

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 6, 2025  
5:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Steve Dunlap, Laura Epler, Misty Spear, Tom Pryor, Kathy Doherty (via Zoom).

Council members absent: None.

Toni Speith, First Presbyterian Church Joplin, provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Epler moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-642 – January 6, 2025, Appropriation Ordinance #25-643 – January 6, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2024, City Council Special Meeting Minutes – December 23, 2024, and Treasurer’s Report – December 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS CATEGORY APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Grant Spieth made 2025 Council appointments to city business categories as follows: Administrative – Lead Representative Tom Pryor, Alternate Representative Kathy Doherty; City Property – Lead Representative Misty Spear, Alternate Representative Laura Epler; Emergency Response – Lead Representative Steve Dunlap, Alternate Representative Tom Pryor; Streets/Alleys/Bridges/Stormwater – Lead Representative Kathy Doherty, Alternate Representative Misty Spear; Public Works – Lead Representative Laura Epler, Alternate Representative Steve Dunlap.

Pryor moved to approve the mayor’s 2025 Council business category appointments. Spear seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**City Administrator** – City Administrator Jake Letner shared that engineers for the city sanitary sewer project will be at the next council meeting on January 21, to present information on the project and potential loan financing.

-Letner reported that the Kansas Water office’s environmental review for the SSES project was recently completed for the city, and it was noted that the city’s water conservation plan was outdated. The most recent water conservation plan was completed in February 2011. Letner said he would be working on an updated water conservation plan which outlines procedures and policies.

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that the administrative office is busy with end of year processes. Hutley said forms 1099 and W2 will be processed in the next couple of weeks.

**City Treasurer** – City Treasurer Doug Mogle reported that a certificate of deposit held by the city will be maturing soon. Mogle checked interest rates at four local banks and with the pooled money investment account and found that Labette Bank offered the best interest rate. Mogle asked the council’s approval to move the funds from the maturing account at American Bank to Labette Bank.

Dunlap made a motion to authorize the investment of 2.5 million dollars from American Bank into a certificate of deposit at Labette Bank. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Public Works** – City Superintendent Randy Coble reported that the city recently took delivery of a new sanitation truck. The new truck has tippers on both sides that Coble said are working out well for crews. He said he plans to investigate adding an additional tipper to the city’s other sanitation truck.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Kyle Clark gave the council an update on the police department’s Christmas toy drive. Chief Clark shared that 30 plus children received toys from the drive with a great response from the community of donations. Chief Clark said the department is already making plans for next year’s drive.

-Chief Clark reported that he is compiling a current inventory list of all departmental and individual officer’s equipment.

-Lastly, Chief Clark said they have begun accessing the department’s new Axon software and it was working well.

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Steven Burton reported 2024 as a record year for emergency calls with a total of 612. Chief Burton said they have responded to 8 emergency calls so far this year.

-Chief Burton reported the department will be hosting an EMT class through Labette Community College.

-Chief Burton shared that two members of the fire department will soon be completing hazardous waste training in Lawrence.

-Chief Burton reported that one of the department’s extrication tools recently broke but was repaired by the manufacturer within 28 hours.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Appointment of Council President.**

Dunlap made a motion to nominate Tom Pryor as City Council President for 2025. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consider the Request for Funding for Improvements to the Welcome Sign by the Columbus Economic Development Corporation.**

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding funding for improvements to the welcome sign located at the south end of the city limits on US-69. Letner shared that the Columbus Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) has obtained a quote from Rock Solid Construction in the amount of \$19,375 to pay for the restoration and redesign of the sign. The CEDC has pledged \$10,000 to support this project and has requested the additional \$9,375 to come from the city’s Tourism & Convention Fund. Spear made a motion to approve the payment in the amount of \$9,375 from the city’s Tourism & Convention Fund for the welcome sign improvements with the condition that the city be provided a rendering of the proposed improvements. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

### **Consider Approval of Columbus Police Department Operating Policies & Procedures.**

Police Chief Kyle Clark presented the Council with the final 40 policies to complete the Columbus Police Department Operating Policies & Procedures manual. Epler made a motion to approve the

policies as presented. Spear seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- **City offices closed Monday, January 20 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday.**
- **Council Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**
- **League of Kansas Municipalities “Local Government Day” at the Capitol in Topeka on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.**

  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

