

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 2025
5:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 21, 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.

Council members absent: None.

Cody Bohall from First Christian Church, provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC MEETING TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED UTILIZING THE STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM (SRF) THROUGH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public meeting to present and discuss sanitary sewer improvements and funding at 5:32 p.m. Wes Weishaar, Project Engineer from BG Consultants presented a background of the project along with proposed improvements and recommendations. Carey Spoon, Executive Director of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission, presented options for funding the project utilizing the state revolving loan fund program. The public meeting was closed at 6:10 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED UTILITIZING THE STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM (SRF) THROUGH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT (KDHE).

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the public hearing to present and discuss sanitary sewer improvements funded utilizing the State Revolving Loan Fund Program through the Kansas Department of Health & Environment at 6:10 p.m. Carey Spoon read the notice of the public hearing that was published in the Columbus News Report. After discussion, the public hearing was closed at 6:22 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-644 – January 21, 2025, Appropriation Ordinance #25-645 – January 21, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2025, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – January 13, 2025. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner shared that he has been working on the city sanitary sewer project and potential loan financing.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that she participated in a KPERS webinar that was very informative. Hutley said the information she received will help her better serve city employees with their KPERS benefit questions.

-Hutley said W2 forms for city employees have been processed and were distributed to council members at the meeting.

Public Works – City Superintendent Randy Coble reported he has received the 2025 lead and copper testing schedule from KDHE.

-Coble reported an area near Country Road and Vermont streets where the asphalt is coming up. He said he's notified the asphalt contractor, Emory Sapp & Sons and they will be repairing this as soon as possible.

-Coble reported the city's water loss report for 2024 showed an overall 8% loss. This is much lower than in past years. Larry Hiatt of the Columbus News Report commented that this was outstanding and commended public works employees for a great job.

Police Department – Sergeant Gary Holt reported that the police department are currently accepting applications for police officer and will be scheduling interviews in the coming weeks.

-Holt shared the department is reviewing the Kansas Highway Patrol list of vehicles they will be retiring this year. Holt said these vehicles are retired at 42,000 miles and are fully equipped, which make them less expensive for the department to purchase than new vehicles.

-Holt reported the department is looking for opportunities for engagement with area schools this year. They are also looking into partnering with the health department to provide car seats and bicycle helmets.

Council member Steve Dunlap expressed concerns about abandoned vehicles within the city limits. Sergeant Holt said he will pass that information on to Chief Clark.

Fire Department – Chief Steven Burton reported the Fire Department has responded to 31 emergencies year to date.

City Treasurer – City Treasurer Doug Mogle reported the investment of 2.5 million dollars from American Bank into a certificate of deposit at Labette Bank has been completed as directed by council at the January 6, 2025, council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution 675 Authorizing Filing of Application with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for a Loan under the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Act.

City Administrator Jake Letner read Resolution 675 authorizing filing of application with KDHE for a loan under the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Act to aid in the construction of specific public projects. After discussion, Doherty made a motion to approve Resolution 675 filing an application for a loan in the amount of \$1.6 million dollars for proposed sanitary sewer improvements. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Sponsorship of the 2025 Cherokee County Youth Entrepreneur Fair, hosted by the Cherokee County Economic Development Corporation.

Pryor made a motion to authorize a \$500 sponsorship for the 2025 Cherokee County Youth Entrepreneur Fair. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Resolution 674 – Waiving Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for Financial Year 2025.

Spear made a motion to approve Resolution 674 Waiving GAAP for 2025. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

STREETS/ALLEYS/BRIDGES/STORMWATER

Consider the 2025 Street Maintenance & Repair Proposal.

City Superintendent Randy Coble presented a proposal for street maintenance and repair for 2025. Council member Steve Dunlap commented that he had recently toured the proposed streets with Coble and he agreed with Coble's proposed plan. Doherty made a motion to authorize the 2025 Street Maintenance & Repair Request for Proposals which includes repairs in the 200-600 blocks of S. Vermont, 200-600 blocks of S. Florida, 100-300 blocks of E. Pine, 100-300 blocks of E. Elm, 100-300 blocks of E. Olive, and 100-300 blocks of E. Mulberry. Epler seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0. The results of the RFP will be shared with the council at its next meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Consider the Purchase of a 10' SaltDogg CMI Snowplow Blade from Bus Andrews Truck Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$9,514.

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding the purchase of a 10' SaltDogg CMI Snowplow Blade. Coble explained that the city's grader is older and susceptible to mechanical failures. The snowplow blade he suggested for purchase would fit all three city dump trucks and streets could be cleared with the blade in the event the grader was inoperable. Coble pointed out that the city has a responsibility to keep the main roads clear and safe, as well as an obligation to keep Hwy 69 clear through town as established by the CCLIP with the Kansas Department of Transportation. Spear made a motion to approve the purchase of a 10' SaltDogg CMI Snowplow Blade from Bus Andrews Truck Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$9,514. The motion was seconded by Pryor. 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 7:10 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **Council Meeting Monday, February 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**
- **City Offices Closed Monday, February 17, 2025 for Presidents' Day.**
- **Council Meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

