

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

ATTENDANCE

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

Cody Bohall from First Christian Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Jean Pritchett from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce shared plans for the Columbus Christmas Parade, which is scheduled for November 29, 2023.

Doherty made a motion to move Agenda Item F.1.A. Stormwater/SSES Study Update from BG Consultants and Item G.1.E. Consider 2024 Health Insurance Proposal to the beginning of the meeting since guest speakers for both items were present. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-611, City Council Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2023, Treasurer’s Report – October 31, 2023, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – October 23, 2023. Sanders seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Grant Spieth reminded the council that election day is November 7, and urged all to vote.

Stormwater/SSES Study Update from BG Consultants

Abby Mills of BG Consultants appeared via Zoom and presented the council with an update on the Stormwater Modeling and SSES project. Mills advised that HK Solutions was the low bidder for the Closed-Circuit Television Inspection (CCTV) for the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study with a bid of \$39,980.80. BG consultants recommended HK Solutions based on their pricing.

Shoemaker made a motion to accept HK Solutions bid for the CCTV Inspection in the amount of \$39,980.80. Motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Authorizing Earles Engineering to Prepare a Preliminary Plat for the Proposed Development at 1050 Merle Evans Dr.

City Administrator Jake Letner introduced Jason Dickman of Earles Engineering who presented to the council his bid for a preliminary plat design for the proposed housing development on Merle Evans Dr. Dickman explained that the preliminary plat will include a land survey and design specifications for public infrastructure and building lots. The plat map lays out the neighborhood and ensures that contractors, builders, and the city are all on the same page as this moves forward.

Shoemaker made a motion to approve Earles Engineering's bid in the amount of \$32,000.00 to complete the preliminary plat design for the proposed development on Merle Evans Dr., being paid from the ARPA fund. The motion was seconded by Sanders. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider 2024 Health Insurance Proposal.

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding a 2024 health insurance proposal from Bukaty Companies for a partial self-funded health insurance plan through Meritain which utilizes the Aetna care network. Derek Dick and Joe Holdenried from Bukaty Companies appeared via Zoom and answered Council's questions. Doherty made a motion to approve the 2024 employee health insurance proposal from Bukaty Companies. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that Rebekka Sanchez began training for the Accounting Clerk position on October 30, 2023. Ms. Sanchez has already been able to utilize her sign language skills with a hearing-impaired citizen.

-Hutley reminded the council that the city offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday.

-Hutley invited the Mayor and Council to join the City Staff on Nov. 17 for the City Employee Thanksgiving Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Public Works Building.

-Lastly, Hutley reported that she will be attending the City Clerks & Municipal Finance Officers training in Wichita from Nov. 13 through Nov. 15.

Police Department – Police Chief Jason Daniels reported that the police department recently participated in the Zombie 5k event, and the Chamber of Commerce Trunk or Treat Halloween walk, passing out 550 candy bars to trick or treaters.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported that the fire department has concluded their fire prevention program with the local school children.

-Chief Burton announced that the Fire Department received a \$3,100 grant to purchase bunker gear.

-Chief Burton reported that Justice Gannaway has been hired as a part-time fire driver. Gannaway was previously employed by the Columbus Fire Department and is now a full-time firefighter for the City of Joplin.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that the swimming pool resurfacing project was completed on Oct. 22, 2023, with no complications. Coble reported the lane markers in the pool were removed since there are no swim meets held at the pool.

Maple/Pennsylvania Ave. Sidewalk Resurfacing Proposal.

Superintendent Coble opened the discussion regarding a proposal from Pinnegar Construction to repair/replace the curb and sidewalk at the corner of Maple and Pennsylvania. Doherty made a motion to approve Pinnegar Construction's bid in the amount of \$9,401.30 to repair/replace the curb. It was noted that 25% of the cost of the repair will be reimbursed to the city by the adjacent property owner, Larry Hiatt. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider 2024 Revised Salary Schedule.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding a proposed 2024 Salary Schedule for City employees. All employees will receive a 2% cost of living increase in 2024 which is reflected in the salary schedule. Pryor made a motion to approve the 2024 Salary Schedule. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Authorization of 2023 Holiday Bonuses.

City Clerk Ruth Hutley presented a proposal for City Employee Holiday Bonuses. Hutley recommended the same bonus structure as the previous year. A motion was made by Shoemaker to approve the 2023 Employee Holiday Bonuses. The motion was seconded by Sanders. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Closing City Hall between 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 17 for Employee Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Pryor made a motion to close City Hall on Nov. 17 between 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. so that all employees can attend the employee Thanksgiving Luncheon. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Street Closure Request for the Christmas Parade.

Doherty made a motion to close Maple Street between Kansas and Pennsylvania on Nov. 29 between 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. for the Columbus Christmas Parade. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Doherty made a motion at 7:59 p.m. to go into executive session for 10 minutes for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Clerk, City Administrator and Police Chief in attendance. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

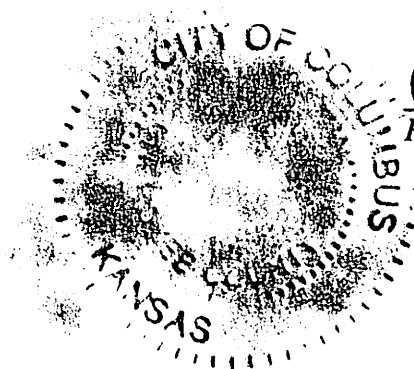
Regular session at 8:09 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Council Meeting – Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**



Ruth Hutley
 Ruth Hutley, City Clerk