meeting with the Saddle Club and the American Legion, the City is no longer able to use the Saddle Clubs land for the disc golf course. The Saddle Club has a 99-year lease on the land and due to the liability issues that the disc golf course could pose, they requested the disc golf tees and baskets be removed. Mayor Spieth stated that going forward all baskets being installed on private property will require prior written consent. Councilmembers Doherty and Opela both offered suggestions on other locations to move the baskets to, Coble stated more information will follow once he has had an opportunity to meet with the disc golf club.

Opela called for a five-minute executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel regarding a disciplinary matter with the Council, City Attorney and Police Chief, Jason Daniels in attendance. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, and Shoemaker. Voting Nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 6:45 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 6:45 p.m.

No action taken.

D.1 Coble announced that the High School Street project was complete except for the sidewalk crossing over the railroad tracks. He stated he has been in contact with Rail Pros who will be the engineer for this project to help and assess the construction costs to finish the sidewalk. Coble asked the council to consider allocating \$15,000 of City ARPA funds for the project. Pryor questioned why Watco was not providing the specs and engineering since this is over their railroad. Coble explained he was referred to Rail Pros by Watco as a means to receive the construction cost estimate, Watco stated they are not responsible for the fees associated with this project.

Mayor Spieth asked Letner to check our contract for the SRTS project to ensure completion around the railroad was included to avoid the city being in the same position again. Letner stated he will check with SRTS tomorrow and provide council with an update at the next meeting. Interim City Administrator, Cherri Chancellor, stated the SEKRPC was in the office today auditing the CDBG grant

files for the Hight School Street project and she would reach out to see why this portion was not included in the original grant.

Utilities Director, Scott Bennett, informed the council that all the manhole repairs were completed on High School Street. Mayor Spieth added that hopefully the grass will begin to grow soon.

Opela called for a forty five-minute executive session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for the purpose of interviewing for the City Administrator position with the Council, City Attorney, and Interim City Administrator in attendance. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Meeting to reconvene at 7:45 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 7:45 p.m.
No action taken.

Shoemaker called for a forty five-minute executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for the purpose of interviewing for the City Administrator position with the Council, City Attorney, and Interim City Administrator in attendance. Doherty seconded the motion. Meeting to reconvene at 8:45 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 8:45 p.m.
No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.


Meetings:

Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

Council Meeting

Monday, March 21, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.


Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk

