

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

ATTENDANCE

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

Kathy Doherty provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Brian Henderson, a candidate for Cherokee County Sheriff, appeared before the Council to introduce himself. Mr. Henderson indicated that he would be staying for the duration of the meeting and welcomed questions at the conclusion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-626 – May 6, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2024, Municipal Court Docket Summary – April 22, 2024, and the Treasurer’s Report – March 31, 2024. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

MAYOR

Mayor Spieth shared that the League of Kansas Municipalities has released Tax & Fiscal data for all Kansas cities. This information was provided to the City Council & staff for review.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner reported that the city’s annual financial audit was completed, and the auditor has asked to re-schedule the audit presentation to the following council meeting on 05/20.

- Letner shared information about the upcoming End-of-Year School Carnival to be held at City Park on Tuesday, 05/28 from 10 AM to 2 PM.
- Letner thanked the public for their involvement at the Comprehensive Plan Public Forum held last week. Around 50 people attended and provided valuable feedback.
- Letner shared dates and information pertaining to benefits for Chief Daniels & family.

City Clerk – No report.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported that the department has responded to 218 emergency calls year-to-date.

- Burton reported a successful Freedom Fest fundraiser the previous week and indicated that there would not be a cookout in May due to Chief Daniels’ benefit events.
- Burton reported that the department will be assisting SKIL with a benefit cookout and fundraiser to be held on May 22nd on the downtown square.

Police Department – Lieutenant Kyle Clark shared that a new shipment of Narcan has arrived, outfitting all those that serve in the department.

Public Works – Superintendent Randy Coble shared information pertaining to updates on the city’s lead & copper service line inventory. Information will be mailed to residents in the next water bill.

- Coble shared that city staff collected 29 tons of materials through the city-wide cleanup event. This amounted to approximately \$1,550 in expense for the department.
- Coble reminded the council that the splash pad will open for the season on Friday, May 17. Hours of operation are 9 AM to Noon and 4 PM to 8 PM. The splash pad will be open daily.
- Coble shared that he and his crews have been busy clearing drain boxes and ditches based on the recent heavy rainfall.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Mobile Home Placement Application for 301 S. Florida Ave.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding an application for mobile home placement at 301 S. Florida Ave. The landowner, Kenny Maxton, was present and answered questions from the council. Three lots were recently combined to meet the city’s minimum requirements pertaining to mobile home placement. The city code also stipulates that mobile homes are only permitted on lots without any other occupied structures. Mr. Maxton indicated that he intends to demolish the other existing structure within one (1) year of the mobile home placement. Doherty made a motion to approve the mobile home placement application on 301 S. Florida Ave., with the condition that the existing structure on the lot be demolished, at landowner expense, within one (1) year of the mobile home placement. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Disposition of Remaining Pathways Funds.

Columbus Farmers Market Manager and Pathways Grant Coordinator Bobbi Williams was present to provide the City Council with updates on the Pathways Grant. All Pathways funds must be spent by 07/31/24. Any remaining funds after this point would have to be returned to Blue Cross Blue Shield. Williams requested using the remaining Pathways fund balance to fund semi-permanent shade units to be placed on market grounds. She also shared information on other Pathways initiatives and presented the city with a commemorative plaque for its participation in the grant program. Pryor made a motion to approve providing the remaining Pathways fund balance, \$3,530.71, to the Columbus Farmers Market to use for the purchase of additional shade units. Motion seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Consider Approval of the Purchase of Eleven (11) Axon-4 Body Worn Cameras

Lieutenant Clark opened the discussion on the replacement of body worn cameras for the Columbus Police Department. Ofc. Preston Hosier and an Axon account representative were on hand to discuss the proposal and the potential benefits from upgraded body worn cameras. They shared that the cameras had two purchase options – a lump sum payment of \$36,660.00, or a 5-year purchase option at \$7,332.00 per year. After discussion and a brief comparative demonstration, Shoemaker moved to waive the city’s competitive bidding requirements and approve the purchase of eleven (11) Axon-4 Body Worn Cameras for the Columbus Police Department. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER

Council member Wiley Sanders began discussion of recent rain events that caused significant runoff near his property. Sanders reported that the city sewer system backs up near his residence, and during a recent storm event, runoff infiltrated his residence. City staff engaged in discussion pertaining to short-term solutions to mitigate these issues. BG Consultants is finalizing a formal analysis of the

stormwater/SSES issues, and the final report will be completed this summer. Superintendent Coble and City Administrator Letner vowed to follow up with Sanders regarding the issue in the coming days.

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 8:05 PM.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Council Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Benefit Lunch for Chief Daniels – Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Columbus 4-H Building.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

