

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met December 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Steve Dunlap, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: John Brassart, Jan Houser.

Council member Kathy Doherty led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of November 18, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 19-504 and the November personnel report as presented. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Grant Spieth announced he would like to move Old Business items #1 and #2 regarding the bond refinance up on the agenda if there are no objections to allow Clayton Kelley of Piper Jaffrey to get back to Kansas City earlier in the evening.

Old Business –

- 1. Consider Ordinance No. 1456 Authorizing And Providing For The Issuance Of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2019, Of The City Of Columbus, Kanas, For The Purpose Of Providing Funds To Refund A Portion Of The City's Outstanding General Obligation Bonds; Providing For The Levy And Collection Of An Annual Tax For The Purpose Of Paying The Principal Of and Interest On Said Bonds As They Become Due; Authorizing Certain Other Documents And Actions In Connection Therewith; And Making Certain Covenants With Respect Thereto.** Mr. Kelly informed the council initial projections indicated the City could save \$146,000 in refinancing the sewer bonds. Interest rates have continued to fall, and actual savings will be \$156,000. The bonds are being refinanced at a 2.82% interest rate, down from the original 4.35%. If the ordinance and resolution are passed tonight and documents signed, we w be able to close in about 2 weeks. Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1456 allowing for the refinance of bonds as presented. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 2. Consider Resolution No. 579 Prescribing The Form And Details Of And Authorizing And Directing The Sale And Delivery Of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2019, Of The City Of Columbus, Kansas, Previously Authorized By Ordinance No. 1456 Of The Issuer; Making Certain Covenants And Agreements To Provide For The Payment And Security Thereof; And Authorizing Certain Other Documents And Actions Connected Therewith.** Opela moved to adopt Resolution 579 as presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burotn, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Report –

-Informed former Mayor and Council Member Harley McDaniel has passed away. Services are 2 p.m. tomorrow at Derfelt Funeral Home.

City Administrator Report-

-City Park basketball concrete pour planned for this month. Working on lighting updates as well.
-American Ramp Company (ARC) payout included in the appropriation ordinance covered payment of one-half of the bike/all wheel course project slated for Reeve's Park. Columbus Community Foundation will be forwarding \$50,000 donation to reimburse City and cover remainder of the project.

-Staff is developing new work order system to better track/log issues in the City.

-Beginning stage of a permitting process. Will be working with Police and License committee on revamping the program.

-Working with Janet Miller, Cherokee County Economic Development, on complete count census committee. Looking for variety of people to ensure we reach everyone. I have applied for a \$2,000 social media and a \$500 print grant through the League of Kansas Municipalities to assist with promoting the 2020 census.

-Last Water Committee meeting consensus was to look into a 3rd party rate study. Bone Creek is increasing our water purchase price \$0.75 per thousand gallons. Rate will go from \$4.25 to \$5.00 January 1, 2020. Kansas Rural Water Association provides free rate studies to member cities. I am working with KRWA representative and hope to have results before the end of the year.

-Beautification Committee update. Yard of the Month signs have arrived. We are hosting a social media contest to promote yards/houses decorated for Christmas. Take a picture and post nominations on the City Facebook page or call City Hall. Votes will be likes on the post. Winner will be announced at the end of the week and signs awarded.

-Need a personnel committee meeting to review applications for the Fire Chief position.

-Disc golf goals are in, and I have reports of several people already taking advantage of them. Signage is in print; we hope to receive and have them installed within the next few weeks.

-Cardboard recycle update. Cardboard market down, company no will no longer offer bins and weekly pickups free of charge. City agreed to cover \$120 monthly charge per bin for the next three months. We will be looking at other options.

-2019 budget update. Reviewed City budget to see if budget needed to be amended before the end of the year. Amending a budget includes a hearing and publication requirements similar to the original budget process. I am happy to report the City is in a good place and under budget, an amendment is not necessary this year.

City Treasurer Report –

-Treasurer report on your desk showing 11/30 cash balances.

Interim City Superintendent Report –

-Mr. Bennett unable to attend. Report included in the council packet.

-Mayor mentioned leaf pick up again December 2 -13 weather permitting.

-Mayor mentioned Christmas parade is Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Report –

-LKM Rural Housing Incentive District Webinar Tuesday, December 10 at 10 a.m. This will be available at City Hall if you would like to attend.

-PRIDE meeting Tuesday, December 10 at noon. Always welcome new ideas and volunteers.

-State PRIDE meeting will be held in Columbus Friday, December 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Crossland Education Building. RSVP to City Hall if you wish to attend.

Police Chief Report –

-Police Chief Daniels unable to attend.

-Mayor and City Administrator spoke to nuisance complaint procedure. Complaint forms are available at City Hall, the Police Department and on the City website. Calls can be made to City Hall, the Police Department and after hours to County dispatch 620-429-3992 and an officer will be notified. It was noted to check on status of property waiting for demolition, contact Chief of Police or Code Enforcement Officer Holt.

Fire Chief Report-

Lead Driver Steven Burton in attendance for the department.

-346 runs year to date.

-Department worked a structure fire at 327 North Indiana. Garage was a total loss; crew was able to keep fire away from the house.

-526 West Country Road – stove fire.

- Will be participating in the Christmas parade on Wednesday.

-Making plans for the Angel Tree program on Saturday 12/21.

City Attorney Report –

-Reviewing the draft of the Code Book; fire department section will need to be reviewed with restructure of the department.

-County tax sale set for January 2020.

City Administrator noted bike/all wheel park update in council packets – project slated to start any day.

BILLING DUE DATE EXTENDED

Burton moved to approve utility service bills to be due and payable the 15th of the month, unless the 15th fall on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, without penalty beginning with the bill due January 2020. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Old Business –

3. Consider Purchase of Sanitation Vehicle to be paid out of sanitation reserves. City

Administrator directed council to packet memo containing information regarding automated waste collection. Pros and cons of this type of trash collection system discussed. Opela moved to accept Elliott Equipment bid of \$77,120 for a new 2020 Freightliner garbage truck and Cobra tipper to be paid out of sanitation reserves. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Doherty. Motion carried 5-3.

Pryor moved to purchase up to 200 65-gallon Schafer poly- carts at \$65 each from Elliott Equipment to be paid out of sanitation reserves. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Doherty. Motion carried 5-3.

4. **Consider Land Bank Ordinance.** City Attorney Barbara Wright stated this is a bare bones draft ordinance that covers all the basics of the State Statute. There are several pieces of the ordinance still need to be decided. Wright reminded importance of title research for marketable title regarding landbank properties. Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1457 Establishing a City of Columbus Landbank. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business –

1. **Consider approval of employee bonus.** City Administrator Daniela Rivas spoke to the possibility of City employee bonuses. She supplied 3 options to consider. Dunlap moved to approve City employee bonus Option 3, to be included with the December 20 payroll. Doherty seconded the motion. Motion and second withdrawn before a vote.

Dunlap moved to approve City employee bonuses Option 1 to be paid with the December 20 payroll. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

2. **Consider closing City offices at noon Christmas Eve, December 24 and New Year's Eve, December 31.** Dunlap moved to approve closing City offices at noon Christmas Eve, December 24 and New Year's Eve, December 31. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a ten-minute executive session at 9:01 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel regarding employee vacation leave with the Council, Administrator, Mayor, Attorney and City Clerk in attendance, meeting to reconvene in the Council room at 9:11 p.m. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR SESSION 9:11 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a twenty-minute executive session at 9:11 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel regarding City Superintendent interview with the Council, Administrator, Mayor and Attorney in attendance, meeting to reconvene in the Council room at 9:32 p.m. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR SESSION 9:32 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

EMPLOYMENT OFFER

Opela moved to authorize City Administrator to make offer of employment to City Superintendent prospect with an annual salary up to a \$63,000. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett. Motion carried 7-1.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Dunlap, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Personnel

Monday December 9, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk