

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 16, 2018  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met April 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Ron Johnson, James Lucian, Sammie Opela, John Paradee, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor, Drew Richards. Council member absent: Steve Dunlap.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of April 2, 2018 council meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 18-462 as presented. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee. Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**VISITOR – CARLA KINMAN**

Carla Kinman, 706 North Minnesota approached the council asking if the City intends to bid on two lots north of her property coming up for auction in May. There has been talk of the City relocating the dog pound and possible interest in the property. Mrs. Kinman states her family has mowed and gardened the lots for the past 25 years not realizing it was not part of their property. Several views were discussed.

**VISITOR – TERRY SERCER**

Terry Sercer of Diehl, Banwart, Bolton accounting firm addressed the council with findings from the 2017 City audit. Mr. Sercer informed the Governing Body that the City received an unqualified opinion in accordance with regulatory basis of accounting which is an accounting that is designed to show compliance to Kansas Statutes. He also commented that Columbus has healthy cash and reserve balances. Sercer stated as a general rule it is good to have at least a couple month's expenses in your balances. The City was not cited for any statutory violations.

**VISITOR – JUDY BLUNK**

Judy Blunk representing Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center (SKIL) informed the council their annual appreciation picnic will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 17 at the Columbus City Park. Ms. Blunk noted the picnic is open to the public.

**VISITOR – PAUL ROGERS**

Paul Rogers of the First United Methodist Church approached the council with request to hold water aerobics program at the pool again this year and to start sessions earlier than in year's past. It was agreed to refer the matter to committee and pool co-managers.

**City Treasurer Report –**

-No report tonight – will take questions.

### **City Superintendent Report -**

- Brush drop off abuse brought to the council's attention. Area is signed for brush only. Cameras and penalty discussed.
- Spring cleanup started today, will run through 4/27.
- Ewaste collection Saturday 4/28/2018 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.
- Drug take back Saturday 4/28/2018 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Apple Market.
- Attorney sent letter to property owner of driveway issue on West Maple Street. Owner has not responded.
- Karen Langrot and the High School National Honor Society students will be planting flowers at the Cemetery entrances April 21.
- New water meters are scheduled to ship on May 1.
- Heating and air conditioning unit for City Hall offices is down. Jim Cooper of Commercial and Residential Services quoted \$8,792 for new unit. Current model is 25 years old. New equipment would be more efficient.

### **HEAT/AIR CONDITIONER – CITY HALL**

Opela moved to purchase new heat and air unit for City Hall from Commercial and Residential Services for \$8,792 as quoted to be paid out of property reserves. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) opportunity through Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) coming up. The City has applied for this before but not selected. This project would be for improving Highway 69 from Maple Street north to Calibrated Forms and would include handicap crossings. If we would like to apply I will need authorization to have Professional Engineering Company (PEC) submit the paperwork, deadline is May 4, 2018. This is for the 2020-2021 period. Our match could be in the \$20,000 range.

### **APPLY FOR CONNECTING LINK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Opela moved to allow Professional Engineering Company to submit the paperwork on behalf of the City for the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) for Hwy 69 project from Maple Street north to Calibrated Forms/railroad tracks. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

- Crews have been crack sealing city streets. Have ordered four additional pallets of material. Burton was asked to follow up on marquee planter replacement.
- PEC is working up engineering cost for street repairs.

### **City Clerk Report –**

- CUHS Career Fair Wednesday 4/18 – Mayor Spieth, Police Chief Daniels and I will be attending to speak with students about employment and service opportunities.
- Council is invited to third Thursday coffee sponsored by the Chamber to be held at Mike Carpino Ford 4/19 from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Good networking opportunity.
- Mayor Spieth and Councilmember Pryor will be attending the LKM Governing Body Institute in Topeka this Friday and Saturday. New Governing Body Handbooks will be available in the next couple of weeks.
- Blood Drive Monday 4/23 at the Community Building from 1p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

- Meeting 6:00 p.m. Wednesday 4/25 at Crossland Construction to discuss recreation opportunities in Columbus including the feasibility of bringing back the Sno Ball Basketball tournament.
- Columbus Recreation Commission Meeting 6:00 p.m. Monday 4/30 at Crossland Construction.
- Last call for Cherokee County Economic Development Recognition Breakfast reservations. Event will be Wednesday 5/2 from 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. at the Baxter Springs Golf & Country Club.
- Mayor Spieth and staff will be attending Budget workshop in Iola Thursday 5/3.
- Emergency Management Disaster Training Friday May 11 in Arkansas City. Class is from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. all day commitment due to 2-hour one-way travel time.
- Would like to schedule personnel meeting to select lifeguards in order to get training completed by opening day.
- I will be out of the office Thursday – Monday, Assistant City Clerk Judi Mogle will be available if you need anything.

**Police Chief Report –**

-Covered prom couple of weeks ago, everything went very smooth like it did the year before. My opinion is this is a good location for this event, parking and everything seems to work very well. (State Theatre Event Center)

**Fire Chief Report-**

-Mitigation money available from the State for storm sirens. I wrote a grant for two sirens for the county. Would like to apply for two sirens for the City to replace two electric Wheelan units. Need approval for Mayor to sign the document. Application would be for two new mechanical units with solar panel back up and three solar panels to update three existing sirens. Mayor asked for cost to the City. Allison said City would cover 25% of the cost if the grant is awarded. Estimated cost of the new sirens and solar panels is \$130,000.

**STORM SIREN GRANT**

Bennett moved to allow the Mayor to sign FEMA storm siren grant application as presented. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**City Attorney Report-**

-Cemetery ordinance creating new section for City Code Book regarding handling discrepancies of mapping location or other unforeseen circumstances regarding cemetery plots.

**ORDINANCE 1420 – CEMETERY PLOT DISCREPANCIES**

Pryor moved to approve Ordinance 1420 – *“An Ordinance Establishing Chapter XII, Article 3, Section 302(d) of the Code of the City of Columbus, Kansas, Regarding Transactions Pertaining to Cemetery Plots.”* Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**Mayor –**

-I would like to appoint David Allen and Zachary Davis as Volunteer Firemen. They are both recent full-time employees who have resigned from their position and would like to continue to be a part of the volunteer department. They have been presented and approved through the fire committees for appointment.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS -*DAVID ALLEN / ZACHARY DAVIS***

Richards moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of David Allen and Zachary Davis as Volunteer Firefighters. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**RESIGNATION – *ZACHARY DAVIS***

Opela moved to accept resignation of Zack Davis, Fireman Driver, effective 4/22/2018 in good standing, providing he fulfills his two-week notice. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**HIRE FIREMAN DRIVER – *SAM BEST***

Opela moved to approve Sam Best for the position of Fireman Driver with a starting wage of \$11.31 per hour, providing he passes all pre-employment requirements. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**BACK UP RELIEF DRIVERS – *ZACK DAVIS / DAVID ALLEN***

Opela moved to approve Zack Davis and David Allen for the position of Backup Relief Fire Drivers with a starting wage of \$10.03 per hour. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH – *OSENBAUGH CONSULTING***

Opela moved to hire Osenbaugh Consulting to conduct the City Administrator search for the City not to exceed \$10,000 to be paid out of the City Administrator salary budget and allow Mayor to sign agreement. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Patterson. Motion carried 6-3.

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY GRANT REIMBURSEMENT – *EXTENSION OFFICE***

Lucian moved to approve Cherokee County Extension Commercial Property Rehabilitation Matching Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$475.00. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**Fire Chief-**

-Quapaw Tribe has asked for assistance from Baxter, Galena and Columbus fire departments. They are sending crews to Woodward and Eastmoreland area to help fight wildfires. Probably would send one truck and up to three firefighters.

-Johnson brought Councilmembers up to date on new playground equipment installation. Old slide and swings in center of City Park are coming out for placement of new Somerset unit. Swing seats will go to Reeves Park. Coghill unit and swings will replace equipment in Lions Park with new location due to water drainage.

### **SHOP REPAIR – OVERHEAD DOORS**

Johnson moved to approve Overhead Door, Miami, Oklahoma quote to fix/rework overhead doors at city shop building off Pennsylvania in the amount of \$3,855.00 to be paid out of property reserves. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

### **SHOP REPAIR - YODER**

Johnson moved to approve Ernest Yoder quote to install metal roof, fascia, soffit and trim at city shop building off Pennsylvania Street in the amount of \$6,286.00 to be paid out of property reserves. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Johnson called for a ten-minute executive session at 7:56 p.m. for discussion prior to acquisition of real estate to consider purchase of property with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Superintendent and City Clerk in attendance. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

### **REGULAR SESSION 8:06 P.M.**

#### **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Mrs. Kinman spoke to the council again stating lots in question are within fenced area and have been utilized and maintained by her family for years. They had no idea that the lots were not theirs. Discussion of potential dog pound relocation and other possible options.

### **BID LOTS**

Richards moved to approve City to bid on lots by City Pound going up for auction. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: None. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Motion failed 9-0.

-Johnson read landscaping quotes from David Burns Lawn and Landscape for city projects as follows:

- City Hall west side – prune/trim existing shrubs and tree \$250; add \$250 for tree removal and replacement.
- City Hall north side – remove and replace shrubbery and trees as needed, reestablish bed lines and replace landscape fabric and mulch as needed. Maintain care for one year from planting date; all not to exceed \$1,800.
- Discovery Park - remove 18-20 existing shrubs and replace with smaller variety requiring less maintenance. Trim remaining bushes, replace landscape fabric and mulch as needed. Maintain new shrubbery for one year from planting date, not to exceed \$1,680.
- Cemetery shelter area – help city crew remove 5-6 inches of existing rocks and clay from two areas to be landscaped. Plant low growing evergreen shrubs, mulch as required. Maintain for one year from planting, not to exceed \$400.
- Crossland Park soccer field – aerate and over seed soccer field proper 240'X360' with turf type fescue at a rate of 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Advise and assist mowing of the soccer field to optimize seeding, \$2,000.

**LANDSCAPE – DAVID BURNS LAWN AND LANDSCAPE**

Johnson moved to approve quotes from David Burns Lawn and Landscape to care for west side of City Hall; north side of City Hall, providing it includes the Community Building; Discovery Park; and Cemetery shelter area not to exceed \$4,400. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**Old business** – None.

**New business** –

-Lucian voiced appreciation for the police department patrolling the school zones of the morning. Feels this is a deterrent to speeding.

-Burton reported he is ordering ten new dumpsters. This information was provided to the committee, wanted all of the council to be aware.

**Mayor-**

-Four attended a full depth reclamation seminar in Salina recently. This is a paving process where asphalt is milled and mixed with concrete; cuts down on material hauling and comes in about 50% of usual paving costs. Very interesting process, probably not something that we would be able to utilize in Columbus, no local contractors in this area.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Paradee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**Meetings:**

**Water/Sewer**

**Tuesday 4/24/2018 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Personnel**

**Tuesday 4//25018 @ 6:30 p.m.**

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*