

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 3, 2024
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met June 3, 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.

Tom Pryor provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-628 – June 3, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2024, and 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

Municipal Judge Appointment, City Prosecutor Appointment, City Attorney Appointment and Planning Commission Reappointment.

Doherty made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointments of John Bullard, Municipal Court Judge with term expiring 6/02/2025, Matthew Bonner, City Prosecutor with term expiring 6/02/2025, Barbara Wright, City Attorney with term expiring 6/02/2025 and Thomas Niegisch reappointment to the Planning Commission Board with term expiring 06/07/2027. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Spieth noted that he had several applicants for the planning commission board, and he would keep those applications on file for 6 months.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner reported the swimming pool was open with reduced hours due to staffing shortages. The pool is open daily from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported there are 10 certified lifeguards at the public swimming pool this season. She suggested next year considering raising the starting pay rate to attract more applicants.

-Hutley reported that starting this past April, door hanger reminders were being distributed the day before utility shut offs for non-pay each month. She said the reminders have resulted in a decrease in the number of non-pay utility shut offs being required.

City Treasurer – City Treasurer Doug Mogle reported that the city’s cash balances were slightly higher than expected and that overall, the city is in good financial condition. Mogle also explained that the issue with the security pledges noted in the annual audit had to do with the timing of moving funds from the Kansas Municipal Investment Pool to Certificates of Deposit held at local banks.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported the department has responded to 279 emergency calls to date.

-Chief Burton shared that the department has been busy preparing for the annual Freedom Fest on July 6 and golf tournament on July 7.

Police Department – Interim Chief Kyle Clark reported that the Chief Daniels Benefit Car Show was held June 1 and he had received a lot of positive feedback from the event. He said there will be a benefit cornhole tournament for the Daniels’ family on July 15 at the Red Iron Activity Center.

-Interim Chief Clark shared that the annual taser training is scheduled for June 6 and annual firearms training is scheduled for June 12. Once that is completed, all officers will have either met or exceeded their minimum statutory requirements for firearms training.

Public Works – Superintendent Randy Coble reported that the citywide brush pickup began June 3 starting in Ward 1. The brush pickup will continue through June 7, or longer as needed.

-Coble reported that a Water Service Line Material Survey has been mailed with the utility bills this month. The data from the survey will help the city follow newly updated state and federal regulations and help ensure clean water for future generations. Coble said anyone needing assistance in completing the survey should contact him.

-Coble reported that the city mechanic’s truck and flatbed truck were sold on Purple Wave auction site for \$11,600.

Mayor – Mayor Grant Spieth reported that he recently attended Green Zone Training, which is a program to support veterans. Spieth said it was a 6-hour training and he encouraged any who may have the opportunity to attend future training.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Projected Expenditures for the 2025 Budget.

City Administrator Jake Letner led the presentation of projected expenditures for the 2025 budget. Letner explained the budgeting process and provided a breakdown of the departmental actual and proposed budgets. Letner noted a substantial savings by the city in employee health insurance due to the city switching health insurance providers.

Consider Authorizing the Planning and Installation of a Fire Department Training Facility.

Fire Chief Steven Burton led the discussion regarding the installation of a training facility for the fire department. Burton proposed placing 30’ x 40’ Conex boxes on the grass lot behind the fire station. Burton added that Parsons, Pittsburg and Carl Junction all have similar training facilities behind their fire stations. Burton said the project would be funded by a \$10,000 donation. Doherty made a motion to approve the planning and installation of a fire department training facility. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Proposal for Additional Shading at the City Pool.

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding a proposal to provide additional shade and seating at the City Pool. Coble proposed finishing the concrete on the north side of the pool, removing the existing small, covered area and adding new shade and seating. The quote includes the concrete work, a 15’ x 25’ hip shade structure, 2 – 46” ADA picnic tables and 7.5’ 3-row bleacher at a total cost of \$24,148. The funds for the project would come from the pool reserve fund that has a current balance of \$40,593.96. Shoemaker made a motion to approve adding additional shade and seating at the city pool in the amount of \$24,148. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider the Proposal for Annual Tornado Siren Maintenance with CDL Companies.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding a proposal by CDL Companies for annual tornado siren maintenance. The proposal includes a one-year contract for bi-annual inspections of the city's seven storm sirens in the amount of \$1,800. After discussion, Epler made a motion to approve the proposal for annual tornado siren maintenance by CDL Companies. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider the Proposal for Water Distribution Analysis with Allgeier, Martin, and Associates.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the proposal for water distribution analysis. Letner shared that based on a recent analysis, restoration of the water treatment plant is not feasible for the city at the present time, so projects to improve the distribution system should be focused on. The 10-inch water mains that connect the city's clear-well to the water tower need to be addressed. The city does not have the ability to reduce pressure on these lines in the event of leaks and part, or all, of these lines need to be replaced due to their age and condition. Letner said that based on the information we currently have, all that could be done is replace the 10-inch mains in place. The engineering firms that the city has contacted have recommended another shorter, more focused analysis of the distribution system which may be less expensive than the previous study. It would also deepen the city's understanding of the system, allowing for plans to be made to meet future demands and better isolate parts of the system in the event of line breaks. The city received two quotes for this scope of work. PEC submitted a quote in the amount of \$50,000 and Allgeier, Martin, & Associates quoted \$23,700. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the quote for the Water Distribution Analysis from Allgeier, Martin, and Associates in the amount of \$23,700. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Doherty called for a 10-minute executive session at 7:46 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pertaining to wages and compensation. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Returned to regular session at 7:56 p.m.
No action taken.

Shoemaker made a motion that City Clerk Ruth Hutley's annual salary be increased to \$57,664.67. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Sanders, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

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 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Council Meeting – Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**
- **City Council Work Session – Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

