

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
October 2, 2023  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met October 2, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Stephanie Farstvedt, Kathy Doherty and Wiley Sanders. Council members absent: none.

Jim Thomas from First Baptist Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**CHC/SEK Presentation regarding Public Transportation in Cherokee County.**

Becky Gray and Dee Yount from CHC/SEK gave a presentation regarding the public transportation program that Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC/SEK) and Building Health Inc. (BHI) are operating. The service is available to all Cherokee County residents at no cost and operates five days a week. Gray and Yount requested that the city consider signing a letter of support for the program so they could access KDOT funding to ensure the program continues in the future. Doherty made a motion to sign a letter of support for the program's application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for the operation of General Public Transportation. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-609, City Council Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2023, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – September 25, 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Grant Spieth informed the Council that voting delegates from the City of Columbus for the League of Kansas Municipalities conference needed to be chosen. Shoemaker made a motion to select Mayor Grant Spieth and Councilman Tom Pryor as delegates, with City Administrator Jake Letner an alternate. Farstvedt 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 gave an update on the Columbus Land Bank, noting that the parcel located at 301 S. Delaware was purchased by the Land Bank at the Cherokee County Delinquent Tax Sale held on October 1, 2023, for \$1,100.

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that she and City Administrator Letner have been conducting interviews for the Accounting Clerk position. She said they have several qualified applicants and hope to extend an employment offer within the next two weeks.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Jason Daniels reported that the police department has been preparing for the Columbus Homecoming Parade and football game.

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported that the fire department was also preparing for the Columbus Day festivities.

**Public Works** – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that he only received one bid for the sandblasting and refinishing of the city swimming pool, which was from Torrey Construction, Wamego, Kansas, in the amount of \$39,375.00. There is currently \$69,968.00 in the reserve fund for pool repairs, so the bid was significantly lower than expected. Coble recommended the council approve the bid from Torrey Construction. The sandblasting and refinishing are scheduled to be completed by May 3, 2024.

-Coble reported that the citywide Fall Cleanup is now concluded with 16 tons of debris picked up by city crews, and 35 loads hauled away for disposal.

-Coble reported the city brush pile has now been relocated from the lot east of the city animal control facility to an area near the city’s sewer lagoons at 469 SE Messer Road. The former brush pile site will be marked off with orange construction tape to discourage future dumping. The new site will operate Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Signage with hours of operation will be placed at the new facility.

Shoemaker made a motion to accept the bid from Torrey Construction in the amount of \$39,375.00 for the swimming pool sandblasting and refinishing. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Approval of RFP for Consulting Services for Comprehensive Plan.**

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding a request for proposals for consulting services to assist the City of Columbus in the drafting and implementation of a Comprehensive Plan. Letner explained the release of the RFP is the first step in the process of creating the Comprehensive Plan. Once selected, the consultant, together with the Planning Commission, City Council and public, will survey the community, hold public meetings, and ultimately deliver a draft Comprehensive Plan, to be approved by the City Council, that will set forth actionable goals focused on the long-term interests of the community. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the request for proposals (RFP) for consulting services to assist in the drafting and implantation of a Comprehensive Plan. Motion was seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consider Approval of Revised City Administrator Evaluation Metric.**

City Administrator Jake Letner presented a revised City Administrator Annual Evaluation metric, based on the Council’s recent feedback. A motion was made by Shoemaker to approve the Revised City Administrator Evaluation metric. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Permanent Construction Request from Karl Hubig for 138 W. Pine.**

Karl Hubig addressed the Council, requesting permission to place permanent construction on the city’s easement near his property located at 138 W. Pine. Hubig explained that he plans to construct a concert venue on the property and repair the wall on the adjacent property. Due to issues with the adjacent structure, Hubig requested that concrete footings be poured over the area with the current sidewalk. Hubig assured the Council that in exchange for permission to build over easement, he would replace the sidewalk at his expense and ensure that all relevant ADA design standards are met. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the permanent construction request for 138 W. Pine. Pryor seconded the

motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider Street Closure Request for Columbus Days festivities.**

Police Chief Jason Daniels asked the Council’s permission to close the streets around the square for the Columbus Day events on Saturday, Oct. 7, as well as close Maple Street from 2 p.m. to approximately 4 p.m. for the Columbus Homecoming Parade on Friday, Oct. 6. A motion was made by Doherty to approve closing the streets for the Homecoming Parade and for the Columbus Day festivities. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider Resolution 653 – Discontinuation of the City Sidewalk Matching Grant Program, effective January 1, 2024.**

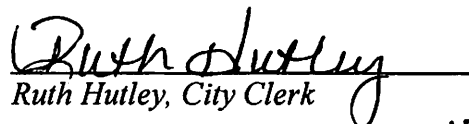
Pryor made a motion to approve Resolution 653, discontinuing the City Sidewalk Matching Grant Program and reallocating funding for annual sidewalk maintenance and repair for strategic areas selected annually by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Doherty seconded. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor, Farstvedt, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **City Council Work Session – Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**
- **City Council Meeting – Monday, October 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Columbus Community Blood Drive – Monday October 16, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Community Building.**

  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

