

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 4, 2024
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, Laura Epler and Wiley Sanders (via Zoom). Council members absent: Tom Pryor.

Rick Walden from St. Rose Catholic Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ross King addressed the council asking for permission for Center Christian Church to use the city park for their vacation bible school on June 17 through June 21 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. King requested the use of the northwest corner of the park, including the pavilion. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the request by Center Christian Church to hold vacation bible school in the city park. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Code Enforcement Officer Arlo Lewke informed the Council of a code enforcement billing error that was recently brought to his attention with a subsequent reimbursement that will be processed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-622, City Council Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2024, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – February 26, 2024. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR

Mayor Grant Spieth recognized Police Officer Preston Hosier for his five years of service to the city.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner introduced consulting engineers Eric DeGruson, P.E. and Michelle Pierce, E.I., of Allgeier, Martin and Associates, Inc., who presented to the council with results of the analysis of the City of Columbus water supply and facilities. Currently, all water is purchased from Bone Creek and Spring River public wholesale water supply service districts. The engineers stated that the current water plant is not usable in its current state. While the city retains well sites and water rights, the treatment plant is in a state of disrepair. The engineers presented detailed information regarding three options to restore the city’s ability to produce part or all its own water. The first option would be to reconstruct a plant capable of producing 50% of the community’s overall water needs and blend the produced water with purchased water from the wholesale supplies. Option 2 would be to construct a plant capable of producing half of the city’s water supply with advanced treatment technologies to better handle aesthetic qualities including smell and appearance. The third option would be to construct a water treatment plant capable of producing all the city’s water needs. The estimated costs of each of the alternative plans were presented and discussed.

-Letner informed the council that he had received the city property insurance renewals for 2024-2025. The current water treatment plant filter building’s appraisal is \$254,752 and the contents are appraised

at \$42,591. Letner explained that the filter building has not served a useful purpose since 2015 and his recommendation would be to remove it from the insurable property list.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley announced the Chamber of Commerce annual banquet is scheduled for March 27 at the State Theater Event Center. She asked that council members who wish to attend contact her before the March 18 deadline for reservations.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported the department has responded to 129 calls so far this year.

-Chief Burton announced the tornado sirens would be tested at 11:00 a.m. on March 6, in conjunction with the nationwide severe weather week.

-Lastly, Chief Burton reported that his office remodel has been completed.

Police Department – no report.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble announced that the annual spring cleanup would be held April 15 through April 26. Coble said the cleanup would go in ward order, starting with Ward 1, with two days being spent in each ward.

-Coble said he is working on the Lead and Copper Pipe survey which is an inventory of the city's water mains and distribution system. This is a federally mandated survey that all cities are required to complete. The initial inventory is due Oct. 16, 2024.

-Coble reported he recently had a field check for the Stage Two Safe Routes to School program with KDOT. Sidewalks will be constructed on Maple Street from High School Street to Washington Avenue and on Sycamore Street east to the Reeves Park entrance. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2025.

City Treasurer – City Treasurer Doug Mogle reported that the city is financially solid with almost all investments local at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Annual Financial Report – FY 2023

City Administrator Jake Letner presented the preliminary annual financial report for fiscal year 2023. Letner explained the report is a preliminary because the audit hasn't been completed yet for 2023. City fund balances were reported.

Audit Contract

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding the proposed contract by Diehl Banwart Bolton to perform the city's 2023 financial audit in an amount not to exceed \$11,357.00. A motion was made by Doherty to approve the contract by Diehl Banwart Bolton to perform the 2023 financial audit. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Discussion of Pending Litigation with the City of Girard, KS

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding pending litigation with the City of Girard involving a former police officer of the City of Girard that was hired by the City of Columbus. The City of Girard is suing the City of Columbus in the amount of \$13,769.57 for wages paid to him during his training.

STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER

Consider Approving the Bid from Emery, Sapp, and Sons for 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair

City Superintendent Randy Coble opened the discussion regarding his recommendation that the council approve the bid from Emery, Sapp, and Sons for the 2024 street maintenance and repairs. Emery, Sapp, and Sons submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$208,087. Coble stated that he had checked with Emery, Sapp, and Sons references and all had given him positive feedback. Doherty made a motion to accept the bid from Emery, Sapp, and Sons. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Council Work Session – Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **City Council Meeting – Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

