

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 1, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met April 1, 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.

Pastor Jim Lewis of the Columbus Christian Center provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of March 18, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes and 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 – LAUREN DAINTY – STORY WALK

City Librarian Lauren Dainty informed the council that the Story Walk grant for upgrades to the program at the City Park approved at the January 22, 2019 council meeting is in progress. She asked the council to consider allowing City Staff to install the new poles.

STORY WALK

Opela moved to provide City Staff labor to install the Story Walk posts as presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Report –

- April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. Mayor presented and read proclamation recognizing volunteers. Mayor spoke to the council about being leaders of the community and setting example.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PROCLAMATION

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Proclamation. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

City Administrator Report-

- Reminder of the First Impressions presentation 6 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at the State Theatre. Public is invited and everyone is encouraged to attend.
- Hiring memo is in your council packets
- Firetruck in Florida being held for wiring issue – awaiting delivery date.
- Information Technology Request for Proposal (IT RFP) available in today's News Report, City website, City Hall and has been mailed to several vendors. Responses due April 17, 2019.
- Community Building Update Request for Proposal is still in progress.

- PRIDE photo contest – voters select picture from submitted photos for cover of the annual report. Columbus photo represented by fall scene from the farmers market held at Rusty’s Moose Lodge last fall. Link on the City website, www.columbuscityhall.com to vote.
- Working on 2020 budget. Will be requesting committee meetings to review department proposed budgets.

City Treasurer Report –

- Treasurer Report in your council packets.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- New equipment in Lion’s Park installed.
- Curb repair in front of State Theatre will be completed this week.
- Spring Cleanup April 15-26.
- E-waste collection April 20 9 a.m. – noon at the Columbus Fairgrounds.
- Leaf pickup scheduled for April 29 – May 10.
- Mulberry project / big drain tiles have been set.

City Clerk Report –

- Thank you notes for the City sponsorship received from several participants of the recent Youth Entrepreneur Fair.
- Next Fire up For Fireworks Cookout Thursday, April 11 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- First Impression meeting 6 p.m. Thursday April 11 at the State Theatre.
- Legislative Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Tuesday April 16 at Maple Uncommon – contact me if you would like to attend.
- Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. Saturday April 20 at the City Park – event will be moved to the 4H livestock barns if raining.
- Chamber of Commerce golf tournament Sunday April 28 at Brush Creek, 3 person teams. Contact Jamie at Carpino Ford to enter.
- In conjunction with Volunteer Recognition Month – Columbus PRIDE is sponsoring an adult cleanup day Wednesday April 24 with Thursday April 25 as backup day. Crews will be out from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. sprucing up the downtown area, parks and planting the Community Garden. That evening groups will be planting container gardens at the Community Garden. There will be a PRIDE meeting at noon Tuesday April 9 at City Hall for more information or input.

Police Chief Report-

- Letters sent out to Columbus property owners who have received notices to take care of their yards in the last few years past offenders regarding new mowing ordinance and regulations.
- April 7 Officer Chris Gurney leaves for 14 weeks of basic training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. (KLETC)
- Will be attending code enforcement training conference in Dodge City April 9-12 with ACO/CSO Gary Gideon.
- April 15- 17 Officer Gary Holt will be attending Law Enforcement Leadership Academy.

Fire Chief Report-

- New truck (purchased loaner truck) is in service.
- Firefighters Burton, Cupp, Davis and England have finished recent training classes.
- Storm sirens in and functional – will be submitting paperwork for grant reimbursement.

City Attorney Report –

-Protest petition in response to Charter Ordinance 1436 submitted. Cherokee County Commissioners appointed Attorney Guyso to review document due to conflict of interest.

CEMETRY LOT PRICE

Coble moved to approve increase in cemetery lot price from \$125 to \$175 and weekday cremation opening from \$150 to \$200 effective August 1, 2019. Pryor 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 Fire Contract with Crawford, Lola, Lyon, Mineral, Salamanca and Sheridan townships.** City Administrator Rivas informed there were six township contracts in the council packets, they have been reviewed by the City Attorney. Bennett moved to approve Crawford, Lola, Lyon, Mineral, Salamanca and Sheridan township fire contracts with updates to the following agreements: the Sheridan agreement under compensation and use of funds; to reflect \$2,825 for each City/Fire District; update to the Mineral agreement under compensation and use of funds to the following, City of Columbus will receive \$2,500, Scammon \$2,500 and Mineral receives \$0. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Opela moved to allow the Mayor to sign the fire contracts where the City of Columbus is listed as secondary responder. Brassart seconded the motion. Motion and second withdrawn before a vote.

- 2. Consider Police Department Take Home Vehicle Policy.** City Administrator stated the policy was included in council packets. This is for officers who reside in the county and have at least one year of service. We currently have one officer that would qualify and three available vehicles. Police Chief Daniels emphasized this is a privilege not a right. Dunlap moved to approve the Police Department Take Home Vehicle Policy with April 2, 2019 effective date. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 9-0.
- 3. Consider paying Chamber of Commerce firework donation out of Transient Guest Tax.** Administrator Rivas informed at the last council meeting Chamber firework donation motion was to pay this out of Economic Development Fund. This is normally paid out of Transient Guest Tax. City Clerk Chancellor stated \$1,500 Miss Columbus donation last year had been paid out of Economic Development, \$1,500 firework donation was paid out of Transient Guest Tax fund. Burton moved to approve Chamber of Commerce \$1,500 firework donation be paid out of Transient Guest Tax fund. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

New Business –

- 1. Consider City Workout Policy.** City Administrator Rivas noted the Workout Policy was included in the council packets. This was discussed at a February Fire Committee meeting and Fire Chief Allison was asked to put together a policy for consideration. The

equipment will be located in a spare room in the fire department. Use would be limited to fire department employees and volunteers due to the location. If this is successful options to provide this opportunity for all City employees could be addressed. Opela moved to approve Workout Policy for the Fire Department for a period of one year. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: Brassart. Motion carried 8-1.

2. **Consider Inclement Weather Policy.** City Administrator Rivas spoke to recent weather conditions and the closing of local business and the County Courthouse. City offices remained open, fielded several inquiries as to why City offices were open. Rivas explained the County works with many State offices and programs and usually mimics the State's closing schedule. The City is not set up that way. The City does not have a policy on file to when or who can close City operations. Dunlap moved to approve Inclement Weather Policy. Burton seconded the motion. Motion and second withdrawn before a vote.
3. **Consider one-way sign and or stop sign in north/south alley between Pine and Maple Streets.** City Administrator Rivas noted RJ's Discount Liquor Store has been sold and new owner is requesting do not enter / one-way sign to allow drive through window access. Several options considered. Police Chief will look at possible remedies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a thirty-minute executive session at 8:15 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to discuss open positions with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator and City Attorney in attendance. Meeting will reconvene at 8:45 p.m. in the council chamber. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION 8:45 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 8:46 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to continue City Superintendent candidate discussion with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator and City Attorney in attendance. Meeting will reconvene at 9:01 p.m. in the council chamber. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION 9:01 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

CITY SUPERINTENDENT

Opela moved to allow City Administrator to offer \$59,363 annual salary to top City Superintendent candidate. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton, Patterson. Abstain: Bennett. Motion carried 6-2-1.

SALARY STUDY

Opela moved to allow the City Administrator to review current pay scale and conduct salary study. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Bennett. Motion carried. 8-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT

Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Meetings:

Economic Development

Thursday April 4, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Cemetery

Monday April 8, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Police & License

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

Water/Sewer

Tuesday April 16, 2019 @ 6:30 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