

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 20, 2020  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met April 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Connie Bennett, John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom conference call/video: Sean Gilmore, Sammye Opela. Council member absent: None.

Juanita Dobkins representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mayor Report –**

-Updated COVID statistics for Kansas according to the Cherokee County Health Department: 1,986 positive cases, 405 hospitalizations, 100 deaths and 16,775 negative results. Governor Kelly has extended the stay at home order by Executive Order 20-24.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Houser moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of April 6, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, April 9, 2020 Special Council Meeting Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 20-516 as presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**City Administrator Report-**

- Website update
- High School Street update.
- Police Chief Daniels and I will take part in a conference call tomorrow 4/21 with Cherokee County representatives for county wide COVID 19 update.
- 2021 budget update. City revenue from sales tax and property tax is projected to be down in the coming months due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We will be monitoring and looking at ways to trim 2020 expenses if necessary and at impact on the 2021 budget preparations. Supervisors have submitted draft 2021 department budgets; I will be reviewing these in the coming weeks and asking for committee meetings to go over these budgets.

**City Treasurer Report –**

- Cash balance stable compared to same time last year.
- Will be keeping an eye on revenues in the coming months as the City Administrator mentioned.

It was suggested that 2020 overlay budget not be used to make up sales tax and property tax shortfalls.

**VENTALITATION SYSTEM**

Houser moved to approve purchase of a fire department fire bay ventilation system and installation not to exceed \$10,000 to be paid out of Property Capital Reserves. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting

aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

It was noted funds were being saved in Property Capital Reserves towards a large fire bay ventilation system with a \$100,000 target. Current balance for the project is \$30,000. Fire Chief Burton found a single unit system he believes will work for the department for \$10,000 and requested the remaining balance be transferred to Fire Capital Reserves for use on future fire projects.

### **RESERVE FUND TRANSFER**

Houser moved to approve the transfer of \$20,000 from Property Capital Reserves to Fire Equipment Reserve. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Old Business –**  
**None.**

**New Business –**

- 1. *Consider purchase of two 2018 Dodge Chargers for the Police Department to be paid for out of Police Reserve Fund.*** Houser moved to approve purchase of two 2018 Dodge Chargers for the Police Department at a cost of \$21,000 each to be paid for out of the Police Reserve Fund. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.
- 2. *Discussion – Funding of High School Street (utilities and sidewalk)*** City Administrator Rivas provided funding option information for the City's water, sewer and sidewalk portion of the High School Street Project. Estimated cost of this portion of the venture is \$600,000. The City has about \$300,000 in Utility Reserves. Rivas noted with low interest rates the City could finance all or a part of the expense. She also spoke to the potential impact the COVID 19 pandemic may have on the City's sales tax and property tax revenues. It was agreed to look at financing options.
- 3. *Discussion – 2021 Committees with a five-member Council.*** City Administrator Rivas asked council members to start considering options for committees and work sessions when the council reduces to five members. Several ideas were presented including combining or grouping current committees, reducing number of committees, using biweekly work sessions or agenda meetings. It was noted there will be no council members elected in 2020. Five council members and a mayor will be elected to staggered terms in 2021. No action taken at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Meetings:**

**Personnel**

Tuesday May 12, 2020 @t 10:00 a.m.

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*