

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 16, 2022  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met May 16, 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.

Council Member Tom Pryor provided the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT REVISED AGENDA**

Mayor Grant Spieth noted a new agenda was placed on the desks adding a mill and overlay agreement request. He asked for a motion to adopt the revised agenda. Farstvedt moved to adopt revised 5/16 meeting agenda. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Spieth opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. to address the close out of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project for High School Street. Carey Spoon of Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) approached the council and stated the purpose of the public hearing is to evaluate the performance of Grant No. 20-PF-004 which was street improvements located on High School Street from the north side of Maple Street to 100-feet south of US 160. This project consisted of reconstructing the existing two-lane street with asphalt pavement, concrete curb and gutter and new concrete driveway approaches, concrete surfacing for valley gutters, handicap access ramp, driveway entrances and any necessary traffic/street signs. Additional items included the installation of curb inlets/junction boxes tied together with Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) and outlet into existing storm sewers and /or drainage ditches adjacent to the project. The completed project accomplished the same. This grant was funded, all or in part, from the Kansas Department of Commerce, Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. All aspects of the grant will be discussed, and oral and written comments will be recorded and become a part of the City of Columbus CDBG Citizen Participation Plan.

Spieth asked for additional comments. Seeing none he requested a motion to close the High School Street CDBG project.

**CLOSE HIGH SCHOOL STREET CDBG PROJECT**

Doherty moved to close the High School Street CDBG project. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Spieth closed the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Council Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2022, Work Session Minutes – May 9, 2022, Appropriation Ordinance #22-573 and Treasurer Report – May

16, 2022. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Terry Sercer, CPA representing Diehl, Banwart, Bolton accounting firm addressed the council with findings from the 2021 City audit. Mr. Sercer informed the Governing Body that the City received an unqualified opinion in accordance with regulatory basis of accounting which is an accounting that is designed to show compliance to Kansas Statutes. He also commented that Columbus has healthy cash and reserve balances which is important He recommends having two to three months of expenses on hand. Sercer pointed out the City exceeded budget authority in four funds and recommended looking closely at numbers in late November, early December and amending the budget if needed to avoid a budget violation. Sercer commented that review of receipts showed the expenditures were proper and valid and that the City was never in jeopardy as expenditures did not exceed revenue, only budget authority.

**Mayor Report-** None.

**Staff Reports-** None.

## **New Business-**

**H.1.A. Consider 2022 pool passes for City employees.** City Administrator Jake Letner noted this is a fringe benefit typically approved annually by council for city employees. He added this item could be included in the employee benefit section of the employee handbook which is under revision so as not to have to address the matter every year. Pryor moved to approve 2022 swimming pool passes for full-time, part-time city employees, volunteer firefighters, reserve police officers, seasonal employees and their immediate families. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**H.4.A. Consider sidewalk reimbursement application for 615 South Kansas Street.** Letner noted based on discussion from the last meeting we are bringing back the sidewalk replacement program. The application is included in the packet. He included that the previous program provided for a 75% reimbursement of the low bid. Discussion centered on like bid requirement. Pryor moved to approve sidewalk application for 615 South Kansas Street and \$5,415 bid for 75% reimbursement. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Opela. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Council reviewed and APAC paving agreement for the 2022 paving project. Coble noted we cannot get on their schedule until we submit a signed contract. Discussion centered around added costs due to rising fuel prices and bond/insurance coverage. It was noted insurance and bond stipulations were included in the request for proposal. The planned project consists of two parts:

Project 1 is the mill and overlay of the 100-300 blocks of South Washington, the 100-500 blocks of West Oak, the 500-700 blocks of West Walnut, the 100-300 blocks of South Minnesota, the 100-400 blocks of North Vermont and the intersection of Vermont and Country Road to tie into the Safe Routes to School project

Project 2 is the mill and overlay with concrete drain flume installation of the 900 block of East Sycamore to tie in to the CCLIP project.

Heckert and Bettis Asphalt were the other two bidders on the project.

**H.5.A. Consider Ordinance 1497 providing due process policy for the sanitation polycart program.** City Attorney Barbara Wright noted this will add a due process provision to the penalty phase of the violation section of the polycart program. Letner noted staff are working with residents and compliance with the program is increasing. Doherty moved to approve Ordinance 1497 providing due process policy for the sanitation polycart program. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Reminder of the H&H Splash Pad Grand Opening this Friday from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Come out and enjoy the festivities.

Pool opening June 4 due to accommodate staffing shortage.

**ADJOURNMENT**


Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Meetings:**

**Splash Pad Grand Opening**  
**Friday, May 20, 2022 from 4-7 p.m.**

**Work Session**  
**Monday, May 23, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Council Meeting**  
**Monday, June 6, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.**

  
Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

