

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 5, 2019  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met August 5, 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, Jan Houser, James Lucian, Sammye Opela. Council members absent: Randy Coble, Steve Dunlap, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor.

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

Mayor Spieth opened the budget hearing, asking if anyone in the audience wished to speak about the proposed 2020 City budget. No one came forward. Mayor asked if any council members had questions, Connie Bennett asked if the proposed Utility Technician position and the increased pay for the City Superintendent position were included in the budget. City Administrator Daniela Rivas stated the Utility Technician position essentially is a reworked Water/Wastewater position and is covered in the budget. She reported the City Superintendent salary would be covered mid-range.

**APPROVE 2020 BUDGET**

Houser moved to approve the 2020 City Budget as presented. Brassart seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Houser, Opela. Voting nay: Bennett, Lucian. Motion carried 4-2.

Mayor Spieth closed the budget hearing at 6:34 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 19-496, resignation of Council Member Randy Coble, resignation of Laborer Bart Hamilton, and resignation of Volunteer Firefighter Justice Gannaway as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

**VISITOR – JEAN PRICHETT**

Chamber of Commerce Director Jean Pritchett informed the council 2019 is the 50<sup>th</sup> year for the Columbus Day festival and the 30<sup>th</sup> year for the Hot Air Balloon Regatta. She stated another balloon sponsor is needed as the number of participants has grown to 13 this year; still have several opportunities to help crew balloons as well. Mrs. Pritchett noted there will be a traveling “Columbus photo” exhibit on display at 101 South Pennsylvania during the festival this year. She stated there are 3 or 4 photos of Columbus, Kansas. We will be needing people to help monitor the photo exhibit also. Ms. Pritchett stated the Balloon Regatta is a unique event in the 4-state area and is well attended from people from all over the country.

**SPONSOR COLUMBUS DAY BALLOON**

Opela moved to sponsor a balloon for the Columbus Day/Hot Air Balloon Regatta in the amount of \$500 to be paid out of transient guest tax. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Mayor Report –**

-League of Kansas Municipalities annual conference is October 12-14. Great learning and networking opportunity. Same weekend as Columbus Day event, you can attend a single day – you do not have to commit to the entire weekend. Contact the City Clerk if you would like to register or for more information.

### **City Administrator Report-**

-Liberty Utilities rate increase update. Liberty was awarded a 6% increase effective August 1, 2019. We budgeted a 10% increase into the 2020 budget; currently we are about 10% under budget in the electric utility for 2019 so we should be covered.

- Beautification team met on July 17 with 8 people present. Many good ideas. Next meeting is 4:30 p.m. Wednesday 8/7 in the committee room.

-Personnel update in your council packet includes newly hired Animal Control Officer who began today.

-Attended Police Officer Christopher Gurney graduation from Police Academy with Police Chief Daniels and Lieutenant Justice. Officer Gurney is back to work as a Police Officer II.

### **City Treasurer Report –**

- Cash balance report and treasurer’s report as of July 31 on your desks.

### **Interim City Superintendent Report**

-Crews have been painting street lines and parking spaces.

-Crews mowed 16 properties with weed/grass violations in the last 2 weeks.

-Working on new playground equipment for Reeves Park.

-Have new water lines maps with GPS points.

-Friday August 9 will be the last day for most of the Summer Laborers – planning a cookout for the department Thursday August 8.

-Sunday August 11 is the last day for the swimming pool.

### **Police Chief Report**

Police Lieutenant David Justice represented the department.

-Presented demolition quotes from B3 Construction for properties condemned at previous council meeting.

### **ACCEPT B3 DEMOLITION QUOTE – 816 WEST MAPLE**

Houser moved to accept the B3 Construction demolition quote for structures located at 816 West Maple in the amount of \$3,000 plus landfill charges. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

### **RESOLUTIONS 570-574**

Houser moved to adopt Resolutions 570-574 providing for demolition, extension or dismissal from demolition as presented for structures at 314 North Minnesota, 518 West Oak, 401 South Lash, 1317 East Walnut and 816 West Maple. Burton seconded the motion. Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

### **ACCEPT B3 DEMOLITION QUOTE – 314 NORTH MINNESOTA**

Houser moved to accept the B3 Construction demolition quote for house and garage located at 314 North Minnesota in the amount of \$3,800 plus landfill charges. Lucian seconded the

motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

**ACCEPT B3 DEMOLITION QUOTE – 421 SOUTH INDIANA**

Opela moved to accept the B3 Construction demolition quote for house and garage located at 421 South Indiana in the amount of \$3,760 plus landfill charges. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

**ACCEPT B3 DEMOLITION QUOTE – 531 EAST COUNTRY ROAD**

Bennett moved to accept the B3 Construction demolition quote for house and outbuilding located at 531 East Country Road in the amount of \$5,160 plus landfill charges. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

**Fire Chief Report-**

Steven Burton in attendance for the department.

-157 emergency calls to date.

-Received \$4,800 Kansas Forestry grant to update department handheld radios.

-Working with Cherokee County Sherriff department to utilize inmate labor program to assist with fire hydrant painting. Rain delayed progress this year.

-Department staff will be participating in the National Night Out tomorrow in the City Park.

-Department staff will be participating in the Art in the Park event Sunday, August 18.

-Staff training on new ladder truck.

**City Attorney Report –**

-STO and UPOC Ordinances under new business. The LKM magazine in your council packets had a good article regarding the Standard Traffic Ordinance and ability for Cities to customize to fit their needs.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Opela moved to approve the Employee Assistance Program agreement for September 1, 2019 through August 30, 2020 to be funded by 2019 department budgets. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

**UTILITY TECHNICIAN JOB DESCRIPTION**

Opela moved to approve the Utility Technician job description as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Houser, Opela. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Lucian. Mayor Spieth broke the tie with an aye vote. Motion carried 4-3.

**Old Business –**

Resolutions adopted earlier in the meeting.

**New Business –**

- 1. Consider Ordinance 1444 adopting the Uniform Public Offense Codes for Kansas Cities, Edition 2019.** City Attorney Wright explained this is done every year to adopting the latest version. Lucian moved to approve Ordinance 1444 adopting the Uniform

Public Offense Codes for Kansas Cities. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

2. **Consider Ordinance 1445 adopting the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, Edition 2019.** Lucian moved to approve Ordinance 1445 adopting the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.
3. **Consider waiving pool party fee for National Night Out at City Pool on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.** Opela moved to waive the pool party fee for the National Night Out event, August 6 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Opela moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Meetings:**

**None.**

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*