

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 16, 2024  
5:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Lindsay Shoemaker, Kathy Doherty, Laura Epler and Tom Pryor (via Zoom). Council members absent: Wiley Sanders.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Shoemaker moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-635 – September 19, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2024, Municipal Court Docket Summary – September 9, 2024. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Grant Spieth announced that Public Works employee, Brent Perry recently celebrated his 5-year work anniversary and would be presented with a certificate. Mayor Spieth commended Mr. Perry for his hard work and dedication to the City of Columbus.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**City Administrator** – City Administrator Jake Letner reported that the city has received six applications so far for the demolition grant program. Letner said the donor has agreed to contribute more funds to the program in the future.

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that she attended Mental Health First Aid training at Spring River Mental Health in Riverton and was now certified for 3 years to be able to provide initial help to someone experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge.

**Fire Department** – City Administrator Jake Letner reported that the fire department will be closing the sale the following day on the tanker truck from the City of Joplin. Letner said the rock pad was in place for the fire departmental training activities and the Conex boxes will be delivered soon.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Kyle Clark reported police department employees will be attending the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on Sept. 19. Chief Clark said he was working on revamping the police department's policy & procedure manual and he hoped to have additional policies ready for the council review and approval at the next meeting.

**Public Works** – City Superintendent Randy Coble reported that Joey Midgett has been promoted to the Utility Technician II position. Midgett has already obtained Wastewater Operator I certification and will be working on his water certification. Coble also shared that Kasie England has been promoted to the Utility Technician I position. Coble said there is an additional opening in the public works department for a maintenance worker position, and that interviews for this role are ongoing. Coble reminded the council that Fall Cleanup will begin September 23 and run through October 4.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Public Hearing on Condemnation of the Structure located at 526 W. Walnut.**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing on the condemnation of the structure located at 526 W. Walnut at 5:52 p.m. No one appeared at the hearing to comment on the condemnation. The hearing closed at 5:54 p.m.

Doherty moved to proceed with the condemnation of the structure at 526 W. Walnut. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**Public Hearing on Condemnation of the Structure located at 327 N. Florida.**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing on the condemnation of the structure located at 327 N. Florida at 5:55 p.m. No one appeared at the hearing to comment on the condemnation. The hearing closed at 5:56 p.m.

Shoemaker moved to proceed with the condemnation of the structure at 327 N. Florida. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Resolution 666 – Establishing a Public Hearing to Consider Annexation of the Parcel Located at 0 E. Merle Evans Dr.**

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding establishing a public hearing to consider the annexation of a tract of land that adjoins the boundaries of the City of Columbus, known as 0 E. Merle Evans Drive. Letner explained that a written Consent to Annexation was filed with the City Clerk by the owner, Columbus Housing, Inc. This area has been discussed as the potential location for a housing subdivision. Doherty made a motion to establish a public hearing to consider annexation of 0 E. Merle Evans Drive. The motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Shoemaker, Epler. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**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 6:17 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **City Council Work Session – Monday, September 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

*Ruth Hulley*  
Ruth Hulley, City Clerk

