

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CALLED SPECIAL MEETING
April 9, 2020
11:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met April 9, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom conference call/video: Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser. Council member absent: John Brassart.

Mayor Grant Spieth read the request for the special meeting:

We the undersigned governing body member of the City of Columbus, Kansas, hereby respectfully request a special meeting of the governing body for the object and purpose of the Mayor's decision to outlaw Cruise Night, signed by council members Jan Houser, Sammye Opela and Nate Long.

Mayor Spieth reminded everyone this will be the only topic discussed today.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding the cruise night that was posted on social media. Several council members voiced opinions that the cruise night would build morale and is covered in the Governor's executive order under participating in outdoor activities. Other Council members promoted a unified front supporting the State Executive Order noting it is council responsibility to make the tough decisions in the best interest of the City.

Rivas mentioned that the intention behind the social media post from PD was to encourage residents to stay home. City Attorney posed the possibility of the City losing out on potential FEMA reimbursements if the City endorsed activities in violation of the Governor's executive order.

It was agreed to communicate information that leads to decisions for the City related to COVID-19 in order to help residents understand the thought process behind the request. A re-statement of the original social media post was requested from City Administrator Rivas.

ADJOURNMENT

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk