

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met February 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, John Brassart, Kathy Doherty, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council member absent: Jerri Burton and Stephanie Farstvedt.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Houser moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of February 3, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 20-512 as presented. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Librarian Lauren Dainty provided an overview of 2019 Columbus Library activities and new features. Mrs. Dainty noted the interactive children's area, hoopla checkout system and new programming opportunities. Staff worked with community partners and participated in several events including the back to school carnival, art in the park, farmer's downtown market, Columbus Day quilt show, PRIDE community cleanup, and more.

HOSPITAL BOARD PRESENTATION

President of the Hospital Board Chris Green and Hospital Administrator Angie Saporito spoke to the Governing Body about 2019 projects and changes at Mercy Hospital. Green noted the three member Hospital Board oversees facility and maintenance needs of the hospital. Current board members are Green, David Boyd and Janet Lyndsey. Green noted clinic space is being remodeled and has been leased to Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas. Saporito mentioned other improvements for local hospital and area initiatives through joint ventures. She noted positive response to the cardiology clinics and mobile CT scanner. Saporito is working with Mercy to continue and expand these offerings.

Mayor Report –

-Appointment of Becky Glover and Maggie Mooney to the Library Board, each serving a 4-year term ending April 1, 2024.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT- BECKY GLOVER/MAGGIE MOONEY

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Becky Glover and Maggie Mooney to the Columbus Library Board with each serving a 4-year term expiring April 1, 2024. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Mayor noted importance of KOMA/KORA training for council and staff. City Administrator will look into bringing an opportunity here.

City Administrator Report-

- Announced that Columbus was awarded the \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant! Yet to be determined when project will begin.
- Summer delivery expected for new Sanitation truck approved by council December 2019.
- Would like Sanitation Committee to review poly cart policy.
- Meter savings information at next council meeting.

City Treasurer Report –

- 2019 year end Treasurer report included in the council packet.

City Superintendent Report –

- Staff refurbishing dumpsters.
- Cardboard only signs have been posted at the recycle location. Extra cardboard dumpster has been delivered.
- New cemetery maps posted at the cemeteries.
- Reeves Park/Ian's Place completion continues to be on hold. Need dry weather to finish dirt work.
- Staff power washed tennis court and basketball court at Reeves Park.
- Mechanic and staff are making progress on the Trolley refurbish.
- No report from railroad regarding upkeep of Buckeye street off North High School Street.

City Clerk Report –

- Updated budget timeline on your desks. Corrected 1/23 Budget/Finance committee meeting minutes in the council packet.
- Cherokee County Solid Waste meeting 4 p.m. Thursday 2/20 at the Riverton Community Building to discuss the county recycle program.
- Trails committee meeting 7:30 p.m. Thursday 2/20 at Crossland Heavy building.
- Chamber of Commerce sponsoring a Legislative Breakfast 7:30 a.m. 3/2 at Maple UnCommon. City will cover cost for council members if you would like to attend. Senator Hildebrand and Representative Houser are scheduled to be in attendance to provide legislative updates and take questions. Contact me at City Hall by Wednesday 3/26 if you would like to attend.
- Cherokee County Economic Development Youth Entrepreneur Fair is Thursday 3/5 at CUHS. Council donated \$500 towards prize money.

- Mayor noted museum annual membership fees are due, \$10 annually or \$100 lifetime.

Police Chief Report –

- Wednesday 2/5 the department's 2011 Crown Vic was involved in a one-vehicle accident. No injuries, push guard sustained most of the impact, there was some minor cosmetic damage. Mr. Spainhower, the City's Mechanic was able to remove the push guard and patchwork the cosmetic damage. Vehicle is scheduled to be replaced this year, did not turn in to the insurance company as I do not feel there would be a good return on investment.
- City Clerk and I met with Chad Hollins from the Collection Bureau of Kansas about getting our municipal court collections sent to them. The City already under contract with CBK so there would be no need for an additional agreement, we can just start submitting accounts. Discussed the possibility of turning over demolition fees and mowing fees moving forward.

-Received preliminary floor plans for the animal control shelter right before the council meeting. Will review them to present to the property committee.

Fire Chief Report-

-Department has responded to 35 calls to date.

-Tanker truck out of service. This is the unit that carries 3,000 gallons of water to rural fires. Nothing major, the City mechanic will have it back in service in a few days.

-Storms sirens sounded last week. Company was down finishing up electronic wiring. Now we are able to active and de-active sirens from the fire station as well as the dispatch center. Sirens will continue to be tested the first Monday of every month.

City Attorney Report –

-Will address Resolution and Ordinances under old and new business section as needed.

-FYI – notified our insurance company the appeal timeline for the possible lawsuit in regard to discrimination claim has expired. No action needed, just for your information.

-Fire Chief Steven Burton asked for direction in ordering bunker gear for the department. He asked if this should go to committee first. Burton was directed to include information in next council packet for review.

-City Administrator noted MuniCode has provided 2nd draft of City Code Book– will be working directly with department heads for review. Update at future council meeting.

-Councilmember Houser asked Governing Body to visit and examine condition of the old pool bath house. Property committee has been made aware of points of concern. She asked council to review and be able to discuss possibilities at the next council meeting.

-City Administrator provided information from the Kansas Rural Water rate study reviewed at the last water committee meeting. She noted study provided two recommendations: 1) utility rate increase to base and usage charges from 5% - 10%, 2) more thorough study by independent third party. Rivas spoke to utility revenues, expenses and reserve fund balance.

WATER RATE INCREASE - RESIDENT

Long moved to approve an increase to the water base charge for residential customers to \$25.50 and water usage charge to \$7.44 per thousand gallons used over 1,000 gallons effective May 1, 2020. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

WATER RATE INCREASE – OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

Long moved to approve an increase to the water base charge for outside the City limit customers to \$34.69 and water usage charge to \$9.73 per thousand gallons used over 1,000 gallons effective May 1, 2020. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

WATER RATE INCREASE – ANNUAL 3%

Long moved to approve a 3% annual increase to the minimum and water usage charges for inside the City limit and outside the City limit customers beginning January 1, 2021. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

SEWER RATE INCREASE

Long moved to approve an increase to the sewer base charge to \$16.56 and sewer usage charge to \$4.46 per thousand gallons used over 2,000 gallons effective May 1, 2020. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

SEWER RATE INCREASE – ANNUAL 3%

Long moved to approve a 3% annual increase to the minimum and sewer usage charges for customers beginning January 1, 2021. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Old Business –

- 1. Consider Resolution 584 revising Section XII-11 of the City of Columbus Employee Handbook regarding employee purchasing authority.** City Attorney Wright noted this resolution updates the Employee Personnel Handbook to reflect updates to employee purchasing authority approved at the February 2, 2020 council meeting by Ordinance. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 584 revision Section XII-11 of the City of Columbus Employee Handbook regarding employee purchasing authority. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 2. Consider purchase of Public Works Backhoe w/Jackhammer attachment.** Bids were opened for this project Friday February 14 at noon. Two bids were received, third bid did not meet request for bid requirements and was not considered. Opela moved to approve Backhoe with/jackhammer attachment purchase from Victor L. Phillips in the amount of \$99,600 to be paid out of Sewer Reserves. Purchase price includes trade in of Case backhoe. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business –

- 1. Consider Community Development Block Grant Contract for High School Street Project.** Administrator Rivas informed the High School Street Project Community Development Block Grant agreement was in your council packet for review. City Attorney Wright stated agreement contained standard contract language and she has no problem with the document. Houser moved to approve Community Development Block Grant agreement as presented. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 2. Consider Ordinance 1460 adopting a City Code of Ethics for Elected and Appointed Officials.** Pryor moved to approve Ordinance 1460 adopting a City Code of Ethics for Elected and Appointed Officials. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

3. **Consider Ordinance 1461 adding non-competitive negotiation language for CDBG grant requirement.** Attorney Wright noted this section of our Code Book was recently revised however the grant requires this non-competitive language in our purchasing policy. Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1461 adding non-competitive negotiation language to our purchasing policy for CDBG grant requirement. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Opela moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Economic Development

- *Wednesday February 19, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.*

Property/Pool/Parks

- *Tuesday February 25, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m.*

Personnel

- *Tuesday February 25, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.*

Streets/Alleys/Bridges

- *Wednesday February 26, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.*

Sanitation

- *Thursday February 27, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.*

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk