

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

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met July 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Council President Tom Pryor in the absence of Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Stephanie Farstvedt, Wiley Sanders, Lindsay Shoemaker and Kathy Doherty. Council members absent: Mayor Spieth.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-603, City Council Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – June 26, 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**City Administrator** – City Administrator Jake Letner reported the Safe Routes to School project was in process, noting that the work on E. Maple St. should conclude in approximately 2-3 weeks and that crews would then start on the W. Country Rd. portion of the project.

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley advised the improvements to the Community Building are now completed and the building is available for rental. Rental guidelines and applications are available at City Hall.

-Hutley also noted that the public swimming pool attendance is up this season. The pool currently has taken in \$14,900 in pool admittance fees and party rentals. The projected revenue for the whole season for 2023 was \$15,000. Last year the total for the season was \$21,900.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Jason Daniels reported that the officers are preparing for the Freedom Fest activities this weekend and the upcoming county fair.

-Chief Daniels also shared information regarding a new online training opportunity that is eligible to all full-time officers.

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Steven Burton stated it will be a busy week preparing for the Freedom Fest activities this Saturday.

-Burton reported a decrease in the number of fires recently.

**Public Works** – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that Maguire Iron will be in town on July 13 to complete contractual services on the city's water towers. Coble reminded the Council that in 2021, the City of Columbus entered a 10-year contract with Maguire Iron for the painting, service, and maintenance of the city's two water towers. The city maintains a 125,000-gallon standpipe near the hospital and a 250,000 sphere at City Park.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Resolution 649 – Establishing Doug Mogle and Ruth Hutley as Authorized Users to the City's State of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool Account.**

Doherty made a motion to approve Resolution 649 establishing Doug Mogle and Ruth Hutley as authorized users to the City's State of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool Account. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consider the Proposed Mill Levy for the 2024 budget.**

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the proposed mill levy for the 2024 budget. Letner advised the council that the total estimated assessed valuation increased by 21.80%. The 2024 budget proposal, presented at the June 5, 2023, council meeting can be achieved without a mill levy increase due to this increase in assessed valuation. The budget proposes the same mill levy as last year – 59.671 mills, for the general fund, employee benefits fund, and the public library. The city's revenue neutral rate for 2024 is 49.524 mills. The city is required to notify the County Clerk of its intended mill levy and revenue neutral rate/budget hearing by July 20. The county then mails each taxpayer a notice listing the proposed mill levies and hearing dates for the city, school district, and county. The city is also required to publish this information on the city website and in the newspaper. The city's 2024 budget hearing will be scheduled at the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Doherty made a motion to approve the proposed mill levy of 59.671 mills for the 2024 budget and set the budget hearing date and time. Motion seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **Public Works**

### **Consider Approval of the RFP for Municipal Swimming Pool Painting and Resurfacing.**

Superintendent Coble requested council approval of the RFP for the painting and resurfacing of the swimming pool. Coble said the last time this was done was 2017, and the life expectancy of the coating is 7 years. The painting and resurfacing would have a completion date of May 3, 2024. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the RFP for the swimming pool painting and resurfacing. Motion seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **Executive Session**

Pryor made a motion at 6:54 p.m. to go into executive session for 15 minutes for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to discuss wages and compensation with the Council, City Attorney, City Administrator and City Clerk in attendance. Motion seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

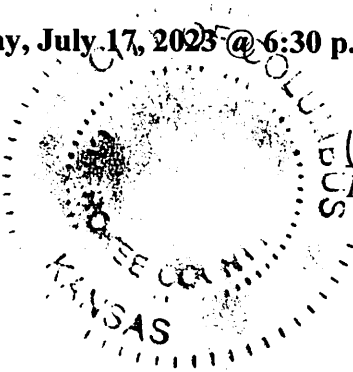
Regular session 7:09 p.m. No action taken.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Sanders seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

## **Council Information:**

- Council Meeting Monday, July 17, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.



*Ruth Hutley*  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk