

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2024
5:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met November 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Laura Epler, Misty Spear, Kathy Doherty, Wiley Sanders and Tom Pryor. Council members absent: None.

Dorcia Johnson of United Methodist Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-639 – November 18, 2024, and City Council Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2024. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner reported the election canvas is complete and he will have the official election results soon.

-Letner reported he has received the preliminary flood plan map from FEMA. A public meeting will be scheduled at a later date to discuss the revised flood plan information, ordinance adoption, and answer questions and concerns.

-Lastly, Letner shared that KDHE has invited the city to apply for loan funding for sewer improvements. The invitation means the state approves the city's sewer project improvement plan but does not mean the city is automatically approved for the loans. Representatives from BG Consultants and the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission will appear at the next Council meeting to discuss possible next steps.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that she recently attended the Southeast Kansas Human Resource Association's monthly meeting in Parsons. A drawing was held for a paid yearly membership and the City of Columbus was the recipient.

-Hutley shared that she's been working on annual employee evaluations and gathering information for the City's record retention policy.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported the department has responded to 552 emergency calls year-to-date.

-Chief Burton reported the department has been selected by Labette Community College to host an upcoming EMT class.

Police Department – Police Chief Kyle Clark reported he has finished the department's last policy and procedure update, and he will have it available for the council's review at the December 2 council meeting.

-Chief Clark reported that there was a recent burglary at Evan's Drugstore and the department was following up on leads.

-Chief Clark shared that the department would be sponsoring a toy drive again this year for local children.

Public Works – City Superintendent Randy Coble reported the asphalt repair project for the year is complete. Coble said the two main areas focused on were the 100 block of S. Vermont where the drainage problem was corrected and the sidewalk at Country Road and Kansas Street which was milled and is now ADA compliant and drains properly.

-Coble reported a leaf vac was recently purchased in the amount of \$5,850 for the leaf pickup program.
-Coble said the citywide leaf pickup is scheduled for December 9-20 and will go by wards, with 2 days being spent per ward.

Public Hearing to Consider Annexation of 0 E. Merle Evans Drive.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing on the annexation of 0 E. Merle Evans Drive at 5:45 p.m. Mayor Spieth explained that the property is owned by Columbus Housing Inc., and they have requested the annexation. No one appeared at the hearing to comment on the annexation. The hearing closed at 5:48 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution 672 – Annexation of 0 E. Merle Evans Drive.

Doherty moved to approve the annexation of 0 E. Merle Evans Drive. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Authorizing Land Purchase Agreement for 0. E. Merle Evans Drive.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the land purchase agreement for 0 E. Merle Evans Drive. Letner submitted a draft purchase agreement between Columbus Housing, Inc. and Supreme Storage, LLC. The acquisition of the land is the first significant step toward the development of the proposed housing subdivision on the site. Letner said the developer, Supreme Storage, LLC, plans to build a 16-unit development consisting of duplexes, with access provided via a new cul-de-sac and concrete roadway. The project will be similar to one recently completed by the development group in Galena. Jeremy Strup, a representative from the development group, was present answering questions from the council. After discussion, Pryor made a motion to approve the land purchase agreement for 0 E. Merle Evans Drive in the amount of \$16,965. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Authorizing the Bid from B-3 Construction for the Demolition of the Structure Located at 422 W. Sycamore in the Amount of \$2,800.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the bid from B-3 Construction for the demolition of the structure located at 422 W. Sycamore. Letner advised that the structure has been condemned by the city as unsafe and in need of demolition. Epler moved to approve the bid from B-3 Construction for the demolition of the structure at 422 W. Sycamore in the amount of \$2,800. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Consider the Purchase of a 2025 Freightliner M2 Plus Sanitation Truck from Elliott Equipment in the amount of \$212,500, with a trade-in credit of \$71,000 for the 2018 Freightliner Sanitation Truck, with the Balance of \$141,500 Payable from the Utility Reserve Fund.

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding the replacement of one of the city's sanitation trucks. Coble advised that the city currently has two sanitation trucks, a model year 2018 and a model year 2020. Coble said the model year 2018 currently has approximately 65,000 miles. Coble recommended replacing the 2018 model with a 2025 Freightliner M2 Plus sanitation truck. The new

truck quoted will have a dual polycart tipper as opposed to the 2018 model that has a single tipper. According to Coble, having the two polycart tippers will make sanitation routes more efficient. Doherty made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2025 Freightliner M2 Plus Sanitation Truck from Elliott Equipment in the amount of \$212,500, with a trade-in credit of \$71,000 for the 2018 Freightliner Sanitation Truck, with the balance of \$141,500 payable from the utility reserve fund. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Revisions to Ordinance 1515 – Regulating the Parking of, and Residing In, Recreational Vehicles within the City Limits, via Ordinance 1519.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the discussion regarding proposed revisions to Ordinance 1515. The revision would create four exceptions to the ordinance, which would apply to current RV and current property owner located at 321 N. 6th Ave., 333 W. Mill St., 1407 E. Sycamore St., 422 S. Florida Ave. Sanders made a motion to approve Ordinance 1519, amending Ordinance 1515 regarding the parking of, and residing in, recreational vehicles within the city limits of Columbus, Kansas, allowing conditional exceptions for four recreational vehicles. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Authorizing Temporary Parking Spaces on the 200 Block of W. Maple St., via Ordinance 1520.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding the authorization of temporary parking spaces on the 200 block of W. Maple St. Epler made a motion to approve authorizing temporary parking spaces on the 200 Block of W. Maple St. The motion was seconded by Spear. After hearing from business owners Amy Johnson of Bowler’s Boulevard, and Randy Hale of H&R Block, Epler made a motion to withdraw her original motion, seconded by Spear. Epler made a motion to approve Ordinance 1520 authorizing two temporary parking spaces on the 200 block of W. Maple St., with the addition of the time frame for the temporary parking being between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Doherty, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **Thanksgiving Holiday, City offices closed – November 28 & 29, 2024.**
- **City Council Meeting – Monday, December 2, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**
- **City Council Work Session – Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk