

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 2, 2024
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, Wiley Sanders, and Laura Epler. Council members absent: None.

City staff present: City Administrator Jake Letner, City Clerk Ruth Hutley, City Superintendent Randy Coble, Chief of Police Jason Daniels, Fire Chief Steven Burton, City Attorney Barbara Wright, City Treasurer Doug Mogle.

Toni Spieth from First Presbyterian Church Joplin provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-615, Appropriation Ordinance #24-616, and City Council Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2023. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL BUSINESS CATEGORY APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Grant Spieth made 2024 Council appointments to city business categories as follows:
Administrative – Lead Representative Tom Pryor, Alternate Representative Kathy Doherty; City Property – Lead Representative Lindsay Shoemaker, Alternate Representative Laura Epler; Emergency Response – Lead Representative Wiley Sanders, Alternate Representative Tom Pryor; Streets/Alleys/Bridges/Stormwater – Lead Representative Kathy Doherty, Alternate Representative Lindsay Shoemaker; Public Works – Lead Representative Laura Epler, Alternate Representative Wiley Sanders.

Shoemaker moved to approve the mayor’s 2024 Council business category appointments. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator - City Administrator Jake Letner presented a 2024 overview of the city which included information regarding demographics, government structure, city staff and departmental functions, budget, and current projects.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that a few customers who paid their utility bill on the afternoon of December 15, were charged a late fee in error due to the timing of the payment posting and the application of the late fee. Those customers’ accounts have been credited. Hutley also shared that a recent payroll fraud scam was reported to the Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office for investigation. Updates will be shared with the Governing Body as they become available.

Fire Department – Chief Steven Burton shared general information about departmental functions with the City Council.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported that sidewalk repair at the corner of West Maple and Pennsylvania streets has been completed.

Police Department – Police Chief Jason Daniels reported the New Years holiday was uneventful for the department and added that is a great reflection on the community.

-Daniels shared that interviews were being conducted for the position of animal control officer.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Authorizing the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Treasurer as Account Managers for a New Certificate of Deposit Account at Labette Bank.

City Treasurer Doug Mogle opened the discussion regarding the transfer of city funds to a new certificate of deposit account at Labette Bank to yield a higher interest rate. Mogle asked the council for authorization for the Mayor, City Clerk, and himself as account managers for the new certificate of deposit account. Treasurer Mogle is recommending the transfer of \$1.5 million to this CD account, for a term of 365 days and an interest rate of 5.25%. Doherty moved to approve the authorization of the Mayor, City Clerk and City Treasurer as account managers for the new certificate of deposit account at Labette Bank. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Appointment of 2024 Council President.

Doherty made a motion to nominate Tom Pryor as City Council President for 2024. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Consider Volunteer Fire Department Appointees:

Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Mayor’s Volunteer Fire Department appointments of Steven Burton, Sr., Jason Allison, Kale Kitterman, Jaden Tedlock, David Allen, Craig Burton, Zachary Davis, Derek Carroll, J.D. Minor, Brier Martin, Kasie England, Doug Dardenne, Alexis Scofield, Joey Midgett and Chris Howard. The motion was seconded by Sanders. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER

Consider Authorizing the Release of the 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair RFP.

City Superintendent Randy Coble presented the 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair Request for Proposals for Council approval. The proposed repairs will be made to the 100 – 500 blocks of West Country Road, 400 block of West Pine, 100 block of South Vermont, 100-400 blocks of North Vermont and the North intersection of Vermont and Maple. Doherty made a motion to authorize the release of the 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair Request for Proposals. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Consider Accepting the Proposal from JCI Industries for Sewer Lift Station Repairs.

Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble presented a quote from JCI Industries for repairs to a motor at the North lift station in the amount of \$16,141.00. Coble was asked how much a new motor would cost, and he relayed that the amount would be over \$200,000. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the

quote from JCI Industries in the amount of \$16,141.00 for the motor repairs. The motion was seconded by Sanders. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Grant Spieth reminded the Council that applications are available to citizens interested in serving on the steering committee that will aid the Columbus Planning Commission in creating a comprehensive plan. City staff would like to have the steering committee selected by the first council meeting in February.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Doherty called for a five-minute executive session at 7:42 p.m. for consultation with the City Attorney for matters that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client relationship with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Administrator and City Clerk in attendance. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Regular session 7:47 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Offices Closed – Monday, January 15, 2024, Martin Luther King Day.**
- **City Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

