

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
March 11, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 11, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, Laura Epler, Tom Pryor, and Wiley Sanders. Council members absent: none.

Mayor Grant Spieth called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**Mass Notification Software Discussion**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the discussion regarding mass notification software for the city in the event of emergencies such as major water leaks or incidents involving police and fire response. City Administrator Jake Letner explained that currently the city’s public notification strategy involves the use of social media, the newspaper, and directly contacting essential businesses such as healthcare providers, childcare providers, the school district, and other entities. Mayor Spieth said he had reached out to a software provider and received pricing for solutions that would allow the city to control their own notifications. The software would require residents to “opt in” to receive notifications and the recurring costs of the notification software would be in the thousands per year.

**STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER**

**Garfield Avenue Traffic Flow Discussion**

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding traffic flow on Garfield Avenue during pickup and drop-off times during the school year. Letner advised that Garfield is a two-way street, but during school pickup and drop-off times it basically operates as a one-way street. Alternatives were discussed to increase the safety of school children and drivers. Principal Anna Moser will be invited to an upcoming meeting to further discuss the issue.

**Discussion of Potential Addition to 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair Scope of Work**

City Superintendent Randy Coble opened the discussion regarding adding two streets to the original 2024 street maintenance and repair list. Coble explained that the bid for the 2024 street projects in the amount of \$208,087 was less than the \$240,000 in the budget for 2024 street repairs. Coble recommended adding a 2” mill and overlay on the 700 block of South Vermont beginning where the SRTS project stopped on the South side intersection and continuing 200’ South and the addition of a 1.5” HMA cap laid in the 700 & 800 blocks of Park Drive. Coble said his reasoning for choosing these two additions were the conditions of the pavement and the proximity to the work scheduled.

**Street Department Paver Purchase Request**

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding the council’s consideration of the purchase of a small paver to be used by the Public Works Department for patching and repairing streets. The paver attaches to a skid steer and is relatively inexpensive and easy to use.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Discussion of Water Plant Feasibility Analysis/Future Direction for Water Infrastructure Improvements**

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the recent water plant feasibility analysis and the future direction the council would like to take for water infrastructure improvements. After discussion, Letner was asked to continue discussions with engineering firms in our region and focus on the replacement of the city's two cast iron mains that connect the clearwell and water tower at City Park.

**Water Plant Filter Building Insurance Discussion**

City Administrator Jake Letner reported that the city property insurance premium has increased 18% from last year. In reviewing the property list, Letner noted that the filter building was being insured and was no longer in use. Letner proposed removing the insurance coverage for the filter building. It was also discussed as to whether insurance coverage was necessary for the old pool house at the city park. Letner advised he would reach out to the insurance agent to find out the cost savings of removing both buildings from the insured property list.

Council member Lindsay Shoemaker asked that city staff investigate the possibility of expanding the seating areas around the city swimming pool.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Pryor seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

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

  
Ruth Huitley, City Clerk

