

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

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met June 6, 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.

Linda Howard of Camp Joy Ministries provided the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Council Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022, Appropriation Ordinance #22-574, Personnel Report – May 2022, Treasurer Report – May 31, 2022. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

Wylie Sanders of 802 S. Park addressed the council regarding a sanitary sewer concern with increase of rain flow recently. He stated his field is at the low point of our sewer system and sewage is being deposited into his field as a result. When these overflows occur it impacts his household being able to shower, wash dishes and makes things challenging. He stated he has been working with City Administrator, Jake Letner, and Utilities Director, Scott Bennett but is hoping to get things corrected more quickly.

Bennett informed the council he contacted PEC last week for assistance in locating where the infiltration is coming from. Letner stated he went and walked Mr. Sanders property line and believes the problem is where Country Road extends to Park. He stated he is committed to making this better and they reached out to PEC as they have fixed Inflow & Infiltration for the city before and hopes they may have some answers. Council asked Bennett when he could begin working on the issue and he stated that until the ground dries out, he can't get his equipment to the location which he believes is between the lift station and Mr. Sanders property. Mayor Spieth stated that Mr. Bennett could start on Country Road, and that we have to start somewhere. City Attorney, Barbara Wright, reminded Mr. Bennett that this area had been worked on before. Bennett stated he believed only point repairs were done in this area, and PEC has these records. Wright stated we needed the old and new lines on the maps to determine what had been completed. Pryor asked for an update on the issue by the upcoming work session on Monday, June 13, 2022. Mayor Spieth informed Mr. Sanders that Mr. Letner would be in contact with him to provide an update soon.

Mayor Report-

Mayor Spieth appointed Jake Letner to the Cherokee County Economic Development Board.

CHEROKEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD – *Jake Letner*

Shoemaker moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Jake Letner to the Cherokee County Economic Development Board. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carries 5-0.

Mayor Spieth appointed Matt Ross, Jennifer Thompson, and Wes Houser to Land Bank Board of Trustees. Seats 1 & 3 (Matt Ross & Jennifer Thompson) will serve a 3-year term expiring on 06/30/2025. Seat 4 (Wes Houser) will serve a 2-year term, expiring 06/30/2024.

LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES – *Matt Ross, Jennifer Thompson & Wes Houser*

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Matt Ross, Jennifer Thompson and Wes Houser to the Land Bank Board of Trustees. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carries 5-0.

Mayor Spieth appointed Doug Dardenne and Jared Jenkins as Columbus Volunteer Fire Fighters.

COLUMBUS VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS– *Doug Dardenne & Jared Jenkins*

Doherty moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Doug Dardenne and Jared Jenkins as Columbus Volunteer Fire Fighters. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carries 5-0.

Mayor Spieth appointed John Bullard as the Municipal Judge.

MUNICIPAL JUDGE – *John Bullard*

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of John Bullard as the Municipal Judge. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carries 5-0.

Mayor Spieth appointed Barbara Wright as the City Attorney.

CITY ATTORNEY – *Barbara Wright*

Farstvedt moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Barbara Wright as the City Attorney. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carries 5-0.

Mayor Spieth appointed Barbara Wright as the City Prosecutor.

CITY PROSECUTOR – *Barbara Wright*

Pryor moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Barbara Wright as the City Prosecutor. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: Doherty, Opela. Motion carries 3-2.

Staff Reports-

Chief Daniels informed the council that he is going to Topeka tomorrow to pick up the 2020 Dodge Charger that was purchased from the Kansas Highway Patrol, and he and Chief Burton would be in Joplin on Wednesday to attend an area meeting for Emergency Management. Friday Chief Daniels, Letner and Cherokee County Sherriff, David Groves, are meeting with school officials regarding active shooter prevention for the upcoming school year. Mayor Spieth questioned if the County provided resource officers for the schools. Chief Daniels stated that there was one officer for all of the schools. Mayor Spieth thanked Chief Burton and Chief Daniels for volunteering to attend the meeting in Joplin.

Property & Parks Director, Randy Coble, updated council on the CCLIP project, stating milling should begin by next Monday. Mayor Spieth also asked for an update on the Public Works building. Coble stated he was optimistic, dry wall is up, ceiling tiles in, they poured the pad for the HVAC, doors were ordered, and flooring has been purchased. Thomas with Kiss Tech will be on site by the end of the week to work on IT.

New Business-

H.1.A. Consider Resolution 625, Creating a Rural Housing Incentive District on Powrachute Way. Pryor moved to adopt Resolution 625, creating a Rural Housing Incentive District on Powrachute Way. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Spieth requested that the Executive Sessions be moved to the end of the meeting. No objections.

H.4.A. Consider revised Proposal & Contract #295032 from APAC-Central, Inc. for City Street Mill & Overlay 2022.

Doherty moved to approve the revised Proposal & Contract #295032 from APAC-Central, Inc. for the City Street Mill & Overlay 2022. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Opela asked a question regarding the fuel charges on the contract, Letner explained that the price is going to fluctuate, and the escalation factor will only apply the additional fee if fuel is over \$3.50/gallon during the project. Letner also explained that the zipper would not be helpful at this time as we don't have all of the equipment to complete the work. Coble stated he spoke with Davis Construction about the completion of Runway Lane and the possibility of future help but would need to discuss costs before moving forward.

This revised proposal from APAC for the 2022 city street mill & overlay project includes the milling of all intersections and 30" from all curb and gutter and 2" overlay for the following areas:

- 100-300 blocks of S. Washington
- 100-500 blocks of W. Oak
- 500-700 blocks of W. Walnut
- 900 block of E. Sycamore (which will also include removal of existing storm tile and construction of a 60' concrete drain flume)
- Intersection of Vermont & Country Rd.

Mayor Spieth stated that it is important for conversations to continue about the milling machine to help us save money in the long run.

H.4.A. Water Leak Incident – 05/20/22 – After-action report.

Letner presented an incident timeline and an incident response plan for future use. Opela questioned how the water tower could lose 22 feet of water in ten minutes, and that this happened over 14 days ago and no answers have been provided. Bennett stated that the auto-dialer did call out and that it was a large main break. Opela continued to discuss the lack of answers Bennett provided also setting expectations for moving forward. Bennett stated he had received a quote on a Scada system to upgrade the alarms, and he requested a new one. Opela questioned the process of the auto-dialer now. Bennett explained the calls go out to four individuals: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Coble, Mr. Woods (Utility Operator) and Mr. Spatafora (Utility Technician). Doherty explained that how the information of the auto dialer has been perceived is that no one answered the call and that's why it continued to call out. Coble explained until the first person arrives on scene it will continue to call out.

Opela stated that they had previously been provided a list to exercise the valves, and she would like to know where the list is. Letner informed the council that Bennett was asked in 2021 to put a plan together and he didn't, so it is now his goal for 2022. Letner also stated a study he recently read stated it was important to exercise the valves each year, at maximum every two years. Opela then asked how long it was going to take for the report to be ready. Bennett stated he turned the list into Jake, when Opela asked how many valves, Bennett could not provide a number.

Letner stated that historically it has not been documented what condition the valves were in when they were checked but going forward, they will. He aske the council to direct any questions they or their constituents have regarding the water leak to him directly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pryor called for a 20-minute executive session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for the purpose of employee performance to include the Governing Body, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 8:01 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 8:01 p.m.

No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pryor called for a 20-minute executive session at 8:01 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for the purpose of employee performance to include the Governing Body, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 8:21 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 8:21 p.m.

No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Doherty called for a 5-minute executive session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for the purpose of employee performance to include the Governing Body, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 8:27 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 8:27 p.m.
No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a 20-minute executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel for the purpose of employee performance expectations to include the Governing Body, City Administrator, and City Attorney. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting to reconvene at 8:50 p.m. in the council room.

Regular session 8:50 p.m.
No action taken.

Letner informed council there would be a work session on 6/13 to go over the 2023 Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Meetings:

Work Session

Monday, June 13, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting

Monday, June 20, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.


Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk

