

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
December 16, 2024  
5:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met December 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Laura Epler, Misty Spear, Tom Pryor, Wiley Sanders. Council members absent: Kathy Doherty.

Tom Pryor provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT HEARING**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the 2024 Budget Amendment Hearing at 5:32 p.m. to give taxpayers an opportunity to comment on the budget. The hearing was closed at 5:35 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Epler moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #24-641 – December 16, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2024, City Council Work Session Minutes – December 9, 2024, and Municipal Court Docket Summary – December 9, 2024. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley presented the administrative department end of year report. Hutley noted a 10% increase over the previous year in utility payments and sited completing a records retention and disposition policy and enhanced customer service skills as goals for 2025.

**Fire Department** – Fire Chief Steven Burton presented the end of year report for the Columbus Fire Department. Chief Burton reported that the department has responded to 585 calls in 2024 to date. He also reported on equipment upgrades during the year including the purchase of a preowned tanker truck.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Kyle Clark presented the end of year report for the Columbus Police Department. Chief Clark said the department has over 70 years of combined service in law enforcement and that 7 employees have over 5 years of service with the City of Columbus. During 2024 the department was awarded a \$125,000 COPS grant through the Dept. of Justice for the School Resource Officer position at Highland Education Center. The department purchased new body worn cameras and Cloud storage system, along with upgraded tasers.

**Public Works** – City Superintendent Randy Coble presented his departments' end of year report noting street repairs and a new app based locating system as some of the projects completed this past year. Department goals include 2025 mill & overlay street projects, Phase 2 of the Safe Routes to School sidewalk construction and continuing the water valve exercise and maintenance program.

**City Administrator** – City Administrator Jake Letner asked the council to consider forgiving the city demolition assessment in the amount of \$3,339.41 on 1212 W. Maple. The structure was condemned by the city and ordered to be demolished. The previous owners are deceased, and the property was sold at a recent county tax sale. Spear made a motion to approve forgiving the city demolition assessment

on 1212 W. Maple. The motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

Letner asked the council for suggestions for a street name for the new Merle Evans drive housing development. The council chose Merle Evans Lane. Letner said the final plat for the development should be available in the coming months.

**City Treasurer** – City Treasurer Doug Mogle reported \$2.9 million of city funds currently in a certificate of deposit account will be maturing soon and he will be comparing interest rates with local banks to find the best option to transfer the funds to. Mogle stated the city finances are in good shape.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consider Adoption of the 2024 Budget Amendments.**

Pryor made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget Amendment. The motion was seconded by Epler. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Consider Resolution 673 – Support for Imagine Columbus in 2025.**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the discussion regarding the city’s support of the Kansas Community Empowerment (KCE) program which local affiliate program is known as Imagine Columbus. Mayor Spieth urged council members to encourage citizens to participate in Imagine Columbus’ monthly meetings and activities. Pryor made a motion to approve Resolution 673 Support for Imagine Columbus in 2025. Spear seconded the motion. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

### **Consider Approval of Police Department Operating Policies**

Police Chief Kyle Clark opened the discussion regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> phase operating policies, which included 38 policies and will finish up three more of the ten total sections that make up the police department policy manual. Epler made a motion to approve the Police Department Operating Policies as presented. The motion was seconded by Spear. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Consider Approval of Police Department Document Storage Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the annual amount of \$3,575.**

Police Chief Kyle Clark led the discussion regarding switching the department’s document management software from Square 9 to Axon Enterprise. Chief Clark advised the benefits of switching to Axon software are immediate cost savings as well as the ability to keep all department reports, documents and videos in the same storage system. Epler made a motion to approve the police department contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$3,575. Spear seconded the motion. Voting aye: Epler, Spear, Sanders, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 4-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Comprehensive Plan Joint Meeting & Discussion – Monday, January 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**

City Administrator Jake Letner advised that a joint meeting between the City Council, the Columbus Planning Commission and Confluence, the consultants for the Comprehensive Plan, is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Letner said the purpose of the meeting is to go over revisions in the comprehensive plan with the consultants.

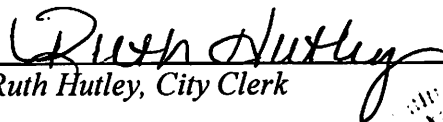
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **City Offices Closed at Noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24, Wednesday Dec. 25 and Wednesday Jan. 1, 2025.**
- **City Council Meeting January 6, 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

