

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 20, 2022
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met June 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sammye Opela, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members attending virtually: Tom Pryor. Council members absent: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Council Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2022, Work Session Minutes – June 13, 2022, Appropriation Ordinance 22-575, Treasurer Report June 15, 2022, Court Report – May 2022 and Utility Director Scott Bennett resignation. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Affirmative vote: Pryor. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Forum

Pastor Mike Sauerwein and Shandee Briggs of Connecting Point Church approached the council requesting a waiver to be able to have a firework display outside of the dates approved by City Code. The church is hosting a second Sunday small group event for members Sunday, July 10. Yard games and activities are planned, and they would like to end the event with a firework display. Police Chief Jason Daniels did not object to the idea if the council wished to approve. Fire Chief Steven Burton stated Columbus Fire will be on standby as well.

FIREWORK DISPLAY WAIVER

Farstvedt moved to allow Connecting Point Church to have a firework display Sunday July 10 from 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. at 1923 West Maple and allow the Mayor to sign the supporting resolution. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Pryor. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Mayor Report- None.

Staff Reports –

1. CCLIP Update. Tim Aziere from Professional Engineering Consultants informed the council that the contractor for the project is behind schedule due to weather delays. They have proposed a change order to move the project start date to July 11, 2022. Barring delays the project should be completed within the allotted timeframe. Mayor Spieth noted the Cherokee County Fair will be the end of July and voiced concerns about traffic. Aziere acknowledged there will be one lane traffic throughout the construction period.

City Administrator Jake Letner thanked public works staff and others who responded to or helped troubleshoot matters resulting in clear well alarms going off over the weekend.

New Business-

H.1.A. Consider personnel handbook updates to article XI. Opela moved to approve personnel handbook revisions to article XI as presented updating personnel committee references. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.1.B. Consider Resolution 628 approving the levy of the one-half percent sales tax. City Attorney Barbara Wright noted the resolution is required by statute. She acknowledged the results from the recent special election were certified today by the County Clerk's office. City staff will request written confirmation for City records. Doherty moved to adopt Resolution 628 authorizing the levy of the one-half percent sales tax. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.2.A. Consider updating the hours of the H&H Splash Pad. City Administrator Letner informed that the splash pad has been a huge success and is being heavily utilized. He reminded that Power Play (splash pad company) estimated 2-3 million gallons of water use over the season for our set up. Letner advised that the facility has used over 1 million gallons in the short period it has been open. A discussion ensued regarding hours of operation and/or days open in order to lessen the cost of operation. Adding a recirculating component to the feature was also examined. Opela moved to modify the hours of operation of the H&H Splash Pad to mirror the swimming hours of operation of noon to 7 p.m., seven days per week. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.3.A. Consider Resolution 627 allowing fireworks on Saturday, July 9, 2022. Fire Chief Steven Burton reminded council that the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department has taken over the 4th of July celebration from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. The department has held several cookout fundraisers and received donations for the occasion. The plan is to hold the event on Saturday, July 9 at the City Park and VFW fairgrounds. He explained availability and cost were part of the deciding factors to host the project outside of the holiday weekend. Burton noted other Independence Day celebrations in the area will begin the week before and run through the July 9 weekend. This will allow residents to attend multiple events this year. Kid games, helicopter rides, food, and music will be available throughout the day with a firework display at dark. Burton noted the station will be covered by neighboring departments in order for the Columbus fire employees to participate in the festivities. Opela moved to adopt Resolution 627 providing an exception to City Code for fireworks to be discharged July 9, 2022, from 3 p.m. – 10 p.m. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.3.B. Consider Police Department vehicles for auction. Police Chief Jason Daniels noted with the recent purchase of the Dodge Charger from the Kansas Highway Patrol the department is fully equipped. He requested council approval to list two Ford Taurus units no longer in service through an online auction option. Daniels noted the vehicles would be listed and sold with equipment to another agency, however lights, etc. would be removed if the cars were purchased by an individual. Shoemaker moved to approve police department vehicle sale through online auction process with the proceeds going to Police Department Equipment Reserves. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.4.A. Consider Resolution 626 declaring the necessity to appropriate private property for temporary construction on Safe Routes To School (SRTS) project. City Attorney Barbara Wright informed this is the first step the council has to take to start the eminent domain process for the SRTS project. Opela moved to adopt Resolution 626 declaring the necessity to appropriate private property for temporary construction easement on Safe Routes To School project. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.4.B. Consider Ordinance 1498 determining the necessity, authorization and acquisition of an interest in land for the Safe Routes To School (SRTS) project. Attorney Wright noted this ordinance contains the legal description and map for the resolution just adopted regarding the SRTS project. Shoemaker moved to approve Ordinance 1498 determining the necessity, authorization and acquisition of an interest in land for the Safe Routes To School project. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrator Letner noted previous drainage studies for the city were included in your packet for review. No action is needed, these are for information for future discussions. He noted there has been some slip lining of sewer manholes, but the capital improvements have not been addressed. Letner noted need for capital improvement plan.

Attendance at the Kansas Infrastructure Summit and the future of funding through CDBG opportunities was discussed.

Mayor Spieth reminded that City Offices will be closed Monday, July 4 and the next council meeting will be Tuesday, July 5.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.


Meetings:

Council Work Session

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

Council Meeting

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


Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

