

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 18, 2023
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met December 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, and Stephanie Farstvedt. Council members absent: Wiley Sanders.

Pastor Dorcia Johnson from Columbus Methodist Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-614, City Council Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023, Work Session Minutes – December 11, 2023, Treasurer’s Report – November 30, 2023, and Cereal Malt Beverage License Renewals for American Legion, American Legion Beverage Hut, Bowler’s Boulevard, Casey’s, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Fastmart, G&W Foods, and Snak Attack. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Farstvedt. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the 2023 Budget Amendment Hearing at 6:35 p.m. to give taxpayers an opportunity to comment on the budget. The hearing was closed at 6:36 p.m.

Doherty made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget Amendment. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Farstvedt. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR

Mayor Grant Spieth recognized Sanitation Driver Jerry Kirk for his five years of service to the city. City Council Member Stephanie Farstvedt was also presented with a certificate of recognition for her years of service on the City Council.

STAFF REPORTS

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley presented the administrative department end of year report. Hutley noted an accounting clerk has been hired to replace an employee retiring, a new cash handling process has been implemented and files have been re-organized as part of the department’s projects over the past year.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton presented the end of year report for the Columbus Fire Department. Chief Burton reported 78 years of combined service and experience between the three Columbus Fire Department Chief Officers, 26 years combined experience between the Fire Officers and 60 years combined experience of the Columbus Volunteer Firefighters. Chief Burton also noted the department’s community service events which include Shopping with a Firefighter and the annual Freedom Fest event.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble presented his departments’ end of year report noting street repairs, completion of the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project, city pool resurfacing, and the community building remodel as some of the projects completed this past year.

Police Department – Police Chief Jason Daniels presented the end of year report for the Columbus Police Department. Chief Daniels reported the department as being fully staffed, including promotions to lieutenant and sergeant positions. Chief Daniels also reported on the department’s community service projects including their participation in the Touch a Truck event.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approving Comprehensive Plan Consulting Services Proposal from Confluence, Inc.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the discussion regarding the results of the RFP for consulting services to assist the City of Columbus in the drafting and implementation of a Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Spieth added that the proposal from Confluence, Inc., was recommended by the Planning Commission board. The appointment of a steering committee to aid in the Comprehensive Plan development was also discussed. The Council agreed that applications be taken from interested citizens with a total of seven to be appointed by the mayor to serve on the steering committee.

Pryor made a motion to approve the proposal by Confluence, Inc., for consulting services in the drafting and implementation of a Comprehensive Plan in the amount of \$49,640.00, to be completed in approximately one year. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Farstvedt. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Records Management Software Proposal from Pearson Kelly/Square 9.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding a bid from Square 9 for records management software. Farstvedt made a motion to approve the bid from Pearson Kelly/Square 9 in the amount of \$5,000 for software to assist the city with records management and retention. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Farstvedt. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Consider Taser Purchase Request

Police Chief Jason Daniels led the discussion regarding purchasing ten new Taser 7 models to replace the existing tasers that will no longer be serviced. Doherty made a motion to purchase ten Taser 7 models in the amount of \$28,000. The motion was seconded by Farstvedt. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Farstvedt. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER

City Superintendent Randy Coble reported that HK Solutions has completed 6,000’ of cleanout of the southern section of the city’s sewer collection system, with 10,000’ left.

Coble said the leaf pickup is now completed with a total of 88 loads totaling 528 sq. yards picked up.

ADJOURNMENT

Farstvedt moved to adjourn the meeting. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor, and Farstvedt. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Offices Closed – Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1, 2024.**
- **City Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Columbus Land Bank Meeting – Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

