

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 1, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met May 1, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Stephanie Farstvedt.

Linda Griffith from Sherwin Christian Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Willey Sanders, 802 S. Park, addressed the Council speaking in favor of expanding chicken ownership rights within the city limits. Mr. Sanders owns two parcels of land. One property line is adjacent to the railroad and the other property line the CO-OP and in his opinion chickens on his property would not be a nuisance to neighboring properties.

CONSENT AGENDA

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-599, City Council Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2023, City Council Work Session Minutes – April 24, 2023, Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Grant Spieth read two proclamations, one proclaiming April 30 through May 6, 2023, as Municipal Clerks' Week and the other proclaiming May 14 through May 20, 2023, as National Police Week.

Staff Reports-

City Administrator Report –

- City Administrator Jake Letner spoke of recent improvements to the community building. The Community Building is anticipated to be open again for public rental in June.
- Letner spoke of a recent meeting with a housing developer interested in investing in Columbus. He indicated that further details could be coming in the next few weeks and months.
- Letner provided an update on the MIH Grant. An initial meeting with KHRC will be held at the beginning of summer, at which point timelines will be established on the redevelopment of the Liberty Theater Building.

City Clerk Report –

- City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that the city's annual audit was recently completed and City Administrator Jake Letner and herself would be meeting the following day with the auditor to go over the report. Terry Sercer, CPA representing Diehl, Banwart, Bolton accounting firm will present the audit report to the council at the May 15, 2023, meeting.
- Hutley reported that all summer laborer and lifeguard positions are filled. The public swimming pool is set to open Saturday, May 27, 2023, weather permitting and the Splash Pad will open Friday, May 19, 2023 weather permitting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON CONDEMNATION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 310 N. RAILROAD AVE.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing on condemnation of the structure located at 310 N. Railroad Ave. at 6:45 pm. Property owner, Carolyn Hyder, a/k/a Carolyn Declue, was present and asked the Council to consider giving her more time to demolish and dispose of the property herself. When asked by Farstvedt how much additional time she was requesting, Ms. Hyder said she did not know and added that the structure has been open since the fire. Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt expressed concerns for public safety, with pests and the possibility of the structure rekindling if it were to remain. When Ms. Hyder expressed a desire to rebuild the property, Officer Holt reminded her that any plans for rebuilding would need to be approved by code enforcement and building permits issued.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION 310 N. RAILROAD AVE.

Shoemaker made a motion to proceed with condemnation of 310 N. Railroad which sets a June 5, 2023, deadline for the structure to be removed by the owner or the city will cause the structure to be removed with costs assessed against the parcel where the structure is located. Motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The Council's decision to condemn the property is memorialized in Resolution 645, which will be published in the Columbus News-Report.

Mayor Spieth closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Police Chief Report – Police Chief Daniels was out of town, attending the Kansas Police Chiefs conference. Officer Gary Holt was in attendance at the meeting representing the police department.

Fire Chief Report – None.

Superintendent Report –

-Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that spring cleanup is now finished. Crews hauled away nearly 19 tons of materials during the two-week event.

-The Discovery Park archway has been completed and will be installed later in the week.

-The H & H Splash Pad has been tested and is ready for the upcoming season. Public Works crews will be working for the next couple of weeks to get the swimming pool ready for opening day.

-Superintendent Coble and Public Works Supervisor Justin Rogers recently attended the KRWA conference in Wichita. Justin Rogers passed the Wastewater I Operator Exam and Coble passed the Water I Operator Exam. City Administrator Jake Letner added that passing these exams on the first try is not easy and city staff is very proud of Coble and Rogers' accomplishments.

New Business –

H.1.A. Consider Ordinance 1508 – Changes to Chicken Ownership Regulations.

Mayor Spieth opened the discussion regarding chicken ownership regulations and the proposed ordinance drafted after the last council work session. After much discussion, a motion was made by Shoemaker to add 802 S. Park to the list of grandfathered parcels in Code Chapter 6, Division 3, Article III, Section 6-116. Motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Doherty. Voting nay: Pryor. Motion carried 3-1.

A motion was made by Shoemaker to approve Ordinance 1508 which revises Code sections 6-115 and 6-116, limiting chicken ownership to the grandfathered parcels only and limiting the number of chickens to 1 chicken per five hundred square feet of lot size. Motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

H.1.B. Review of 2023-2027 Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

City Attorney Barbara Wright asked the council to review the Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and recommended they set up a public hearing to answer any questions the public may have. City Administrator Letner explained that the consideration of the Interlocal Agreement and public hearing would take place at the next council meeting.

H.2. City Property-

City Superintendent Randy Coble presented the council with a bid in the amount of \$14,000 to replace the flooring in the hallway and meeting area of the community building. Coble stated an approximate 2-week lead time and 2-week installation time with the new flooring to be in place by the beginning of June, 2023. Doherty made a motion to approve the \$14,000 bid for the flooring. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.


ADJOURNMENT

Doherty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

City Council Work Session Meeting – Monday, May 8, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting – Monday May 15, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

