

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 7, 2023

6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met August 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Wiley Sanders, Lindsay Shoemaker and Kathy Doherty. Council members absent: Stephanie Farstvedt.

Paul Cook from Bethel Free Will Baptist Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to remove the City Council Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2023, from the consent agenda. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-605, Treasurer's Quarterly Report – June 30, 2023, Treasurer's Report – July 31, 2023, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – July 24, 2023. Sanders seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Doherty moved to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2023, with correction. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR

Mayor Grant Spieth mentioned the recent heavy rainfall and suggested that the public and council members take pictures of any drainage issues and report to city staff.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner reminded the council that there will be a FEMA floodplain open house at the Community Building on Wednesday, August 9, from 2:30 pm – 6:30 p.m. This is an information session regarding the new proposed floodplain maps for Cherokee County. Letner also reminded the council of the ongoing stormwater and sewer system analysis and reiterated that images/video of stormwater and sewer issues could be helpful information for the study.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reminded the council of the city pool party on Thursday, August 10 at the swimming pool.

-Hutley noted the Kansas League of Municipalities Annual Conference is Oct. 7 – 9, 2023 in Wichita, KS. Any council member planning to attend should notify her by August 25 so they can be registered.

Police Department – Police Chief Jason Daniels thanked the Fair Board and Don Kirk of H & K Campers for providing a camper to help keep the police officers more comfortable during the county fair this year. Daniels was happy to report that the fair went smoothly with no major incidents reported.

-Daniels noted that there will be a \$1,000 repair bill for one of the patrol cars, as an engine fan fell apart and punctured the radiator. It was a defect with the car and not due to any negligence or accident.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported that the department has been busy recently responding to an increased number of calls, most all being related to the recent storm.

-Burton advised the council that the tornado siren at the city park has been repaired.

-Burton noted that the tornado siren testing is the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. if the weather is good.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that Mission Construction was pulling a drainage box on Country Road last Thursday when the box dropped breaking a 6” city main water line. This major leak incident triggered a boil water advisory from KDHE due to system pressure dropping below 20 PSI. The public works crew was commended for quickly making the necessary repairs. The boil water advisory was rescinded on Friday afternoon. City Administrator Letner added that restaurants, convenience stores, the hospital, and CHC/SEK clinic were notified directly regarding the incident, but publicly apologized to Medicalodge and Autumn Place for being omitted from the call list.

-Coble reported that the stop light at First Street and Maple was out due to damage from the recent storm and parts had been ordered for repair. He estimated the stop light would be back in working order in 1 – 2 days.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the use of the city park by Park Elementary School for the Back to School Carnival.

Shoemaker made a motion to allow Park Elementary School to use the city park on August 24, 2023, between the hours of 4 – 8 p.m. for the Back to School Carnival. Motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider closing Pine Street between Kansas and Pennsylvania for the Chamber Business EXPO/Health Fair.

Shoemaker made a motion to close Pine Street between Kansas and Pennsylvania on September 28, 2023, between the hours of 2 – 7 p.m. Motion was seconded by Sanders.

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

Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble advised the council that the swimming pool will be closing for the season on Saturday, August 12, 2023.

Executive Session

Shoemaker made a motion at 6:59 p.m. to go into executive session for 20 minutes for consultation with legal counsel for matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship regarding potential pending litigation with the Council, City Attorney, City Administrator, Police Chief and City Clerk in attendance. Motion seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular session 7:19 p.m. No action taken.

Shoemaker made a motion at 7:23 p.m. to go into executive session for 20 minutes for personnel matters of non-elected personnel related to employee discipline with the Council, City Attorney, City Administrator, Public Works Superintendent, Fire Chief, Police Chief and City Clerk in attendance.

Motion seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular session 7:43 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Shoemaker seconded. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Council Information:

- **Columbus Land Bank Board Meeting Wednesday, August 16, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m.**
- **Council Meeting Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

