

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2025
5:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met February 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Steve Dunlap, Misty Spear, Tom Pryor, Kathy Doherty. Council members absent: Laura Epler.

Jim Bowles from Calvary Baptist Church, provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #25-646 – February 3, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2025, Work Session Minutes – January 27, 2025, Municipal Court Docket Summary – January 27, 2025, and Treasurer’s Report – January 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Dunlap, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR

Mayor Grant Spieth reported on Kansas Senate Bill 83 that could potentially eliminate the 3-mile zone relating to city planning and zoning.

-Mayor Spieth shared that he and council member Tom Pryor went to Topeka on January 22 to participate in Local Government Day. He said they had the opportunity to visit with State Representative Dale Helwig while they were there.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner shared that the CDBG and Safe Routes to School grants could possibly be affected by the new government administrative cutbacks. Letner said he’s assuming since the COPS grant, which currently offsets School Resource Officer Lewke’s salary, was approved for the next three years it will not be affected by any cut-backs, but he will keep the council advised.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that Rebekka Sanchez has resigned her position with the city, effective Friday, February 7. Hutley advised the position has been posted and applications were being taken. Hutley asked that details be discussed later in an executive session.

Public Works – City Superintendent Randy Coble reported a storm water drain was recently installed on S. High School Street and a small water leak was repaired in the 300 block of S. Maple by the laundromat. Coble reported a concrete slab was poured by city crew at the cemetery outside of the office building.

Police Department – Police Chief Kyle Clark reported that Code Enforcement has recently sent over 45 notices of in-operable vehicles to citizens, as well as 9 environmental code notices.

-Chief Clark said the Kansas Highway Patrol has notified the department of a used 2022 Dodge Durango police vehicle that the police department may be interested in purchasing.

Council member Steve Dunlap expressed safety concerns for citizens using lawnmowers for transportation, especially during the nighttime hours when they are hard to see. After a brief discussion, Chief Clark assured the council that his department will emphasize the importance of safety to those operating lawnmowers.

Fire Department – Chief Steven Burton reported the Fire Department has responded to 45 emergencies year to date.

-Chief Burton shared that a training had been held for the first time in the new burn trailer.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Operating Transfers to Reserves.

City Administrator Jake Letner opened the discussion regarding proposed annual operating transfers to reserve accounts. Letner shared the original ARPA allocation (\$470,000) amount could be transferred to reserves from the general fund, and based on general fund performance, the city has the capacity to transfer an additional \$145,000 to general reserve accounts. Letner proposed allocating half (\$72,500) to the Street Improvement Reserve Fund and half to the Equipment Reserve Fund. Letner also recommended transferring \$50,000 from Sanitation Fund to Utility Reserves for future garbage truck purchases, \$180,000 from Water Fund to reserves, half earmarked for future line replacements and half for the eventual replacement or upgrade of the city's Vac truck and \$120,000 from the Sewer Fund to reserves for future capital improvements to the wastewater system. After discussion, Pryor made a motion to approve the operating transfers to reserves as outlined. Spear seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Contractor Selection for the 2025 Street Maintenance Project.

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding the contractor selection for the 2025 Street Maintenance Project. Coble reported only one submittal was received, by Vance Brothers of Kansas City in the amount of \$68,400. Doherty moved to approve Vance Brothers for the 2025 Street Maintenance Project in the amount of \$68,400. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Dunlap, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider Purchase of 54" Reinforced Concrete Pipe & Related Materials for Drainage Improvements on Merle Evans Dr., in the amount of \$10,347 from Scurlock Industries.

City Superintendent Randy Coble asked to table the discussion of the purchase of 54" reinforced concrete pipe and related materials until the next council meeting. Coble said he made a miscalculation in the number of materials and needed time to adjust his total.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Doherty called for a seven-minute executive session at 6:10 p.m. for reason to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Administrator and City Clerk in attendance. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular session 6:17 p.m. No action taken.

PART-TIME ACCOUNTING CLERK JOB DESCRIPTION

Spear made a motion to approve the part-time accounting clerk job description and waived the posting of the part-time accounting clerk position. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Dunlap, Spear, Pryor, Doherty. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.


ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **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

