

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 20, 2023  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met June 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Stephanie Farstvedt and Wiley Sanders. Lindsay Shoemaker and Kathy Doherty were present via Zoom. Council members absent: none.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

David Declue, 310 N. Railroad, approached the council with questions he had concerning the condemnation and subsequent demolition of the structure on his property. Police Chief Jason Daniels explained to Mr. Declue that the structure had been condemned because it posed a hazard to the community and needed to be demolished. Chief Daniels said he had a quote from B-3 Construction for the demolition and if approved by the council the demolition would take place the week of July 23 – 29, 2023.

Ron Holmes of the Columbus Museum Board of Directors addressed the council asking for council's approval to proceed with a proposed expansion of the museum.

-Holmes said they are planning to add an additional 3,350 square feet to the front of the building, and they had an estimate from Crossland Construction of approximately \$350,000 to build the addition.

-Holmes said they would be relying on donations and possibly grants to fund the project.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-602 and City Council Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2023. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Grant Spieth reminded the council of the Columbus All School Reunion June 30 through July 2, 2023.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**City Administrator** – City Administrator Jake Letner informed the council there would be a county delinquent tax sale on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, with eleven properties within the city limits of Columbus up for auction. Two additional county tax sales are also scheduled in the upcoming months.

-Letner reported that estimated total assessed valuations were received from the county today at a 20% increased value from 2023. Letner suggested that the 2024 budget that was reviewed at a previous council meeting can be implemented without a mill levy increase. Letner also shared that over \$825,000 of personal property is subject to the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan rebates, so over the course of the next 5 years there will be at least another \$825,000 in assessed value to be added to the tax rolls. At the next council meeting, the City Council will be asked to take action on the recommended mill levy for 2024. This information needs to be provided to the county by July 20, 2023, pursuant to state budget law. The county will then mail taxpayers a notice with the city, county,

and school district's mill levy. The city will hold its actual budget and revenue neutral rate hearing on September 5, 2023.

**City Clerk** – No report.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Jason Daniels reported that Qwill Tyree has resigned his position with the Columbus Police Department but his position will be filled by Arlo Lewke, who will be returning as a full time officer. Officer Lewke will assist Officer Gary Holt with code enforcement duties.

-Chief Daniels commended Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble and Public Works Foreman Justin Rogers for fixing the drain problem at the dog pound, which has been an issue for several years.

**Fire Department** – No updates. When asked by Mayor Spieth about the plans for the upcoming Freedom Fest, Fire Chief Steven Burton confirmed plans were proceeding on schedule and that the benefit golf scramble that was planned as a fundraiser for Freedom Fest has received significant interest.

**Public Works** – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that the community building remodel is nearly complete, with new flooring, floor base, and exit signs installed. It will be available to rent for activities beginning July 1, 2023.

-Mosquito spraying began May 31 and will continue Wednesdays and Thursdays every other week during the summer months.

-The sanitation department will begin operating under their summer schedule of 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. beginning June 26, 2023, so crews can avoid working during the hottest part of the day. Residents are urged to have their polycarts out by 6 A.M.

-Public works will be repairing a 6” valve on Thursday on the corner of Sycamore and Minnesota streets. Residents in the area will be notified of the temporary service disruptions while repairs are underway.

Mayor Spieth mentioned how nice the cemetery looked for Memorial Day and commended the cemetery staff for a job well done.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

Pryor made a motion to approve Resolution 648 extending the sale and discharge of fireworks within the city limits until after the Freedom Festival on July 8, 2023. Sanders seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consider Approval of IT Services Contract.**

Doherty made a motion to approve KissTECH's contract with the city for IT services. Motion seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consider Approval of Demolition Bids from B-3 Construction.**

Pryor made a motion to approve the bid from B-3 Construction for the demolition and removal of the structure located at 1212 W. Maple. Motion seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Sanders made a motion to approve the bid from B-3 Construction for the demolition and removal of the structure at 310 N. Railroad. Motion seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Steven Burton requested the council approve closing the street at Park Street and Country Road on July 8, 2023, from 4:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for the Freedom Fest activities. Farstvedt made a motion to approve closing the street on July 8 at Park St. and Country Road for the Freedom Fest. Motion seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Pryor made a motion to approve the expansion of the Columbus Museum, with funds for the project coming from donations and possible grants. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Pryor moved to adjourn the meeting. Farstvedt seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

### **Council Information:**

- **Council Meeting Monday, July 3, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.**

  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

