

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
December 16, 2019  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met December 16, 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, Kathy Doherty, Steve Dunlap, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: None.

Pastor Lindsey Clarke of the First United Methodist Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 19-505 and Cereal Malt Beverage License renewals for the American Legion, American Legion Beverage Hut, Casey's General Store, Dollar General, Fast Mart, G&W Foods and the VFW as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Mayor Report –**

-Appointed City Superintendent Dave Bass as the City's Flood Plain Manager.

**FLOOD PLAIN MANAGER – DAVE BASS**

Houser moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of City Superintendent Dave Bass as the City's Flood Plain Manager. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

-Mayor presented retiring Fire Chief Jason Allison a certificate of appreciation for his years of service and dedication to the City.

**City Administrator Report-**

-New Hire update; Dave Bass has been hired as the new City Superintendent and started work about a week ago.

-All wheel park update later in the meeting.

-Rate study update, I am waiting on report from Kansas Rural Water Association.

-Thanked council for a great year, looking forward to 2020.

**City Treasurer Report –**

-Finances remain very stable.

-If interest rates do not drop any lower, I feel we are right on target with our 2020 budgeted interest numbers.

**Interim City Superintendent Report –**

-Leaf pick up complete. Developing policy and schedule for program next year.

-Looking at vacuum for next year to avoid using street sweeper.

- Reeves Park All Wheel Park. Met with contractor, they delivered 4 loads of material the first day. We held a ground-breaking ceremony. Weather is slowing progress; original December completion date has been pushed to January 10.
- Two public works employees tested for wastewater certification and one for water certification. Results should be back in the next several days.
- New mechanic started, working on regular maintenance schedule for city vehicles and equipment.
- Disc golf signs in – staff will be installing in the next several days.
- Down an Equipment Operator.
- Working with Ms. Rivas on new public works building plan.
- Looking at animal shelter relocation.

#### **City Clerk Report –**

- Columbus Recreation Commission meets Wednesday, December 18 at 6 p.m. here at City Hall.
- Third Thursday Coffee will be Thursday December 19 at Mercy Hospital, begins at 8 a.m.
- Reminder that Council approved City offices to close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
- Staff is working on year end and getting 2019 books closed.
- Angel Tree program Saturday 21 from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.in the fire bay.

#### **Police Chief Report –**

- Radar speed limit sign on High School street damaged 11/4 by a passing vehicle, driver's insurance has reimbursed, I am delaying replacement pending the High School Street renovation project. May eventually replace with mobile unit that can be utilized in several places.
- Condemnation demolitions approved by council are nearing completion and expected complete by year end.
- Nuisance reporting memo in council packets.
- Law Enforcement Leadership Academy memo in council packet. Yearlong course beginning in January. I will be out 2 days each month and will miss a few council meetings.
- Request a short executive session at the end of the meeting.

#### **Fire Chief Report-**

- 257 runs for the year.

#### **City Attorney Report –**

- Code Book summary notes reviewed with Ms. Rivas, hoping to have final draft around March.
- Need an executive session to discuss a legal matter with the council.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Houser called for a ten-minute executive session at 6:59 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney - client relationship to discuss a legal matter with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk and Chief of Police in attendance, meeting will reconvene in the council chambers at 7:09 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

#### **REGUALR SESSION 7:09 P.M.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Dunlap asked about status of township fire contracts and ISO rating for the City. Fire Chief Allison is working on getting copies of agreements with everyone's signature. He commented the City ISO rate went from a 4 to a 5. He has informed the rating company about the purchase of the ladder truck. Re-inspection planned after the first of the year. Allison noted insurance savings vary per company and customer.

City received donation today for the All Wheel Park musical instruments as pledged.

**Old Business –**  
**None.**

**New Business –**

1. ***Consider payment to TBS Electronics, Inc. for 20 XPR radios and speaker mics to be paid out of 2019 general fund fire department budget in the amount of \$12,905.00 with a Forestry grant reimbursement of \$4,900.00 making total City portion \$8,005.00.*** Fire Chief Allison noted this is a 50/50 cost share grant up to \$10,000 through the Kansas Forestry Department. With fire calls down this year we used some of the cost savings for department radios so all volunteers will have radios providing constant communication during fire events. Pryor moved to approve payment to TBS Electronics, Inc. for 20 XPR radios and speaker mics to be paid out of 2019 general fund fire department budget in the amount of \$12,905.00 and depositing grant reimbursement funds of \$4,900.00 into Fire Department Reserves fund when received making total cost to the City \$8,005.00. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: none. Motion carried 10-0.
2. ***Consider GAAP Waiver Resolution 580.*** City Attorney Barbara Wright noted GAAP stands for generally accepted account principles. This is done every year municipalities follow different accounting principles. Opela moved to adopt Resolution 580 regarding the GAAP waiver for the City of Columbus. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.
3. ***Consider 2019 PRIDE Resolution 581.*** This is done every year to continue the PRIDE program in the City. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 581 endorsing the PRIDE program in the City of Columbus. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.
4. ***Discuss naming all-wheel/bike feature at Reeves Park.*** Houser moved to name all-wheel/bike feature at Reeve's Park Ian Qualls All-Wheel Park. Doherty seconded the motion. Motion and second were withdrawn before a vote.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 7:41 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel regarding employee evaluation with the Council, Administrator, Mayor, and City Attorney in attendance, meeting to reconvene in the Council room at 7:56 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**REGULAR SESSION 7:56 P.M.**  
**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Opela called for a five-minute executive session at 7:56 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship to discuss security matter with the Council, City Administrator, Mayor , City Attorney, Chief of Police, City Superintendent and City Clerk in attendance, meeting to reconvene in the Council room at 8:01 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**REGULAR SESSION 8:01 P.M.**  
**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dunlap moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Meetings:**  
**None.**

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*