

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 17, 2024
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met June 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Laura Epler, Tom Pryor, and Lindsay Shoemaker. Council members absent: Willey Sanders.

Linda Howard of Camp Joy Ministries provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-629 – June 17, 2024, City Council Special Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2024, City Council Special Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2024, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – June 10, 2024. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR

Re-appointment to Land Bank Board of Trustees.

Doherty made a motion to approve the mayor's re-appointment of Chad Epler to the Land Bank Board of Trustees for a 3-year term expiring 6/30/2027. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor. Abstaining: Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 3-0-1.

Appointment to Volunteer Fire Department.

Shoemaker made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Hunter Burton to the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Epler, Shoemaker, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner reported on a recent meeting he had with the Columbus Housing Inc. board of directors regarding the parcel of land located east of Cherry Creek Apartments. Letner said that local housing developer Jeremy Strup is interested in building a multi-unit development on the parcel. Currently, Strup is completing a similar housing development project in Galena and could potentially begin the proposed development in Columbus in 2025 should the board decide to sell or donate the land.

-Letner reported that the City of Girard has accepted the City of Columbus' counteroffer in the amount of \$8,000 to settle the suit filed by the City of Girard involving a former police officer of the City of Girard that was hired by the City of Columbus.

-Letner said the proposed housing subdivision presentation by Crossland Construction that was on the agenda has been postponed to the next Council meeting scheduled for 07/01/24.

-Letner shared that some questions regarding whether citizens should be allowed to live in recreational vehicles within the city limits have been brought to his attention. Letner requested this topic be added to the agenda for discussion.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that the public swimming pool is averaging 112 patrons each day. The pool is open daily from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. There are currently 11 lifeguards and 2 pool managers on staff.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported the department has responded to 300 emergency calls year-to-date.

-Chief Burton reminded the council that the annual Freedom Fest celebration will be July 6 beginning at 5 p.m. at the city park. Helicopter rides will be available from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

-Chief Burton reported that a part that is needed for one of the storm sirens has been ordered and should be repaired soon.

Police Department – Police Chief Kyle Clark reported that the police department will be completing body cam training on Sept. 5.

-Chief Clark reported that the animal control department had recently received an award from the Best Friends Network for their work in re-homing animals instead of euthanizing them at the city animal shelter. Chief Clark commended former Animal Control Officer Sierra Hampton for her work.

Public Works – Superintendent Randy Coble reported that the Equipment Operator position has been filled internally by John Shallenburger which opens a Maintenance Worker position. The Maintenance Worker position opening will be posted soon.

-Coble reported that the citywide brush pickup is complete.

-Coble shared there have been 5 water leaks in the past 8 days but the leaks were repaired without any significant service disruptions.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Whether Citizens Should Be Allowed to Reside in Recreational Vehicles.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding recent concerns about citizens living in recreational vehicles within the city limits. Letner explained there are currently city codes regarding mobile homes, but not pertaining to recreational vehicles. Mayor Grant Spieth stated that he researched the ordinances of neighboring towns pertaining to recreational vehicles and found that most have a limit to the number of days the recreational vehicle could be resided in. After discussion, the council recommended an ordinance be drafted that the council could consider at the council meeting on July 1, 2024.

Consider Resolution 658 – Allowing the Sale and Firing or Discharge of Fireworks Through the Date of Freedom Fest.

Shoemaker made a motion that fireworks be allowed to be sold and fired or discharged from June 25, 2024, through July 6, 2024, at 10:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Closing the Street at Park Street and Country Road on July 6, 2024, for Freedom Fest.

Shoemaker made a motion to approve closing the street at Park Street and Country Road on July 6, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. for the Freedom Fest activities. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Membership Application for the Cherokee County Economic Development Corporation.

Shoemaker made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$2,000 for the city's membership in the Cherokee County Economic Development Corporation. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Shoemaker called for a 10-minute executive session at 7:24 p.m. to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pertaining to employee discipline with the Mayor, Council, City Attorney and City Administrator in attendance. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Returned to regular session at 7:34 p.m.
No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor and Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

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


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

