

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 6, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met April 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Tom Pryor (6:49 p.m.). Council members present by zoom conference call/video: John Brassart, Sean Gilmore, Sammye Opela. Council member absent: Connie Bennett, Nate Long.

Mayor Grant Spieth thanked everyone for attending and asked participants of the meeting to identify themselves by name before speaking. Mayor Spieth noted the City is using zoom tonight to be in compliance of Governor Kelly's Executive Order 20-14. Meeting is also being broadcast on Citylink TV. He noted several council members and staff will be meeting by zoom/call in.

No public forum tonight. Comments for public forum are to be submitted to the City Clerk by noon on the day of a council meeting in order to be included at the meeting. None have been submitted for tonight's meeting. Mayor Spieth reminded everyone to identify themselves before speaking.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of March 16, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 20-515 and the March 2020 personnel report as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Report –

-None.

City Administrator Report-

- COVID 19 update information in your packet. Staff is working continuously to be informed.
- Grants on hold for the time being including the High School Street project.
- City Hall closed to the public. Business being conducted through the drive through window and over the phone.
- Park equipment is closed to the public. Walking paths continue to be open for use.
- Staggering staff schedules to ensure continued operations of the City.
- Discussion of potential impacts to 2020 City revenues due to COVID 19.

City Treasurer Report –

- Monthly report in council packets.
- Want area small business owners to be aware of payroll protection program. Encourage business owners to speak with their banker about the program.

Mayor noted recycle bins have been removed for the time being due to the closing of the Pittsburg recycle center. Cardboard recycle containers are still available for use. City Administrator spoke to disposing of public works items through auction process. City Attorney Wright suggested waiting on this due to Governor's stay at home order. Scrapping or recycling items was considered. It was agreed to hold off on process for the time being.

City Attorney Report -

Federal and State agencies are implementing programs to help businesses and individuals. Governor Kelly may have a new Executive Order soon to further define essential services.

Ian's Place dedication is moving to June, Liz Simpson is working with food vendors and a possible June 25 date.

The Claythorne U.S. Open Shoot has been moved to June 7-14, 2021.

Old Business –
None.

New Business –

- 1. Consider Ordinance 1464 Kansas Gas Franchise agreement.** City Attorney previously noted this is a standard document continuing our current agreement. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 2. Discuss Family First Coronavirus Response Act.** City Administrator Daniela Rivas explained the paid sick leave and emergency family medical leave portions of the act and recommended exempting City employees from the FFCRA. She also asked council to approve up to 80 hours of pay for full time employees who 1) test positive for COVID 19; 2) have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID 19; or 3) are experiencing symptoms of COVID 19 and are seeking a medical diagnosis. Houser moved to approve up to 80 hours of paid leave for full time City employees for the 3 reasons listed. City Attorney Barbara Wright advised that council needs to exempt the City from the Act before recommending approval of paid leave. Houser amended the motion to exempt City employees from the emergency family leave portion of the Family First Coronavirus Response Act. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Houser moved to exempt City employees from the paid sick leave portion of the Family First Coronavirus Response Act. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

- 3. Consider paid leave of up to 80 hours for full-time employees who are affected by COVID 19 as outlined in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act #1,2,3.** Houser moved to approve paid leave of up to 80 hours for full-time employees who are affected by COVID19 as outlined in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act 1) if the employee is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19; 2) the employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to

COVID-19; or 3) the employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

- 4. Consider postponing 2020 street overlay project.** City Administrator Rivas noted the 2020 overlay project has been put on hold by the vendor. She asked the council to consider postponing 2020 street overlay project in light of projected decrease in tax revenues due to the pandemic. She stated this is only one option to consider. Rivas added if the City winds up in a better financial place than expected towards the end of the year these monies could be transferred to the street reserve fund for a 2021 or future project. It was agreed to discuss this further at the upcoming budget and street committee meetings and again at the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Property/Pool/Parks

Thursday April 9, 2020 @t 1:00 p.m.

Budget & Finance

Tuesday April 14, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

Streets/Alleys/Bridges

Thursday April 16, 2020 @4:00 p.m.

Sanitation

Thursday April 16, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk