

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 18, 2024  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 18, 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 (via Zoom). Council members absent: None.

Rev. Jeremy Huser from St. Rose Catholic Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Cody Bohall approached the council with a request to use City Park on June 8, 2024, from 1 – 8 p.m. for Renewed Fest Event. Bohall explained that the event will feature several bands and will be free for the public to attend. Bohall added that local mental health professionals as well as local church leaders will be available at the event, to offer their services. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the use of City Park for Renewed Fest. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-623 – March 18, 2024, City Treasurer’s Report – February 29, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024, Work Session Minutes – March 11, 2024, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – March 11, 2024. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing to consider the development plan and RHID for 129 E. Maple Street at 6:38 p.m. The project developer, Ryan Imholz, was present and answered questions from the council and members of the public. Mayor Spieth closed the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that she has been reviewing applications and conducting interviews for lifeguard positions at the City Pool.

-Hutley announced she will be attending the City Clerk and Municipal Finance Officers Spring Conference in Manhattan, Kansas, from March 19 – 22.

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Steven Burton advised that he has been working on the bylaws for the Jr. Firefighter program and hopes to begin the program soon.

-Chief Burton reported that the department has responded to 155 calls so far this year.

-Chief Burton reported the department, along with other local emergency response teams, took part in a mock wreck recently at the high school

-Lastly, Chief Burton announced that the annual Freedom Fest is scheduled for July 6, 2024, at City Park.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Jason Daniels reported that the police department will be serving chili at the high school next week.

-Chief Daniels advised the department will be participating in the Touch a Truck event at Park School in April.

**Public Works** – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported the Maintenance Worker II position has been filled. Coble said he is still working to fill the Operator position. Coble said two summer laborers will be returning from last year.

-Coble advised that he and Public Works Foreman Justin Rogers will be attending the Kansas Rural Water Association conference in Wichita on March 26 – 28.

-Coble advised that the restrooms in City Park will be opened in time for the Chamber’s Easter Egg Hunt on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Ordinance 1512 – Establishing a Reinvestment Housing Incentive District and Approving the Development Plan for the Property located at 129 E. Maple St.**

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the RHID and development plan for the property located at 129 East Maple Street. Shoemaker moved to approved Ordinance 1512. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consider Removing Judi Mogle and Erin Williams and Adding Rebekka Sanchez to the City of Columbus’ Petty Cash Account.**

City Clerk Ruth Hutley requested the council’s approval to remove former employees Judi Mogle and Erin Williams from the city’s Petty Cash Account and add Accounting Clerk Rebekka Sanchez. Hutley advised that two signatures are required on the account. Hutley added that Utility Clerk Kelly Wells and herself are already on the account and Sanchez would be an additional signer. Doherty made a motion to approve removing Mogle and Williams from the Petty Cash Account and adding Sanchez. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consider 2024-2025 Insurance Proposal from Ryan Insurance/EMC**

City Administrator Jake Letner introduced Wally Wilson from Ryan Insurance who discussed the changes in the 2024-2025 insurance proposal. Epler moved to approve the 2024-2025 insurance proposal. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER**

### **Continued Discussion of Garfield Street Traffic Flow near Park Elementary.**

City Administrator Jake Letner introduced Anna Moser, Principal of Park Elementary who led the discussion regarding traffic flow during pick up/drop off times at the school. Police Chief Jason Daniels recommended making Garfield Street a one-way street permanently. City Administrator Jake Letner suggested before making it a one-way street, that homeowners in the area be consulted. The council agreed and asked Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble to talk to homeowners in the Park Elementary School area to gather their input.

### **Consider Approval for the Purchase of a DR150 Utility Paver in the amount of \$5,680.**

Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble requested council approval to purchase a DR150 Utility Paver for the Public Works Department. After discussion, Epler made a motion to approve the purchase of the DR150 Utility Paver using funds from the Street Reserves Fund. The motion was

seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider adding 700 Block of South Vermont Ave. to the alley, and the 700 & 800 Blocks of South Park Drive to the 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair List.**

Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble opened the discussion regarding additions to the 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair List. Coble explained that the bid for the maintenance and repairs was under the projected amount so additional streets could be added and still stay within the budget. Shoemaker made a motion to approve adding the 700 Block of South Vermont Ave. to the alley, and the 700 & 800 Blocks of South Park Drive to the 2024 Street Maintenance & Repair List. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Grant Spieth reminded the council the League of Kansas Municipalities Leaders Academy is scheduled for April 12 – 13 in Manhattan, Kansas. Council members are encouraged to attend.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

City Administrator Jake Letner provided information regarding CDBG grants that are available for city infrastructure projects. Letner is gathering more information as to whether an income survey of residents would be necessary for the grant process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **City Council Meeting – Monday, April 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

