

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

October 28, 2024

5:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 23, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Laura Epler and Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Kathy Doherty and Wiley Sanders.

Mayor Grant Spieth called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Administration

Merle Evans Dr. Development Discussion

City Administrator Jake Letner led the discussion regarding the proposed development on Merle Evans Dr. Letner presented a cost/benefit analysis spreadsheet and predicted approximately \$200,000 in economic impact to the City of Columbus, payable through increased property tax revenues, sales taxes collected, and utility revenues, within the first 12 years post-development. Letner explained the estimates and the way they were calculated. Letner reminded the council that the city agreed to pay for water and sewer lines, as well as approximately ½ the cost of the road construction on the Lakewood West III subdivision currently under construction in the west part of town. After discussion, Pryor and Epler expressed desire to assist with the development on Merle Evans Dr. in a similar manner.

Comprehensive Plan Discussion

Letner shared updates with the council on the comprehensive plan process. A public open house was held on Thursday, 10/24/24. Approximately 30-40 members of the public attended. Letner shared that many county residents residing within the “future planning boundary” identified on the report expressed concerns that their properties would be annexed. The city’s website has been updated with a dedicated page and FAQ section to address these concerns. Letner also shared that city staff have been made aware of additional concerns from community members about the zoning/planning process. Currently, the city is without land use standards. The implementation of land use standards as proposed would add additional process and requirements that developers must meet to build in Columbus. The additional time and process could create a chilling effect on development. Letner suggested a dedicated work session meeting to explore the comprehensive plan and associated ordinances in further detail. After discussion, Monday, December 9 at 5:30 PM was suggested as the date and time for this meeting.

CITY PROPERTY

R.V. Ordinance Discussion

City Administrator Jake Letner reported that code enforcement personnel have served copies of the ordinance pertaining to R.V.s, passed by the council in August. Letner shared three examples of properties on which R.V.s were placed for permanent residence and suggested an amendment to policy that accounts for these exceptions. Staff and the council engaged in discussion about the issue and other properties that may be impacted. Policy changes will be recommended to the council at the following council meeting.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

KP&F Discussion.

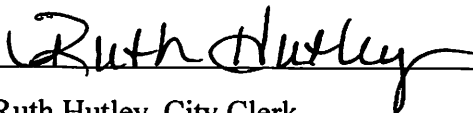
City Administrator Jake Letner revisited the discussion on the KP&F pension system. The information provided previously was made available for additional discussion and consideration. Pryor and Epler suggested that city staff create budget estimates for 2026 that would include switching the Columbus Police & Fire Departments to this system.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Upcoming Events:

City Council Meeting – Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

