

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 20, 2024
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met February 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Council President Tom Pryor. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, and Laura Epler. Council members absent: Wiley Sanders, Mayor Grant Spieth.

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

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

BID OPENING

City Superintendent Randy Coble opened bids for 2024 street maintenance and repair. The bids are as follows: APAC from Springfield, MO - \$225,546.00.

Emery Sapp and Sons from Joplin, MO \$208,087.50.

Bettis Asphalt & Construction from Topeka, KS \$229,460.00.

The bids will be reviewed by Coble, and he will make his recommendation on which to select at a future council meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Scott Christiansen and Casey Brown from SEK-CAP addressed the Council regarding public transportation services in Cherokee County. State and federal funding provides 70% of the resources necessary to operate their public transportation services, which are currently available three days per week. SEK-CAP is requesting funds from the county and cities in Cherokee County to apply towards the 30% local cash match that is required by the Kansas Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration. Statistical data of the number of rides given, age and needs for ride and popular destinations was provided to the council.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-621, City Council Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2024, Municipal Court Docket Summary – February 12, 2024, and Treasurer’s Quarterly Report – December 31, 2023. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COLUMBUS PLANNING COMMISSION’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

Epler made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointments of Rick Walden, Thomas Niegisch, Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, David Holmes, Regina Jameson and Rodney Oels to the Columbus Planning Commission’s Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator - City Administrator Jake Letner reported that the water treatment plant study is completed, and the results of the study will be discussed at the next council meeting.

-Letner informed the Council that two properties acquired by the Columbus Land Bank have recently been conveyed. Terry Bessman purchased the parcel at 425 N. Magnolia and O N. Railroad from the Land Bank. Letner added that there are a couple of buyers interested in the parcel at 816 W. Maple.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that city utility bills mailed January 30 were delivered February 10 due to delays at the Kansas City postal processing plant. Local postal employees have informed her that to their knowledge, the issues have been resolved at the KC plant and there should be no delays in the delivery of the bills the end of this month.

-Hutley informed the council that the League of Kansas Municipalities will be having the City Leaders Academy in Manhattan on April 12 and 13. Any elected or appointed official is welcome and encouraged to attend. Registration is open until April 3 and any council member wanting to attend should contact Hutley.

-Hutley reported that she will be attending the City Clerk's conference in March and has been awarded a scholarship for the conference fee.

Fire Department – no report.

Police Department – Chief Jason Daniels reported that officer Sierra Shannon has completed her 2nd week of Kansas Law Enforcement training.

-Chief Daniels and Lieutenant Kyle Clark will be attending Police Chief training the first week of March.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble explained the details of the February 13 main water line break and the reason for the boil water advisory. Coble advised that our main that feeds the High School gymnasium is a 10" ductile iron pipe. The 10" line is supplied by three separate 2" taps feeding into a 4" supply line. All these taps have a corporation stop, which is a quarter turn valve used to isolate the tap. One of these three corporation stops failed and broke off. To safely make the necessary repairs, the water pressure had to be reduced. Because crews were not able to actuate the pressure of this 10" main specifically, the whole distribution system needed to be isolated. By isolating the clear well and water towers, the city was able to save over 1,000,000 gallons of water. The city's distribution system was without water for approximately 2-4 hours while repairs were ongoing. To prevent this issue from occurring again, a contractor completed a live insert of a 4' tap to the supply lines to the High School gymnasium. This new 4" tap will drastically reduce the risk of this particular area causing the same issues. When water pressure falls beneath 20 PSI, the Kansas Dept of Health & Environment issues a Boil Water Advisory. The Boil Water Advisories are different than Boil Water Orders. Boil Water Advisories are issued as a precautionary measure due to system conditions, not because of bacteria in the water. Boil Water Orders are issued when harmful bacteria have been detected.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of the Moderate-Income Housing Program Grant Agreement with the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the Moderate-Income Housing Program Grant Agreement. The grant award of \$650,000 will go towards the restoration of the Liberty theater, located at 129 E. Maple. Letner explained the funds will first be released to the city who will provide the funds to the developer. There are no local matching funds associated with this grant award. It is funded 100% by the state. Doherty made a motion to approve the Moderate-Income

Housing Program Grant Agreement with the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Approval of the Historic Economic Asset Lifeline (HEAL) Grant Agreement with the Kansas Department of Commerce.

City Administrator Jake Letner requested the Council's approval of the HEAL grant agreement with the Kansas Department of Commerce. The funds from the grant will be used towards the restoration of the Liberty Theater, located at 129 E. Maple. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the HEAL grant agreement. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- City Council Meeting – Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

