

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 15, 2019  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met April 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Randy Coble, Steve Dunlap, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor. Council member absent: Ron Johnson.

Council member Alvin Patterson provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 19-488 as presented. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**VISITOR – PAUL ROGERS**

Paul Rogers of the First United Methodist Church approached the council about water aerobics for the 2019 season. Mr. Rogers would like to use the pool again this summer for one hour, twice a week for a water aerobics class beginning in June. In years past the church has paid \$50 per session. Mr. Rogers noted participation in the program has declined in the past few years and if numbers are not good, they may discontinue the program. Pool Managers will contact Mr. Rogers after the pool opens in May to set dates.

**VISITOR – TRACIE NEWBERRY**

Representing SEK Interlocal #637 Tracie Newberry spoke to the council about plans for a Centers-Based Facility in Columbus. This would bring jobs to the area and give teachers more time with the students. The Interlocal is a special education organization serving 13 Southeast Kansas school districts providing special education and related services to identified students of the member school districts. Mrs. Newberry stated USD 493 has provided a building on Central Avenue in Columbus. The Interlocal is seeking funding to assist the remodel and renovation project to make the facility functional by August 2019.

**INTERLOCAL #637 CENTERS BASED FACILITY CONTRIBUTION**

Dunlap moved to contribute \$50,000 to SEK Interlocal #637 to assist in developing a Centers-Based Facility in Columbus, Kansas to be paid out of Fund 02, Economic Development. Patterson seconded the motion. Motion and second were withdrawn before a vote.

**INTERLOCAL #637 CENTERS BASED FACILITY CONTRIBUTION**

Burton moved to contribute \$75,000 to SEK Interlocal #637 to assist in developing a Centers-Based Facility in Columbus, Kansas to be paid out of Fund 02, Economic Development. Coble seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**Mayor Report –**

- Thank you to council members, staff and all who attended and supported the First Impression Presentation Thursday 4/18 at the State Theatre.

### **City Administrator Report-**

- Thank you to the attendees and my management team who helped with the First Impression event. We have several projects under way. Need to develop team and strategic plan to keep the conversation going.
- IT Request for Proposal is out, copies available on the city website and City Hall. Proposals are due Wednesday, April 17.
- Repaired firetruck is slated to be delivered to Fire Master in Springfield, Mo. sometime this week where it will be inspected before being put into service.
- Working on 2020 budget with department heads and committees. Revenue numbers will be available from the County Treasurer by the first of June.
- Interim City Superintendent Bennett and I are attending Spring River and Bone Creek water meetings. Minutes from these meetings are in your council packets.
- Out of the office Thursday for a CDBG workshop in Salina.

### **City Treasurer Report –**

- City Treasurer Mogle was not in attendance.

### **Interim City Superintendent Report**

- Replacement bounce toys installed at Lion's Park and City Park.
- Spring Cleanup started today and will run through April 26.
- E-waste collection from 9 a.m. – noon Saturday April 20 at the Columbus Fairgrounds.
- Curb replacement in front of State Theatre completed.
- Started work on curb repair west of Park School, getting bid for curb repair in front of Evan's Drug.
- Mulberry project completed. City crews will take care of the sidewalk.
- Crews installed digital water meters in books 7 & 8 last couple of weeks. Approximately 290 remaining before all the residential meters will be switched over to digital.

### **City Clerk Report –**

- Legislative Breakfast 7:30 tomorrow morning at Maple UnCommon. Representatives Hildebrand and Houser will be there with Legislative update and to field questions.
- Fliers in your council packets about the community cleanup event and Columbus PRIDE organization. Projects include planting flower planters and weed eating in the downtown area around the square, planting the community garden and other tasks to be determined. Anyone interested in helping should meet at 10 a.m. at the Community Building for assignments. Later that evening area youth groups will be assisting with filling and delivering container gardens for those not able to participate in the community garden.
- Chamber Golf Tournament Sunday April 28 at Brush Creek, contact Jamie at Carpino Ford to register your 3-person team. Come out and enjoy the event even if you are not a golfer.
- April 12 paychecks reflect police department shift differential approved by council.
- Social media training opportunity through LKM May 17 at Valley Center. Contact me if you would like to attend.
- Interviewed and made offers to applicants for the Cemetery Seasonal Laborer positions.
- Still taking applications for Sanitation Collector and Court Clerk positions – will be conducting interviews in upcoming weeks.

Larry Hiatt – Columbus News Report commented Spring River Wellness Center in Riverton will be conducting annual health fair Thursday April 25 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### **Police Chief Report-**

-Attended code enforcement training conference in Dodge City last week with ACO/CSO Gary Gideon. Look forward to working with City Administrator and committee on information learned.

-Please contact me in the event you do not receive your council packet.

-Update on damaged building at the corner of Pine and Kansas with tarp on the roof. Owner notified to have repaired or show measurable progress by May 1, will have more information at the next council meeting.

Blight discussion. Chief Daniels asked to follow up on Graham Accounting office exposed wall and debris/container on property north of Daylight Donut.

Rivas and staff completed on accomplishments of her first six months as City Administrator.

### **Fire Chief Report-**

-April 20 county wide fire training at the Columbus Ambulance barn.

-Structure fire April 20, good example of automatic aide from other fire departments and other City departments. We were able to get fire knocked down and save the house.

-Anticipating delivery of firetruck from Florida.

### **City Attorney Report –**

-Protest petition in response to Charter Ordinance 1436 was approved.

-Will need an executive session at the end of the meeting.

### **MATCHING GRANT REIMBURSEMENT – *ST. ROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH***

Burton moved to approve Commercial Property Rehabilitation Matching Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$5,000 for St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church to be paid out of Fund 02, Economic Development. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REHABILITATION GRANT PROCESSOR**

Burton moved to allow City Administrator to process applications and reimbursement requests for Commercial Property Rehabilitation Matching Grant program for final council approval and update Grant application wording accordingly. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Old Business –**

#### **1. Consider Resolution 550 repealing Resolution 414 and current fire protection fees.**

City Attorney Barbara Wright stated this Resolution repeals Resolution 414 that set fire protection fee agreements between the City and surrounding townships. These fees are now covered by contracts with townships for primary, secondary and mutual aid fire protection services in unincorporated areas of Cherokee County, Kansas. Opela moved to adopt Resolution 550 which repeals Resolution 414 and current township fire protection fees. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

2. **Consider Fire Contracts with Neosho, Pleasant View, Spring Valley, Garden, Shawnee and Lowell Townships.** Fire Chief Jason Allison informed the council, Columbus Fire responds as mutual aid to these townships but is not considered the first or primary responder. Opela moved to approve and allow the Mayor to sign Fire Contracts with Neosho, Pleasant View, Spring Valley, Garden, Shawnee and Lowell Townships correcting effective date to December 31, 2023 of the Neosho agreement. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 9-0.
3. **Consider traffic sign request.** Police Chief Jason Daniels spoke to the council regarding a request for traffic sign in the area of 217 West Pine to regulate traffic flow for drive-thru window at RJ's Retail Liquor. He recommends "DO NOT ENTER" sign or signs be placed at the south entrance of the north/south alley between Maple and Pine Streets if signage is approved. He noted conversations with other area business owners and managers in the area with no concerns voiced regarding the flow or direction of traffic for business use. Pryor moved to allow two "DO NOT ENTER" signs at south end of the north/south alley between Maple and Pine Streets. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Lucian, Opela, Patterson. Motion failed 2-7.

#### **New Business –**

1. **Consider waiving pre-employment physical for lifeguard candidates participating in lifeguard training/certification class.** City Clerk Cherri Chancellor proposed waiving the pre-employment physical requirement for lifeguard candidates participating in lifeguard training/certification class. She polled several area cities; most require a drug screen and lifeguard/CPR certification. Lifeguard training is quite strenuous, certification demands proficiency in several swimming/diving and retrieving skills. This practice has the potential to save the City \$1,000 or more each year. If implemented this year the savings would be approximately \$1,400. Lifeguard certification is good for two years. A pre-employment physical would be required for returning or second year lifeguards. Opela moved to waive pre-employment physical for lifeguard candidates participating in lifeguard training/certification class. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Council member Coble left the meeting 8:33 p.m.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 8:34 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss litigation and employee relations with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, Chief of Police and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene at 8:49 p.m. in the council chambers. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Coble. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Council member Coble returned to the meeting 8:36 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION 8:49 P.M.**  
**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dunlap moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**Meetings:**

**Police & License**

Tuesday April 16, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Water/Sewer**

Tuesday April 16, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Cemetery**

Wednesday April 17, 2019 @ 3:30 p.m.

**Property/Pool/Parks**

Wednesday April 17, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Personnel**

Monday April 22, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Sanitation**

Tuesday April 30, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Streets/Alleys/Bridges**

Tuesday April 30, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

---

*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*