

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

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met February 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker (6:35 p.m.). Council members absent: None.

Jim Bowles representing Calvary Baptist Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 22-591, Appropriation Ordinance 23-593, Council Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2023, and January 2023 Personnel Report. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0.

**Mayor Report-**

Mayor Spieth reminded council members and staff of the virtual training being offered by the League of Kansas Municipalities later in February. He advised everyone to contact the Assistant City Clerk to register if they are interested.

**AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS**

Police Chief, Jason Daniels, informed the council that Virgil “Pepper” Martin made a financial contribution to Columbus Police Department. Mayor Spieth thanked Mr. Martin for his contribution.

**Staff Reports-**

**City Administrator Report -**

-Addressed 3% annual water/sewer rate increase which was implemented in 2020 to remain in line with inflation, parts, and equipment. The City purchases 100% of water the largest amount from Spring River which initiated a 16% increase gradually over the next four years, and the remaining from Bone Creek which is proposing either a new water plant or improvements to their current plant which result in an increase as well. The increases will be reviewed annually, to determine if the need remains.  
-Ruth Hutley, the new City Clerk will begin Monday, February 13, 2023.

**Assistant City Clerk Report –**

-Discussed possibility of new insurance options for 2024.

**Police Chief Report –**

-Officers will serve lunch to the schools on Thursday, February 16, 2023.  
-Qwill Tyree will leave for KLETC on March 6, 2023, graduation is slated to be on June 9, 2023.

**Fire Chief Report –**

-Nothing to report.

### **Community Development Coordinator Report -**

- Attended Kansas Community Health Promotions Summit providing support for the next round of the CDRR (Chronic Disease Risk Reduction) grant due by March 15, 2023.
- Finishing up a Pathways report and working on adding a coalition member to the Pathways team.
- Land Bank has a vacancy open, reaching out to potential applicants.

### **Superintendent Report -**

- Completed a worksheet for the valve exercising program now working on completing a Standard Operating Procedure so it is done consistently. Plan to start doing them in the next 30-45 days.
- Completed one coat of paint in the Community Building so far, received a quote for the rubber base today there will be plenty of funds for the project to be completed.
- Bid letting for Phase 2 of Safe Routes To School project with KDOT will be on February 15, will provide an update at the next council meeting.

### **New Business –**

#### **H.2.A. Cable Tower Discussion with Optic Communications.**

Dave Soper with Optic Communications discussed the cable tower on the land they have been leasing from the City. Their board has proposed splitting the cost with the City 50/50. Due to the tower being over 200 ft. it has requirements from the FCC. He started looking into the tower being taken down back in 2015 with a cost estimate around \$25,000. City Administrator, Jake Letner, informed council it has been challenging to find companies to provide the City with quotes especially locally. Optic Communications intends to exercise the option to purchase the land after the tower is removed. Letner and Soper will continue to seek quotes to have the tower taken down.

**H.1.A. Consider Resolution 637, a Resolution of Support for Development of 129 E. Maple Street.** Pryor moved to approve Resolution 637, a resolution of support for development of 129 E. Maple Street. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Abby Nelson attended the meeting to discuss the development of her property located at 129 E. Maple St. formerly known as the Liberty Gun Sales building. Nelson's plan is to develop the upper portion of the building into six apartments and leave the bottom level open for a commercial business. The resolution is put into place as support for the housing development as it is proposed and is required for the MIH (Moderate Income Housing) grant application. This resolution does not obligate the City to contribute any funds or resources toward the proposed project.

**H.1.B. Consider Ordinance 1506 adopting the LKM Fourth Edition Code of Procedures for Kansas Cities.** Pryor moved to approve Ordinance 1506 adopting the LKM Fourth Edition Code of Procedures for Kansas Cities for the City of Columbus. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**H.1.C. Consider forgiveness of special assessments owed on 816 W. Maple Street, in the event the lot is donated to the Columbus Land Bank.** Doherty moved to forgive the special assessments on 816 W. Maple Street, on the condition the property is donated to the Columbus Land Bank. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Letner informed the council that the State waived any amount due on the property and that he has the Lien Release. The City has been mowing the property and has also paid for the structure on the property to be bulldozed. By forgiving the special assessments and the owners donating the property to the Columbus Land Bank it allows a level of control on how the lot will be developed. Mayor Spieth stated the goal is to place a new structure on the property and the Land Bank ensures that the property will be developed within a given timeline. He also reminded council that the Columbus Land Bank meets on the first Wednesday of the month and they are currently seeking another member for their board.

**H.1.D. Reserve transfer requests.** Shoemaker moved to approve end-of-year transfer requests from operating funds to reserves as outlined in the chart. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Fund	Projected Expenses	Actual Expenses	% +/-	Requested Transfer Amount	Reserve Fund	Justification
GF - Legislative	\$ 60,810.00	\$ 62,671.72	103%	\$ -		
GF - Administration	\$ 293,165.00	\$ 298,706.00	101%	\$ -		
GF - Streets*	\$ 480,557.00	\$ 624,421.02	129%	\$ 25,000.00	Street Improvement	Safe Routes to School Projects
GF - Cemetery	\$ 73,014.00	\$ 52,459.82	71%	\$ 5,000.00	Capital Equipment	Mower & Weed Eater Replacement
GF - Parks	\$ 58,495.00	\$ 49,198.00	82%	\$ -		
GF - Swimming Pool	\$ 98,785.00	\$ 57,385.00	58%	\$ 15,000.00	Capital Improvement	Painting/sandblasting
GF - Property	\$ 99,104.00	\$ 113,092.00	114%	\$ -		
GF - Court	\$ 100,300.00	\$ 93,472.00	93%	\$ -		
GF - Police	\$ 510,124.00	\$ 464,754.00	91%	\$ 30,000.00	Capital Equipment	Vehicle Replacement
GF - Animal Control	\$ 46,257.00	\$ 31,625.00	68%	\$ 3,200.00	Capital Equipment	Vehicle Replacement
GF - Fire	\$ 331,793.00	\$ 295,091.28	88%	\$ 30,000.00	Capital Equipment	Equipment Replacement & Future Fire Truck Replacement
		<b>Total GF</b>		<b>\$ 108,200.00</b>		
	*CCLIP Payment	\$ 180,815.31				
Sewer	\$ 494,622.00	\$ 445,947.00	<b>Total Sewer</b>	<b>\$ 48,000.00</b>	Utility Reserves	Future Sewer Infrastructure Improvements
			<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 158,200.00</b>		

Doherty questioned Coble if his crew had encountered any issues with mold when working on the Community Buiding. He stated they had not seen any so far. Letner advised that he reached out to an environmental hygienist to come assess City Hall. He will provide an update once more information is available.

Letner also noted a kick-off meeting with BG Consultants was slated for Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building, giving the public a chance to learn about the proposed Stormwater and Sanitary Sewer project. Mayor Spieth reminded everyone again of the League of Kansas Municipalities training on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried (4-0).

**Upcoming Events:**

**City Council Work Session - Monday, February 13, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.**

**City Offices Closed - President’s Day Monday, February 20, 2023**

**City Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.**

*Erin Williams*  
 Erin Williams, Assistant City Clerk

