

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 3, 2024
5:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 3, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Lindsay Shoemaker, Wiley Sanders, Kathy Doherty (via Zoom) and Tom Pryor (via Zoom). Council members absent: Laura Epler.

Jay Evans from Center Christian Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ralph Houser and Kathy Shouse from Connecting Point Church approached the Council and announced that the church will be participating in a Nazarene Church Nationwide Day of Service on Saturday, October 26, 2024, and are looking for community service projects that could be performed that day by church volunteers. Any community service project ideas that city staff or council members have will be emailed to Ms. Shouse by City Administrator Jake Letner.

CONSENT AGENDA

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-634 – September 3, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2024, Municipal Court Docket Summary – August 26, 2024. The motion was seconded by Sanders. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner reported that information about the new Voluntary Demolition Grant Program has been posted on the city’s Facebook and webpage and one application for the grant has already been submitted for consideration.

Letner advised that the street for the new Lakewood West addition has been cut and that water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure has been installed. Schuber Mitchell is scheduled to begin construction of ten homes on October 1.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported she will be attending the Kansas Society for Human Resource Management Conference next week in Mulvane, Kansas.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported the department has responded to 431 emergency calls year-to-date.

Chief Burton shared that the department is awaiting fund disbursement from American Bank to obtain the tanker truck recently purchased from the City of Joplin. Burton said the department should receive the truck soon.

Chief Burton said he’s received a bid in the amount of \$7,500 to purchase two Conex boxes to be used in departmental training activities, funded through a \$10,000 donation from Jan & Wes Houser. The boxes will be placed in the grass lot south of the fire station. Burton said the remainder of the funds

will be used to construct a rock pad on which to place the boxes and/or fencing. Mayor Grant Spieth requested that a drawing of the placement of the Conex boxes be provided to the council.

Lastly, Chief Burton reported that the department is required to change out the tires on their vehicles every seven years, per NFPA standard. He said the tires on the small brush unit are still useable and he asked if they could be sold by bid. After discussion, the council agreed that it is allowable to take bids on the tires.

Police Department – Police Chief Kyle Clark reported he has been reviewing applications for the open police officer position. He is hopeful to fill the position soon.

Public Works – City Superintendent Randy Coble gave an update on the Lakewood housing addition, reporting that the infrastructure work by the city has been completed. Coble said the water line had to be lowered 4” and he commended public works staff for their good work.

Coble reported the splash pad has now been closed for the season and reported that 2,491,905 gallons of water were used throughout the summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution 663 – Annexations of 821 S. East Ave. & 720 E. Country Road.

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding a Consent to Annexation that was executed by the property owner, Crossland Construction Company, Inc., and filed with the city. Shoemaker made a motion to approve Resolution 663, setting a public hearing to consider the annexations of 821 S. East Avenue and 720 E. Country Road. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Resolution 664 – Establishing a Non-Budgeted Fund for the City’s Demolition Grant Program.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the creation of a new non-budgeted fund in which to track revenue and expenses for the City’s Demolition Grant Program. Shoemaker made a motion to approve establishing a non-budgeted fund for the City’s Demolition Grant Program. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Appointment of Grant Spieth & Tom Pryor as Voting Delegates to represent the city at the League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Meeting scheduled for Oct. 10-12, 2024, in Wichita, KS.

Shoemaker made a motion to appoint Grant Spieth and Tom Pryor as voting delegates to represent the city at the League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Meeting. Sanders seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Consider Initiating Condemnation Proceedings for the Structure Located at 422 W. Sycamore.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the condition of the structure located at 422 W. Sycamore. After discussion, Shoemaker made a motion to approve proceeding with the condemnation, authorizing City Attorney Barbara Wright to draft Resolution No. 665 fixing a time and place and providing for Notice of Hearing and authorizing Mayor Grant Spieth to sign the resolution. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Works


City Administrator Jake Letner reminded the Council that they had directed him to apply for the Kansas Water Grant opportunity. Letner said the grant application is due in 3 days. If approved, the grant would pay for the engineering costs associated with the sewer upgrades.

ADJOURNMENT

Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Shoemaker, Pryor, Doherty and Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **City Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

