

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL
July 5, 2022
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met July 5, 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.

Pastor Melvin Myers of First Freewill Baptist Church provided the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

The June 2022 court report was not included in the council packet; it was removed from the consent agenda. Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Council Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2022, Appropriation Ordinance 22-576, Treasurer Report June 2022, and Personnel Report – June 2022. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Report- Mayor Spieth acknowledged the new chairs for the council room and thanked summer laborers for putting them together.

City Administrator Jake Letner noted the absence of Property/Parks Director Randy Coble and Fire Chief Steven Burton due to prior commitments and illness.

Staff Reports – None.

H.1.A. 2023 Draft Budget Presentation. Letner reviewed proposed 2023 city budget noting attempt to keep the mil levy steady. Letner informed that county assessed valuation came in 20% higher than anticipated. The budget does exceed the revenue neutral rate of 51.78. The County is responsible for the new resident notification requirement.

H.2.A. Consider sidewalk grant application – 533 South Kansas. Staff will correct an error at the bottom of page 1 of the application updating 50% to 75% to be in line with the rest of the application. Before and after photos of the project were requested. Opela moved to approve the low bid of \$4,800 for the 533 South Kansas sidewalk application. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Opela. Motion carried 4-0-1.

H.3.A. Consider closing West Country Road between Delaware and Kansas Streets from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. Saturday, July 9, 2022, for the 1st Annual Columbus Fire Freedom Fest. Opela moved to close West Country Road between Park Drive and Kansas Street on Saturday, July 9, 2022 from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. for the 1st annual Columbus Fire Freedom Fest. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.4.A. 2022 Curb Replacement Plan. Letner stated packet memo contained a plan for 2022 identifying a section on Maple Street in front of the laundry mat as the first priority. The owner of the laundry mat may apply for a sidewalk grant, updating the entire section. Letner stated \$10K is budgeted for 2023 to continue curb updates around the square/downtown area.

Letner spoke to an upcoming project capping/sealing an abandoned sewer line down the middle of Elm Street in attempt to lessen the amount of infiltration of the sewer system. He noted there is infiltration all over the City, this is a start to addressing the problem. Letner also advised that Heckert Construction will be in town tomorrow starting on the CCLIP (City Connecting Link Improvement Project) mill and overlay of a section of North East Avenue.

Mayor Spieth announced the annual League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) conference registration is open. The conference is in October over Columbus Day weekend, it is a good opportunity for networking with other municipalities and training. The cost of the conference and accommodations are covered by the City.

Discussion of water line and valve needs for the city. Administrator Letner relayed that Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC) staff estimated a \$1.2 million replacement cost for each of the 10-inch water mains supplying the city. He acknowledged this is outside of our present capabilities and will take planning. He noted there are a handful of valves that need replaced but nothing that needs addressed right away or overnight. Letner advised we have great water maps and there are several knowledgeable people in the city that are willing to work with the new Utility Director to identify and address a replacement plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to review Utility Director applications with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to resume at 8 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Regular session 8 p.m.
No action taken.

First Annual Freedom Fest at the City Park, Saturday, July 9 from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. reminder.

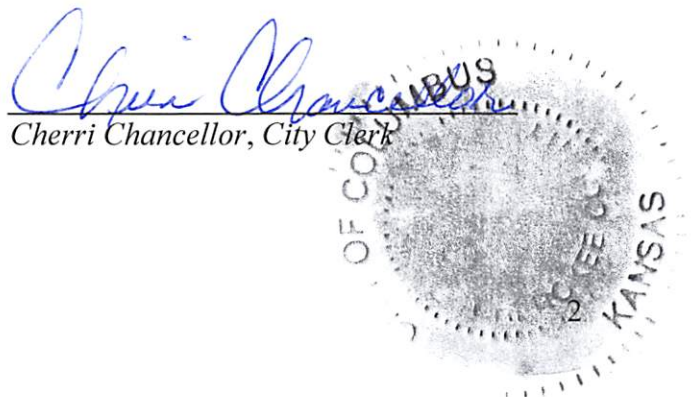
ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Meetings:

Council Meeting

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


Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk