

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
October 21, 2024  
5:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met October 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Laura Epler, Tom Pryor, Wiley Sanders and Kathy Doherty (via Zoom). Council members absent: None.

Jim Thomas of First Baptist Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

MaKayla Tedlock, 233 N. Bay Avenue, approached the council requesting that Crossland Addition be blocked for traffic on Halloween between 6-10 p.m. Tedlock sited concerns for children's safety and the need for access for first responders in the event of an emergency as the reasoning for her request. She expressed that she had talked to many neighborhood residents, that Jason Hulvey has authorized parking in the large, vacant lot he owns at the intersection of Quail Creek Drive and N. Grandview Ave. Council member Tom Pryor encouraged trick or treaters to attend the Halloween Walk on Pine St. on Halloween between 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. as a safe alternative to going door-to-door. After discussion, Epler made a motion to approve blocking N. Grandview Ave., W. Quail Creek Dr., and N. Bay Ave., between the hours of 6 – 10 p.m. on Halloween night. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Grant Spieth presented former City Council Member Lindsay Shoemaker with a certificate of recognition for her nearly 3 years of service on the City Council for Ward 2. Shoemaker resigned on October 4, 2024, upon moving out of the ward.

**Public Hearing to Consider the Condemnation of the Unsafe Structure Located at 422 W. Sycamore.**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing on the condemnation of the unsafe structure located at 422 W. Sycamore at 5:45 p.m. No one appeared at the hearing to comment on the condemnation. The hearing closed at 5:47 p.m.

Pryor moved to proceed with the condemnation of the structure at 422 W. Sycamore. Sanders seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Pryor moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-637 – October 21, 2024, and City Council Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2024. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Approval of Final Plat for Lakewood West III Housing Subdivision.**

Liz Simpson of Crossland Construction Company, Inc., was present to answer questions regarding the final plat for the Lakewood West III Housing Subdivision. Epler made a motion to approve the final

plat for Lakewood West III Housing Subdivision. Sanders seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**City Administrator** – City Administrator Jake Letner reported there will be public open house meetings with Confluence on Oct. 24 and again on Nov. 14 to answer questions and concerns pertaining to the comprehensive planning process. The meetings will be held at the Community Building between 5-7 p.m.

-Lenter shared that the Demolition Grant Program has received additional funds from the donor and currently 11 unsafe structures are slated for demolition using this program.

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley shared that she will be out of the office from Oct. 28 – 30 attending the City Clerk and Municipal Finance Officer academy in Wichita.

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported the department has responded to 493 emergency calls year-to-date, an increase of 147 calls from this time last year.

-Chief Burton shared that the City of Weir has agreed to purchase the department's former tanker truck.

-Chief Burton reported there is a full-time fire driver position available in the department, and he will be posting the job and taking applications.

-Chief Burton shared that approximately 365 area students participated in fire safety activities at the department during the recent Fire Prevention week.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Kyle Clark reported police department staff will be serving lunch on Wednesday 10/23 to students at Central School.

-Chief Clark shared the police department will be assisting in the upcoming 5K Zombie Fun Run by providing traffic and escort assistance.

-Chief Clark shared that he is hopeful the department will have a new police officer hired by the next council meeting.

**Public Works** – City Superintendent Randy Coble reported notices will be mailed to approximately 950 customers who either did not respond to the lead & copper survey or indicated their water pipe material was unknown, per KDHE regulations.

-Coble reported city crew repaired a water leak last Friday in the 300 block of E. Elm. Coble said a tree growing in the city easement had to be felled for repairs to be made. Coble has contracted for the tree to be removed within the next week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Resolution 669 – Adopting Region H Hazard Mitigation Plan from FEMA.**

City Administrator Jake Letner explained that passing the resolution of support provides the city the opportunity to procure additional grant opportunities through the Kansas Department of Emergency Management and FEMA. Doherty made a motion to approve Resolution 669 Adopting Region H Hazard Mitigation Plan from FEMA. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Consider SRTS Local Agreement.**

City Administrator Jake Letner explained that the next phase of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project will provide for sidewalk construction on Maple St., from High School to Washington, and from Sycamore St., from East Avenue to Reeves Park. Pryor moved to approve the SRTS Authority to

Award Contract Commitment of City Funds in the total amount of \$355,599 with the city being liable for 20% of the cost through the grant for an approximate amount of \$96,000. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Epler, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Columbus Comprehensive Plan Public Open House – Thursday, October 24, 2024, and Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. at the Community Building.**
- **City Council Work Session – Monday, October 28, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**
- **City Council Meeting – Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**

  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

