

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 7, 2022
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met November 7, 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.

Toni Spieth representing First Presbyterian Church provided the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 22-584, Council Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2022, Treasurer Report – November 3, 2022, Municipal Court Docket Summary – October 24, 2022, and October 2022 Personnel Report. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Report-

Mayor Spieth encouraged everyone to get out and vote in the election, and informed council that the Chamber would be bringing students down to Public Works on November 16th to learn about their job functions.

Staff Reports-

City Administrator Report -

- Lead & Copper survey went out with water bills to residents, had a lot of replies so far.
- Still needing applicants for the planning commission, have received three completed applications.
- Will have insurance renewal information next meeting, received a high renewal quote from Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Budget Amendment next meeting for three funds: Pathways, Rec Commission and Sanitation.

Police Chief Report –

- Took part in Halloween events, handed out around 356 candy bars.
- Home playoff game on Friday expecting large crowd.
- Pep rally will be held on Thursday at 6:00 pm will be shutting down Maple Street for around 30-45 mins, contacting effected businesses tomorrow.

Community Development Coordinator Report -

- Second round of funding from SRTS which is outlined for High School St. to Sunset Ave. and Hwy 69 to 7th Ave which is estimated to be completed in Summer 2024.
- Looking into a grant for downtown seating and another grant for a K-9 unit for the Police Department.
- Participating in quarterly calls with CDRR and Pathways team, currently working on behavioral health and smoking cessation.

Fire Chief Report –

- Ran around 25 emergency calls last month.
- Fire Department is taking donations for the Angel Tree program, changing it to a Shop with a Firefighter program. Plans to reach out to the schools and other local resources to identify families in need.
- Fire Prevention sponsorship letters going out, these donations fund the programs for the schools.

Property & Parks Director Report -

- Started curb replacement program beginning with Indiana, areas around the hospital and library, will wait on the section of sidewalk and curb on Maple St. & Pennsylvania St. to the beginning of next year.
- Leaf pickup began today, still around a month too early.
- Bid letting tomorrow at 10:00 am for the 2023 Streets RFP.

Utilities Director Report –

- Spent a lot of time at Central School last week.
- Lift station out by Crossland went down, replaced seal kit and gaskets so it is now working.
- Water tap completed on Walnut St.
- Water leak on Elm & Florida on last week.
- Clean sewer mains out today.
- Main priority is the repair of the fire hydrant on Maple St. before the cold weather moves in at the end of the week.

Treasurer Report –

- Any interest we would be getting will be taken up by inflation costs.

New Business –

H.1.A. Executive session for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to discuss employee discipline. Doherty called for a 10-minute executive session at 6:49 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to discuss employee discipline with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Administrator, Property & Parks Director, Utilities Director, and Assistant City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene at 6:59 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Regular session 6:59 p.m.

Pryor moved to terminate Quentin Andrews effective November 7, 2022, for violation of the policies and procedures as outlined in the Employee Handbook. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.1.B. Consider Resolution 636 – Adopting Personnel Handbook Article XII, Special Provisions. Opela moved to approve Resolution 636 – Adopting Personnel Handbook Article XII, Special Provisions. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.2.A. Consider sale of 1050 Merle Evans Drive. Shoemaker moved to publish the sale of 1050 Merle Evans Drive, requesting sealed bids to include the purchase price and associated business plan due by Friday, December 2, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. to be published on the website and newspaper one time. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion centered around whether to sell the land, and if council should wait until the Planning Commission gets off the ground. The council expressed that even though they were approached by an individual regarding selling the land they still morally obligated to inform the public that it was for sale. They finally agreed that they would like to advertise the sale of the property but would like to ensure the land is developed.

H.2.B. Consider Property & Parks Director temporary expenditure authority increase for the purchase of shelving and storage for the Public Works building not to exceed \$10,000 from Fund 20-Capital Reserves. Shoemaker moved to approve Property & Parks Director, Randy Coble, temporary expenditure authority increase for the purchase of shelving and storage for the Public Works building not to exceed \$10,000 from Fund 20-Capital Reserves. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.2.C. Consider purchase of 2019 Case 580SN backhoe in the amount of \$45,000. Doherty moved to approve purchase of 2019 Case 580SN backhoe in the amount of \$45,000 after trade in of our current equipment valued at \$20,000. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

H.3.A. Consider interfund transfer in Fund 21 – Capital Equipment – transferring \$2,523.19 from Parks Reserves to Animal Control Reserves for the purchase of the 2015 Chevrolet Silverado Animal Control truck. Opela moved to approve the purchase of the 2015 Chevrolet Silverado Animal Control truck in the amount of \$2,523.19 to be paid from Parks Reserves paid to Animal Control Reserves. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Daniels stated that he reduced the amount of the interfund transfer cost to \$2,500 to give the Parks Department additional money to improve their fleet. He commented that by pooling funds his goal is for everyone to have good working vehicles. Property & Parks Director, Randy Coble, thanked Chief Daniels for helping his department. Chief Daniels informed council that the new Animal Control truck had arrived and is getting fitted and will have graphics put on it.

H.3.B. Consider Police Department Square9 RMS purchase in the amount of \$10,200 to be paid from Fund 20 – Capital Improvement. Opela moved to approve the purchase of Square9 RMS in the amount of \$10,200 to be paid from Fund 20 – Capital Improvement. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Shoemaker. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Letner informed council that Public Works had attempted to shut off the water to Central School but was unsuccessful. The pressure was still too great and Crossland was unable to cap off the water line just east of the hydrant. Unfortunately, City staff does not have the capability to install the valve.

H.5.B. Consider purchase of 6” EZ valve from Schulte Supply. Shoemaker moved to approve the purchase of a 6” EZ valve in the amount of \$7,9795.48 from Schulte Supply. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: Opela. Motion carried 4-1.

H.5.A. Consider proposals from Water Treatment Plant Feasibility Study RFP. Shoemaker moved to approve the proposal for water treatment plant feasibility study from Allgeier, Martin, and Associates in the amount of \$56,991 to be paid from ARPA funds. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Shoemaker moved to approve the closure of City Hall from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 18, 2022, for the purpose of a staff Holiday Luncheon. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Meetings:

City Office Closed- Veteran’s Day - November 11, 2022

Thanksgiving Luncheon – November 18, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

City Council Meeting – November 21, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.


Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk

