

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 24, 2025
5:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met February 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. The council meeting was originally scheduled for February 18, 2025, but was postponed due to inclement weather. Council members present: Steve Dunlap, Kathy Doherty, Laura Epler, Tom Pryor, Misty Spear.

Council members absent: None.

Mike Sauerwein from Connecting Point Church, provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-648 – February 24, 2025, Appropriation Ordinance #25-647 – February 24, 2025, and City Council Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2025. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Dunlap, Epler, Pryor, Spear. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

MAYOR

Appointment to Volunteer Fire Department.

Epler made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Deven Foster to the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Doherty, Dunlap, Epler, Pryor, Spear. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Grant Spieth reported the Community Building was open last Wednesday, February 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. as a warming center during the extremely cold temperatures.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator – City Administrator Jake Letner shared that a press release from the governor's office and the Kansas Water Office listed the communities awarded water project funding as part of a \$26 million grant program. Unfortunately, Columbus was not selected. Letner has requested feedback from the program but has not yet received a response.

-Letner reported he and Mayor Spieth would be attending the CDBG roadshow in Chanute the following day to learn more about grant opportunities available.

-Letner commended City Superintendent Randy Coble and the Public Works department for their work clearing city streets during the recent snowstorm.

-Letner reminded the council of the Columbus Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 26.

City Clerk – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported that Judi Mogle began working as part-time accounting clerk on February 6.

-Hutley said a draft Records Retention Schedule will be discussed later in the meeting.

City Treasurer – City Treasurer Doug Mogle reported that two Certificate of Deposits currently at Labette Bank would be maturing this month. Mogle asked for council's authorization to renew the CD's at Labette Bank, which offered the highest interest rate of local banks. Epler made a motion to

authorize the investment of \$1.5 million in a CD at Labette Bank at an interest rate of 4.35% for 1 year and an investment of \$500,000 in a CD at Labette Bank at an interest rate of 4.25% for 7 months. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Doherty, Dunlap, Epler, Pryor, Spear. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works – City Superintendent Randy Coble reported normal sanitation routes were disrupted last week due to the hazardous weather conditions. Coble added that there was a mechanical problem with the city’s newest sanitation truck, and it had been returned for repairs. The city was able to borrow the sanitation truck that was traded in to use while the repairs are being made. Coble said normal sanitation routes would resume this week.

-Coble reported the 10’ snowplow blade that was recently purchased by the city had been installed right before the recent snowstorm and had worked great in clearing city streets.

Police Department – Police Chief Kyle Clark reported that February had been a busy month, with police reports being up from this time last year.

-Chief Clark reported that there is a July 1 training deadline, and that Officer Marcus Harmon was currently attending training.

Fire Department – no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Records Retention Policy

City Clerk Ruth Hutley opened the discussion regarding a proposed Records Retention Policy for the city. According to Hutley, the city does not currently have a Records Retention and Disposition Policy, and she believes having a written policy will assist city staff in making educated decisions about retention, disposition and destruction of records. Pryor made a motion to approve the City of Columbus Records Retention Policy submitted by Hutley. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Dunlap, Epler, Pryor, Spear. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider the Purchase of a 2022 Dodge Durango from the Kansas Highway Patrol in the Amount of \$35,175.00, payable from the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund.

Police Chief Kyle Clark opened the discussion regarding the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Durango, 5.7 AWD Police Package vehicle from the Kansas Highway Patrol. According to Chief Clark, the department has previously purchased two Durango’s from KHP in recent years and have not had any issues with them to date. Spear made a motion to authorize the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Durango from the KHP in the amount of \$35,175.00, payable from the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund. The motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Dunlap, Epler, Pryor, Spear. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider the Purchase of Three (3), Thirty-six (36) Inch Sections of Concrete Reinforced Pipe from Scurlock Industries of Miami, Inc. in the Amount of \$14,073.60 for Storm Drainage on Merle Evans Drive, payable from the General Fund.

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding the purchase of 3, 36” sections of concrete reinforced pipe for storm drainage on Merle Evans Drive. Coble shared that it was recently brought to his attention that the current pipes on Merle Evans Drive are deteriorating and the ground around them collapsing, creating indentations in the road. Coble said with the development and construction expected to take place this summer, the issues need to be addressed. The pipe currently in place are three 36” galvanized elongated pipe. Coble recommended replacing these with concrete reinforced pipes due to its low maintenance and high life expectancy. After discussion, Doherty made

a motion to approve the purchase of three, 36” sections of concrete reinforced pipe from Scurlock Industries of Miami, Inc. in the amount of \$14,073.60 for storm drainage on Merle Evans Drive. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Doherty, Dunlap, Epler, Pryor, Spear. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Increase City Council Member and Mayor Pay.

Steve Dunlap led a discussion regarding increasing the monthly pay amount for city council members and the mayor. Dunlap reported there has been no increase in over 20 years and he believes an increase would help increase interest, especially from younger people, in serving on the city council. After discussion, Dunlap made a motion to increase the city council members monthly pay from \$85 per month to \$150 per month and to increase the mayor’s pay from \$135 per month to \$250 per month effective March 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Dunlap, Epler, Pryor, Spear. Voting nay: Doherty. Motion carried 4-1.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- **Council Meeting Monday, March 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**


Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

