

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 6, 2023  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members absent: Stephanie Farstvedt.

Fr. Jeremy Huser from St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Pryor moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 23-595, Council Work Session Minutes – February 13, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2023, Municipal Court Docket Summary – February 27, 2023, Personnel Report – February 2023, Treasurer’s Report – February 28, 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**Mayor -**

Mayor Spieth recommended the appointment of Chad Epler to the Columbus Land Bank Board of Trustees.

**Columbus Kansas Land Bank Board of Trustees – *Chad Epler.***

Doherty moved to approve the mayor’s appointment of Chad Epler to the Columbus Land Bank Board of Trustees, Seat 4, to serve the remainder of a 3-year term, expiring 06/30/2024. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**Staff Reports-**

**City Clerk Report –**

- Employee appreciation lunch was held at the Public Works building on March 3 for all city employees.
- City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk will be attending the CCMFOA Spring Conference in Manhattan from March 21 through March 24, 2023.
- The job description for Maintenance Worker II position will be completed and reviewed at the next work session meeting.

**Police Chief Report –**

- Officer Quill Tyree began basic law enforcement academy at Hutchinson. He is set to graduate on June 23, 2023.
- Making progress on new records software management implementation.
- Asked for council’s permission to close off the 100 block of West Pine between Kansas and Pennsylvania Avenue on April 15, 2023, between 3 p.m. – 12 a.m. for Columbus High School Prom. Shoemaker made motion to approve the street closure on April 15 for the Columbus High School Prom. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

-Provided an update on availability and options of purchasing used Kansas Highway Patrol vehicles. The projected time for a Dodge Charger to become available is 10 months. Charger costs have increased dramatically according to KHP. The other option is that of a Dodge Durango with an estimated time of availability of 5 – 6 months. Police Chief Daniels advised that the city has been placed on the waiting list for both vehicle types and will advise the council at a future date when more information becomes available.

**Fire Chief Report –**

-Chief Burton informed the council that a statewide tornado drill will be held on March 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., weather permitting.

-Fire department assisted public works staff with a controlled burn of the land near the sewer lagoons earlier in the day.

-Reported a low call volume compared to last year. In 2023, to date, the Columbus Fire Department has responded to approximately 60 calls for service compared with 100 calls for service at this time in 2022.

**Superintendent Report -**

-No updates.

**City Administrator Report –** 2022 Annual Financial Report was presented. Letner explained that the 2022 financial audit will take place in late March or early April.

**New Business –**

**G.1.A. Cost-Benefit Analysis**

Dawn Flores and Dave Perricone from the Center of Community Supports at Greenbush appeared by Zoom to present the cost-benefit analysis recently completed for a proposed project involving a tax abatement. The report indicated that project benefits outweighed costs for the city at a factor of 3:1. City Administrator Letner advised that he will continue to work with Crossland next steps and expects updates in the near future.

**G.1.B. Consider Resolution 638, Condemnation Hearing for 1212 W. Maple St.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Gary Holt informed the council the property located at 1212 W. Maple St. is not included on the upcoming tax sale but does have a medical lien. City Attorney Barbara Wright advised that notice would need to be given to the medical entity in order to satisfy legal requirements for condemnations. Pryor made a motion to pass Resolution 638, which shall set a condemnation hearing date for the property on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**G.1.C. Consider removal of former City Administrator, Daniela Rivas from Land Bank Checking Account and add Mayor Grant Spieth.**

Doherty moved to remove former City Administrator, Daniela Rivas from Land Bank Checking Account and add Mayor Grant Spieth. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**G.4.A. Consider Resolution 640, Safe Routes to School Phase II Support.**

City Administrator Letner informed the Council that a local cash match of \$127,000 is required for the upcoming Safe Routes to School construction project, which will add concrete sidewalk from

Tennessee Ave. east to US-69, and Country Rd from the intersection of High School Ave. east to Kansas Ave. The commitment of local cash will allow the state to authorize \$505,660 towards construction, as the grant requires 20% of project costs to be covered by the local participating agency (LPA). Mission Construction Co., Inc. of St. Paul, KS was the low bidder on the project and construction is set to begin in Summer 2023. Doherty made a motion to approve Resolution 640. Seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Totals				
	City Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds	Total Funds
Federal Non-Participating Construction	\$0			\$0
Federal Non-Participating CE	\$0			\$0
Fund 1- 80% Federal Funds		\$505,660		\$505,660
Fund 1- 20% City Funds	\$126,415			\$126,415
City Funds Due to Max Funding	\$0			\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$126,415</b>	<b>\$505,660</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$632,075</b>

Pryor called for a five-minute executive session at 7:46 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with Council Members, Mayor Spieth, City Attorney Barbara Wright, City Administrator Jake Letner, and City Clerk Ruth Hutley in attendance. Meeting will reconvene at 7:51 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Returned to regular session 7:51 p.m.  
No action taken.

Pryor called for a three-minute executive session at 7:53 p.m. for discussion prior to acquisition of real estate with Council Members, Mayor Spieth, City Attorney Barbara Wright, City Administrator Jake Letner, and City Clerk Ruth Hutley in attendance. Meeting will reconvene at 7:56 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

Returned to regular session 7:56 p.m.  
No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**Upcoming Events:**

- City Council Work Session Meeting – Monday, March 13, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.**
- City Council Meeting - Monday, March 20, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.**

*Ruth Hutley*  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

