

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 16, 2024
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, and Wiley Sanders (Via Zoom). Council members absent: Laura Epler.

City staff present: City Administrator Jake Letner, City Clerk Ruth Hutley, City Superintendent Randy Coble, 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 #23-617, Appropriation Ordinance #24-618, City Council Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2024, Municipal Court Docket Summary – January 8, 2024, and Treasurer’s Report – January 10, 2024. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR

Mayor Grant Spieth recognized City Accounting Clerk Judi Mogle, thanking her for her nearly 20 years of service to the City of Columbus. Mrs. Mogle will be retiring at the end of the month. A retirement reception will be held on January 31, 2024, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. at City Hall. The public is invited.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY TREASURER

The City Treasurer position is elected during each odd year. Due to an oversight, the Treasurer position was not the 2023 ballot. The Treasurer position shall be included on the November 2024 ballot for a one-year term spanning from 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025. The Treasurer position will again be on the ballot in 2025 for the standard two-year term. Mayor Grant Spieth recommended the appointment of Doug Mogle as City Treasurer for a one-year term, ending on 12/31/2024. Doherty made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointment of Doug Mogle as City Treasurer for a one-year term. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator - City Administrator Jake Letner reported that the Columbus Museum expansion project has raised \$350,000 for a proposed addition to the museum building to accommodate a larger space for the Columbus Sports Hall of Fame. Since the initial proposal, Crossland Construction has increased the price of the expansion to \$370,000, due to an increase in supplies. The museum board is currently applying for a grant and soliciting donations for the additional funds needed for the project. Anyone wishing to donate to the museum expansion project should contact Ron Holmes. Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin soon.

-Letner reported the water treatment plant feasibility study performed by Allgeier, Martin and Associates is now completed. The results of the study will be shared during the second city council meeting in February.

-Letner reported the Columbus Land Bank has offers to purchase the parcels located at 425 N. Magnolia and 0 N. Railroad by an adjacent property owner. The board is currently drafting the development agreements. There are two parcels in inventory, 816 W. Maple which has received interest from several prospective buyers, and 301 S. Delaware, which the Land Bank will be advertising for sale.

-Lastly, Letner shared that he has enrolled in Certified Public Manager Leadership Training through the University of Kansas. Training is on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of each month in Overland Park.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that due to the extreme cold temperatures, the Community Building was open during the day on Sunday, January 14 and Monday, January 15, as a warming center. No citizens utilized the warming center over the two-day period. During normal business hours, anyone in need of a warming center is welcome to come to city hall.

Fire Department – Chief Steven Burton reported the Fire Department has responded to 39 emergencies year to date.

-Chief Burton sought the Council's approval to purchase a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe from Hatfield Automotive for \$23,100.00 to replace the current fire department command vehicle, a 2012 Ford Expedition. With the Council's permission, the Ford Expedition will be sold on Purple Wave auction website. Radios, lights, and sirens will be installed on the Tahoe in house.

Shoemaker made a motion to approve purchasing the 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe from Hatfield Automotive in the amount of \$23,100.00. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Shoemaker made a motion to approve the sale of the 2012 Ford Expedition Fire Department Administrative vehicle on Purple Wave auction website. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Police Department – Lieutenant Kyle Clark reported that interviews for the Animal Control Officer position were completed. Long time city employee, Jeff Woods has accepted an offer of the Animal Control Officer position and will be assuming his new role on January 22, 2024.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported he was advised by the Bone Creek Public Wholesale Water Service District that water usage doubled since the start of the cold snap. Coble advised that this is to be expected due to leaks. He also explained how the city's water tower had a mechanical issue, but fortunately, Coble said that the City of Girard was willing to loan us a part to make the repair. Coble and his team have ordered a replacement part to give to the City of Girard.

-Coble said the annual water loss report has been submitted to the Kansas Department of Agriculture showing a water loss percentage of 9%, which is 900,000 gallons out of 10.2 million gallons. This amount, Coble advised, is average to below average.

-Coble reported he has three meetings tentatively scheduled this month regarding the 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair Request for Proposals.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution 654 – Revised Personnel Policies & Regulations.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding proposed revisions to the City's personnel policies. Pryor made a motion to approve the revisions to the personnel policies and

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

Consider Resolution 655 – Waiver of GAAP Principles for the Fiscal Year 2024.

Shoemaker made a motion to accept Resolution 655, waiver of GAAP Principles for the fiscal year 2024. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Fire Chief Steven Burton reported that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have been awarded to the Columbus Fire Department through a grant from the American Red Cross. To be eligible to receive a free detector, citizens must own their home and not currently have smoke or carbon monoxide detectors. Residents interested in this program should contact City Hall. Chief Burton also reported that the Fire Department would be scheduling a CPR training course soon in conjunction with the Cherokee County Health Department.

STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER

Consider Authorizing the Repair of City Sidewalk on the 200 Block of E. Maple St.

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding the replacement of the city sidewalk on the 200 Block of E. Maple Street. Coble advised the council that the replacement would include concrete and curbing and the new sidewalk would meet all ADA requirements. The city crew will perform the labor with an estimated materials cost of \$3,500. Pryor made a motion to authorize the replacement of the sidewalk on the 200 Block of E. Maple Street. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Consider Revised Equipment Operator Job Description.

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding proposed revisions to the equipment operator job description. Doherty made a motion to approve the revised equipment operator job description. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Doherty called for a five-minute executive session at 7:17 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel employee related to employee discipline, with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Administrator and City Clerk in attendance. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular session 7:22 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- City Council Meeting – Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

