

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 3, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met April 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Stephanie Farstvedt.

Juanita Dobkins from Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-597, City Council Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2023, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – March 27, 2023, Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Staff Reports-

City Administrator Report –

- City Administrator Jake Letner reminded the council of the Storm Water Study Public Meeting at 6 p.m. on April 20th at the Public Works Building.
- Letner explained that the Crossland IRB project is moving forward. A public hearing to consider the issue and corresponding bond ordinance will be presented at the next council meeting.
- City offices will be closed this Friday in observance of the Good Friday holiday.

City Clerk Report –

- City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that nearly all summer laborer positions had been filled and that she is working on filling the lifeguard positions.

Police Chief Report –

- Police Chief Jason Daniels reported that Officer Jacob Lovewell has completed his training and is moving to the night shift. Officer Gary Holt will be returning to day shift and will resume code enforcement duties.
- Officer Quill Tyree is on his 5th week at the police academy training.
- The police department continues to actively interview candidates to fill vacant positions.

Fire Chief Report –

- Fire Chief Steven Burton reported that the number of emergency calls was down from this time last year, with 95 as of the time of the council meeting.
- The new extrication tools that have been ordered are scheduled to be delivered next week.
- The department plans to apply for a wildland fire protection grant. If the application is successful, up to \$5,000 could be awarded to the Columbus Fire Department.
- Two fire department employees recently attended the Labette County Community College Fire Training Academy.

Superintendent Report –

- Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that spring cleanup is scheduled for April 17 – 28.
- The E-waste pickup event, sponsored by the Cherokee County Solid Waste Committee, will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to noon at the American Legion Fairgrounds in Columbus.
- City crews have begun opening restrooms for the upcoming season.

New Business –

G.1.A. Consider Resolution #644 Condemnation – 1212 W. Maple.

Shoemaker made a motion to accept Resolution #644 repealing Resolution #638 and setting a condemnation hearing for 1212 W. Maple on May 15, 2023. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

G.4.A. Consider Sidewalk Cost Share Application – 309 S. Idaho Ave.

City Administrator Letner explained the proposed sidewalk repairs at 309 S. Idaho Ave., the benefits to the city, and presented the council with two bids received for the repair work. Since the two bids quoted different length measurements for the work, the council recommended the bidders remeasure and revise their bids accordingly. The matter was tabled for further discussion.

Doherty called for a five-minute executive session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel leave request with Council Members, Mayor Spieth, Attorney Barbara Wright, City Administrator Jake Letner, City Clerk Ruth Hutley and City Superintendent Randy Coble in attendance. The meeting will reconvene at 6:55 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Returned to regular session at 6:55 p.m.
No action taken.

G.1.B. Executive Session for Personnel Matters of Non-Elected Personnel to Discuss Employee Discipline.

Pryor called for fifteen-minute executive session at 6:56 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel discipline with Council Members, Mayor Spieth, Attorney Barbara Wright, City Administrator Jake Letner, and City Clerk Ruth Hutley in attendance. The meeting will reconvene at 7:11 p.m. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Returned to regular session at 7:11 p.m.
No action taken.

Pryor made a motion to terminate employment of Assistant City Clerk, Erin Williams for cause, effective April 3, 2023. Motion seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Upcoming Events:

City Council Work Session Meeting – Monday, April 10, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting – Monday, April 17, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.


Ruth Hulley, City Clerk

