

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
November 28, 2022  
5:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met Monday, November 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers for a Special Governing Body Meeting presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council member absent: None.

Mayor Spieth opened the meeting by stating: A special meeting of the governing body was called to be held at City Hall Monday, November 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., the object of the meeting is for discussion of 2023 employee benefits. This is the only matter that can be handled at tonight's meeting.

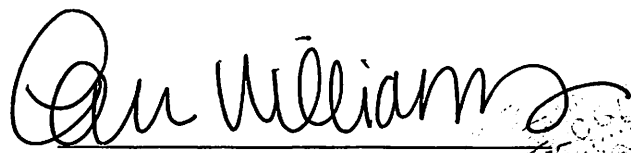
Doherty did not feel that enough of a discussion was had before and that there are ways to keep the Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance that were not discussed before. Mayor Spieth asked that even though it was voted on at the last meeting did she change her mind. She stated that she felt the Unified plan was not good insurance and that it was too high of a deductible and that she wanted to look further into what the City could do to pay for it.

Mayor Spieth provided council with a spreadsheet of the plans and associated costs to the employees and for the City. Shoemaker asked what the actual savings is for the City by choosing the Unified Health Plan and it would total around \$36,000. Opela stated that she felt the high increase was the way Blue Cross Blue Shield is getting cities out of their grandfathered plans. Shoemaker stated she is concerned that the high out of pocket expense will cause employees to not be able to afford to go to the doctor. In addition to this concern the other effects it could have on recruitment and retention. Doherty stated that if there was any way possible, she would like to continue the insurance coverage for one more year.

City Clerk, Cherri Chancellor, expressed concerns regarding the in-network provider list and that the Unified Health Plan has two tiers within it and with the lack of information that was provided to us we have yet to be able to look at the list. Farstvedt stated she is torn seeing the issues from the taxpayer's eyes and sympathizing with employees.

Doherty moved to nullify the Unified Health Plan and to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal for 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker. Voting nay: Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor. Motion fails 2-3.

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Opela, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.



*Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk*

