

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 21, 2022  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 21, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members absent: None.

Jeremy Huser of St. Rosa Lima Catholic Church provided the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Council Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2022, Work Session Minutes – February 28, 2022, Work Session Minutes – March 14, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2022, Appropriation Ordinance 22-569. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Mayor Report-**

**Columbus Housing Appointment – Anita Davolt**

Doherty moved to appoint Anita Davolt to the Columbus Housing Board for a four-year term. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Opela posed the question of what this board did, Mayor Spieth informed the council that they manage the apartments to the East of Central School. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Spieth presented a Years of Service Award to Lieutenant Dave Justice who has been with the Columbus Police Department for 5 years. He thanked Lt. Justice for his dedication and service to protecting and serving the citizens of Columbus.

Mayor Spieth read a proclamation to honor Volunteer Appreciation Month and acknowledging April as Volunteer Appreciation Month.

**Staff Reports-**

Interim City Administrator, Cherri Chancellor, reminded council of the Legislative Breakfast on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and passed on the thank you received from the City's sponsorship of the Cherokee County Youth Entrepreneur Fair.

## **New Business-**

### **H.1.A. Consider waiving City special assessments for 422 West Sycamore and 416 South Florida properties providing, they are donated to the Columbus Land Bank.**

Opela moved to waive the City special assessments for 422 West Sycamore and 416 South Florida properties providing, they are donated to the Columbus Land Bank. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **H.3.A. Consider approval of purchasing used Kansas Highway Patrol 2018 Dodge Charger police vehicle totaling \$21,100.00 to be paid out of Reserve Funds.**

Opela moved to approve the purchase of used Kansas Highway Patrol 2018 Dodge Charger police vehicle totaling \$21,100.00 to be paid out of Police Reserve Funds. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Daniels informed the council that this vehicle became available to him today after being on the waiting list for only a month. The vehicle is fully equipped except for a police radio and radar which will be installed, and the vehicle is still covered under warranty. Discussion centered around remaining funds and future police vehicle purchases. Chief Daniels stated that the 2014 & 2015 Ford Taurus' currently in the department have over 100,000 miles and have a reoccurring headlight issue that is depleting the police department maintenance budget. His goal is to replace the two Ford vehicles in the department this year and then begin rotating out the current Dodge Chargers with newer Chargers. Pryor asked how many miles were on the new vehicle and Daniels stated just under 50,000 miles, and that it was white.

### **H.4.A. Consider allocating \$15,000 of City ARPA funds for RailPros engineering of sidewalk crossing over WATCO railroad tracks on North High School Street.**

Coble informed council that Cherri was able to get in contact with Shavon Morgan with PEC, and our engineer Tim was out of office until today, he stated they were following up with him tomorrow at 11 and that for now he would like to withdraw the request until they receive a clear answer of why this was not included in the original plan. Chancellor added that we would have answers by the next work session, Doherty agreed that it should wait.

Doherty asked when the stormwater analysis would be completed, Letner announced he had spoken with FEMA and that they are still running around two weeks to a month behind on distributing funds and once we receive them, we can begin putting together an RFP. His estimate is that it would take place sometime this summer for Wards 2-4.

Shoemaker called for a 30-minute executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for City Administrator candidate review and discussion with the Council, City Attorney, and Interim City Administrator in attendance. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 7:20 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 7:20 p.m.

No action taken.

Shoemaker called for a 20-minute executive session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for City Administrator candidate review and discussion with the Council, City Attorney, and Interim City Administrator in attendance. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 7:40 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 7:40 p.m.  
No action taken.

Pryor moved to extend the offer of City Administrator to Jake Letner. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Spieth will contact Mr. Letner after meeting with City Attorney, Barbara Wright, to draft the contract.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Meetings:**

##### **Work Session**

**Monday, March 28, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.**

##### **Council Meeting**

**Monday, April 4, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.**



*Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk*

