

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 15, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met May 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker and Stephanie Farstvedt. Council members absent: none.

Kathy Doherty provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing on Condemnation of the Structure located at 1212 W. Maple St.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing on the condemnation of the structure located at 1212 W. Maple Street. No one appeared at the hearing to comment on the condemnation. City Administrator Jake Letner reported that no improvements had been made and that the property owners are deceased. The next-of-kin indicated they would like to donate the property to the Columbus Land Bank. Shoemaker made a motion to continue with the condemnation proceedings. The motion was seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Spieth closed the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

Public Hearing Regarding 2023-2027 Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

Mayor Spieth opened the public hearing regarding the Interlocal Agreement to participate in the 2023-2027 Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. No members of the public appeared to make comments. Pryor made a motion to adopt Resolution 646, authorizing the City of Columbus to sign an Interlocal Agreement to the 2023-2027 Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Pryor, Doherty, Shoemaker, Farstvedt. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The public hearing was closed at 6:37 p.m.

Public Forum

Matt O'Malley, Executive Director of Leafy Greens Farms announced a fund-raising campaign currently under way to place a hydroponic farm classroom at our local school. The farm would give the local high school students the opportunity to grow their own lettuce. The goal is to teach children to develop healthier eating habits through hands on education and agricultural production.

Aaron Davolt appeared on behalf of the American Legion and made a request that the council consider extending the number of days that fireworks are allowed to be sold and discharged to coincide with the Freedom Fest event which is scheduled for July 8, 2023. Pryor made a motion that fireworks be allowed to be sold and discharged from June 27, 2023, until July 8, 2023, at 10:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Sanitary Sewer Lift Station SCADA System

Eddie Stewart of Mission Communications appeared to explain a proposed Sanitary Sewer Lift Station SCADA System. Doherty made a motion to purchase the two units at a total price of \$10,846.80 which includes the installation charge and annual subscription service. Motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Presentation of 2022 Financial Audit

Terry Sercer, CPA from Diehl, Banwart, and Bolton presented the 2022 financial audit findings to the council. Bound copies of the audit were made available to the council members, along with the firm's letter to management.

Consent Agenda

Farstvedt made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriations Ordinance 23-600, Council Minutes – May 1, 2023, Council Work Session Minutes – May 8, 2023, Municipal Court Docket Summary – May 8, 2023 and Treasurer's Report – April 30, 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Grant Spieth read the proclamation for National Public Works Week which is commemorated the week of May 21 – 27, 2023. Mayor Spieth thanked our public works department for all their hard work.

Appointments to Columbus Recreation Commission Board

Mayor Spieth recommended the appointment of Anna Moser and Dan Walters to the Columbus Recreation Commission Board. Ms. Moser's term will expire 02/28/2024 and Mr. Walters term will expire 02/28/2027. Doherty made a motion to approve the appointments. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Staff Reports

City Administrator -

City Administrator Jake Letner reported on a recent meeting he attended of PWWSD #11 (Bone Creek) regarding the City of Girard's proposed water plant project. The proposed project would significantly increase water rates for the City of Columbus and surrounding areas that currently purchase water from Bone Creek.

City Clerk – No report.

Police Chief –

Lieutenant Kyle Clark attended the meeting in Police Chief Jason Daniel's absence and reported that Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt said there have been no changes to the property at 310 N. Railroad which is currently in the condemnation process.

Fire Chief – No report.

Superintendent –

Superintendent Randy Coble reported that there will be a Safe Routes to School pre-construction meeting on May 31 at 1 p.m.

-The Splash Pad will open May 19, weather permitting, and the swimming pool will open May 27, weather permitting.

2023 Excess Public Works Equipment Auction List

The Council reviewed the list of excess equipment in the public works department that they wish to sell. Shoemaker made a motion to approve selling of excess equipment as listed. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. City Attorney Barbara Wright noted that the equipment list would need to be published.

Police Department Exercise Program

Doherty made a motion to allow the use of the police department garage as an exercise area for the police department. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) Agreement with KDOT

City Administrator Jake Letner informed the council that KDOT has changed our CCLIP agreement in two areas. They have doubled the amount of money that we have received in the past but also increased the amount of roadways that are the City’s responsibility to maintain. It now includes the roadway from the railroad track near Calibrated Forms south to Country Road. The state offers a grant program wherein 95% of construction costs are payable by the State. This cost share program was utilized for recent improvements to the highway and will be useful in future years. Doherty made a motion to approve the City Connecting Link Improvement Agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation. Motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Ordinance No. 1509 Changes to Street Cut Permitting Process

Superintendent Randy Coble opened the discussion regarding changes to the street cut permitting process. Coble suggested that city code compel the contractor to restore the road or alleyway to its previous state upon completion. In the event that a contractor fails to restore the area, the city would be able to assess the charges to the responsible party. Shoemaker made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1509 changes to street cut permitting process. Motion was seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session

Pryor called for a ten-minute executive session at 8:33 p.m. for matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, Police Lieutenant, and City Clerk in attendance. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Regular session will resume at 8:43 p.m.

Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular session at 8:43 p.m. No action taken.

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Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular session at 8:53 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Doherty seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:
Council Meeting
Monday, June 5, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

