

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 19, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met August 19, 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, Steve Dunlap, Jan Houser, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Alvin Patterson.

Mayor Spieth provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of July 15, 2019 Council Meeting minutes, August 5, 2019 Council Meeting minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 19-497, resignation of Volunteer Firefighter Rick Martin and 2019 Pool Financial Report as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

VISITOR – GARMANY/STANLEY 1317 EAST WALNUT

Alan Garmany and Sandra Stanley came before the council for a review of property at 1317 East Walnut. Property was involved in condemnation hearing July 15, 2019. Garmany and Stanley were given a thirty-day extension to make improvements with review at the August 19 council meeting. Police Chief Jason Daniels provided pictures for consideration. Daniels stated improvements had been made and recommends property be removed from the condemnation list. He stated continued progress could be handled code enforcement.

REMOVE FROM CONDEMNATION LIST - 1317 EAST WALNUT

Burton moved to remove 1317 East Walnut from the condemnation list. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Report –

- Reminded everyone of the public forum process.
- Informed council he has received request for membership from the Titan Booster Club. August 26 meet the Titans night; more information might be available.
- Looking for representative from Ward 1 to fill vacancy on the council. Registered voters from Ward 1 should contact City Hall and complete application if they would like to be considered. Mayor makes appointment from interested parties for council approval.

City Administrator Report-

- Required training for all full-time City staff Monday September 23. Two sessions will be offered, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Reserve Police Officers, Volunteer Firefighters and elected officials are invited to attend as well. Several topics will be covered including diversity and harassment.
- KDOT consult meeting Wednesday, August 21 at 9 a.m. in Independence. Meeting will allow stakeholders to share information about projects in their areas. Mayor Spieth and I will be attending, let me know if you would like to carpool.

- CDBG application update. Professional Engineering Consultants will be overseeing traffic study Wednesday August 21 on North High School Street. Findings will be part of the material included in the application.
- Beautification team will meet Wednesday, August 21 at City Hall. Those present will be reviewing lists and making long term and short-term goals.
- City staff took part in League of Kansas Municipality Census 2020 webinar. Importance of a good/complete count emphasized. Census information affects grants and funding opportunities available for projects within the City. Very important we reach all the “hard to count” population. Mayor will be forming a committee in the coming months to assist with this program.
- City website update. Refresh is underway. Have a couple of council members without pictures on the council page.
- Trash truck request for bid will be published/sent out on Wednesday.
- Thank you to our department heads for their hard work the last 6 months. They do a lot of things behind the scene that often go unnoticed.
- Police Chief Jason Daniels was selected for the Kansas Association of Code Enforcement steering committee. This group will select topics, speakers and programs for the fall conference.
- City Clerk is busy with hiring and onboarding and reviewing accounts receivable processes.
- Interim City Superintendent Scott Bennett was instrumental in the City having a successful pool season. He is a doer and gets things accomplished in spite of being short staffed.
- Fire Chief Jason Allison and Deputy Chief Steven Burton have been thinking outside the box. They took advantage of the County inmate labor program to get water hydrants painted. They also took initiative to move the fire prevention program in house to keep more of the money local and get more value for each dollar. Fire department recently made improvements to their training room adding a computer and projector screen for more professional training opportunities.

City Treasurer Report –

- No report tonight – will take questions.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- Street painting (lines) complete for this year.
- Crews mowed 11 properties in violation of weed/grass ordinance.
- Staff replace 4” water meter at the gym / Butterball meter next as soon as it is received.
- Leak on water standpipe repaired. It is scheduled for inspection and paint next year.
- Working with Liberty Utilities and Mid Central getting light poles on Maple Street and around the town square ready for painting.
- Sweet gum tree at cemetery scheduled to be removed next week, weather permitting.

City Clerk Report –

- Farmer’s Market and Elementary School Carnival Thursday, August 22.
- Library has several opportunities for all ages coming up. Check their website.
- City Hall will be closed Monday September 2 in observance of Labor Day. Council will meet on Tuesday September 3. There will be a reminder in the council packets.
- Election certification for recent special election received from County Clerk Rod Edmondson. Question passed 145 -135 in favor to reduce the city council size from 10 members to 5.
- Land bank informational meeting Monday August 26 at the community room of Galena City Hall. Representatives from Fort Scott and Pittsburg will be there for presentation and questions.

Police Chief Report –

-Demolition update on 518 West Oak. Property owner was given a 60-day extension at the August 15 condemnation hearing. Daniels stated buildings are being cleaned out and readied for demolition by the property owner.

-Code enforcement update:

- 101 weed/grass violations – 37 have been mowed by City staff.
-9 of the 37 have been mowed at least twice.
- 1 of the 101 properties is owned by a Columbus resident, the remaining 100 are out of City/County/State owners.
- 27 inoperable vehicle notices – 1 citation.
- 11 structures cited for IPMC violations – documentation for future condemnation proceedings if needed.
- 4 dead/diseased tree notices – 2 have come into compliance, 2 pending.
- Have a high level of compliance so far.

- First responder/Veteran recognition picnic September 8 at 5:30 in the City Park

- Officers Hosier and Petree started Kansas Law Enforcement Training Academy today.

Graduation will be November 22. All staff will be KLETC certified once these two officers graduate.

Fire Chief Report-

-Fire hydrants in wards 1 – 3 have been painted with the help of Cherokee County Inmate Labor program.

- Will work with Interim City Superintendent Scott Bennett to test fire hydrants in wards 4 & 5, then they will be painted accordingly.

-Fire drivers have been training on the new ladder truck.

-Volunteer Firefighter Derek Carroll is attending EMT class at Labette Community College.

-Working towards re-evaluation for ISO rating.

City Attorney Report –

-Nothing for you in the council packet.

-Reminder of the County tax sale September 6.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK JOB DESCRIPTION

Opela moved to approve the Assistant City Clerk job description as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor.

Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

EDDINGTON PARK

Houser moved to approve Eddington Park as the name for the Northwest City Park in Crossland Addition. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

FROEBE FIELDS

Houser moved to approve Froebe Fields as the name for the soccer fields in the Northwest City Park (Eddington Park). Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

UPGRADE CITY PARK BASKETBALL COURT

Houser moved to go forward with making the City Park basketball court high school regulation size with concrete pads for bleachers in conjunction with the Columbus Recreation Commission and the Community Foundation with the City's contribution not to exceed \$10,000 to be paid out of Park Capital Reserve fund. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

COUNCIL PAY

Lucian moved to pay council members only for the council meetings they attend. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Lucian. Voting nay: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Motion failed 2-6.

Old Business –

None.

New Business –

- 1. Consider Commercial Property Rehabilitation Grant for Titan Fitness LLC up to \$4,199 to be paid out of Economic Development.** Ms. Rivas noted council packets contained grant application and required paperwork and recommends approving the grant. Houser moved to approve Commercial Property Rehabilitation Grant for Titan Fitness LLC up to \$4,199 to be paid out of Economic Development. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a 20-minute executive session at 7:32 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss personnel issue and code enforcement issue with the Council, City Administrator, Mayor, City Attorney, Chief of Police and City Clerk in attendance; meeting will reconvene in the council chambers at 7:52 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR SESSION 7:52 P.M. NO ACTION TAKEN.

CITY SUPERINTENDENT

Opela moved to allow City Administrator to offer City Superintendent position to top candidate within the salary range discussed. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Lucian. Motion carried 6-2.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a 10-minute executive session at 7:54 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss code enforcement issue with the Council, City Administrator, Mayor, City Attorney and Chief of Police in attendance, meeting will reconvene in the council chambers at 8:04 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Brassart seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Property/Pool/Parks

Tuesday August 20, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

Water/Sewer

Wednesday August 28, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk