

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 5, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met June 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Tom Pryor, Stephanie Farstvedt and Lindsey Shoemaker (via zoom). Council members absent: none.

Linda Howard from Camp Joy Ministries provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-601, City Council Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2023, and Treasurer’s Report - March 31, 2023 and May 31, 2023. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR

Appointment of Council Position 4th Ward.

Farstvedt made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointment of Wiley Sanders to 4th Ward Council Position with term expiring 12/31/2024. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Municipal Judge Appointment, City Attorney Appointment, City Prosecutor Appointment, Library Board Reappointment, Library Board Appointment.

Doherty made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointments of John Bullard, Municipal Court Judge with term expiring 6/2024, Barbara Wright as City Attorney with term expiring 6/2024, Barbara Wright as City Prosecutor with term expiring 6/2024, Jessica Rider reappointment to Library Board with term expiring 6/2027 and Shari Napier Library Board with term expiring 6/2027. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Statement of Recognition

Mayor Spieth recognized former police officers Raymond Vazquez, Arlo Lewke, and current police officer Gary Holt for their outstanding work on a recent investigation. Mr. Vazquez, Lewke, and Holt appeared in person to receive certificates commemorating their exceptional work.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner presented the proposed 2024 City Budget to the council for discussion and review.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that she has been working to finalize the switch to utility postcard billing. She is hoping to begin printing the utility bills on postcards within the next month or two, depending on how soon the postcard stock is delivered. Sending utility bills on postcards will result in substantial savings in postage expenses.

Police Department – Police Chief Jason Daniels informed the council that two new police officers, Dalton Sutton and Marcus Harmon have been hired to fill the two vacancies within the police department. They will both be attending the police academy beginning July 17, 2023.

-The police department will be conducting their annual firearms training for all officers at the shooting range this week.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton informed the council that he currently has an applicant for the full-time driver position that has 10 years of fire department experience, as well as an active EMT license. Burton also reported that plans for the annual Freedom Festival are progressing well.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported last week they held the pre-construction meeting with KDOT and BG Consultants for the Safe Routes to School Project. This project will provide ADA-accessible sidewalk on the south side of Maple St., beginning east at the intersection of US-69 highway west to Tennessee Ave., and on the north side of W. Country Rd. beginning east at Kansas Ave. west to High School Ave. Coble reported that survey crews will be in the area in the next week and that construction should commence within 7 days. Coble also reported that crews will begin working on minor street repairs beginning next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Permanent Sign Request – Quik Shop

Farstvedt made a motion to approve the permanent sign request by Sunoco for the Quik Shop at 100 S. East Ave. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 648 – Extending the Sale and Discharge of Fireworks within City Limits.

Proposed Resolution 648 was discussed extending the sale and discharge of fireworks within the city limits until after the Freedom Festival on July 8, 2023. The matter was tabled until further clarification could be made.

Commercial Rehabilitation Grant Application – 109 S. Pennsylvania.

A commercial rehabilitation grant for 109 S. Pennsylvania was considered by the council. The project would include demolition and removal of the front of the building and installing a new store front. The city would reimburse the property owner up to 50% of the cost up to \$5,000. Doherty made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

Carolyn Hyder a/k/a Carolyn Declue approached the council regarding the demolition and removal of the structure at 310 N. Railroad asking she be granted more time. City Attorney Barbara Wright informed Ms. Hyder that Resolution No. 645 provides for the demolition and removal of the structure by June 5, 2023, and the city now has the right to enter the property. Bids for the demolition and removal of the structure will be presented at the next council meeting. Ms. Hyder was informed that the structure must be completely removed by midnight on June 19, 2023.

Update on CATV Tower Deconstruction.

City Administrator Letner informed the council that a cheaper bid to remove the CATV tower has been received that will save several thousand dollars.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Farstvedt seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Council Information:

- **Juneteenth Federal Holiday – Monday, June 19, 2023. City offices closed.**
- **Council Meeting Tuesday, June 20, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

