

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 5, 2018
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met February 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Steve Dunlap, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, John Paradee, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor and Drew Richards. Council members absent: Ron Johnson.

Pastor Jim Bowles of Calvary Baptist Church led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of January 16, 2018 council meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 17-455 and Appropriation Ordinance 18-456 as presented. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

VISITOR – JANET MILLER

Janet Miller, Director of the Cherokee County Economic Development Corporation spoke to the committee regarding a Neighborhood Revitalization Program approved earlier today by the Cherokee County Commissioners. Mrs. Miller stated the program's primary intent is to provide communities with a long-term increase and stabilization in their property tax base by encouraging rehabilitation and new construction that might not otherwise occur. Rebates apply only to the additional taxes resulting from the increased appraised value of the property due to the construction or rehabilitation. She stated many Kansas cities and counties have been successfully utilizing neighborhood revitalization plans since the mid-1990's. The City will receive a copy of the interlocal agreement from the County soon, she will be available if additional information is needed.

VISITOR – ANGIE SAPORITO/CHRIS GREEN

Angie Saporito, Administrator of Mercy Maude Norton Hospital and Chris Green Chairman of the Hospital Board of Trustees informed the council of an opportunity for the hospital to have use of a mobile CT scanner in 2018. This service is not currently available at the hospital. Numbers would be tracked to see if it is utilized enough to justify a permanent scanner in the hospital. Saporito and Green agreed it would be beneficial to the community to have this opportunity locally. Saporito stated the mobile unit would be placed on the west side of the building near the old emergency room entrance/lab area. The trailer itself fits on the concrete pad, the unit has a couple of slide outs that will extend out over the existing sidewalk. Mercy is willing to install a wider sidewalk at their expense if the City will permit the mobile scanner to be placed in this location. This would allow the community access to that area and still provide this new opportunity to patients.

APPROVE SIDEWALK WAIVER – MERCY MAUDE NORTON

Dunlap moved to allow Mercy Maude Norton Hospital to move the sidewalk on the west side of the building to accommodate mobile CT scanner. Mercy will cover all costs of new sidewalk.

Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

VISITOR – MIKE EVANS/JEAN PRICHETT

Mike Evans and Jean Prichett representatives of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce spoke with the council about the City's Fourth of July celebration and fireworks event. The firework displays the past three or four years have been a class C display, these are a lower shooting firework that do not go as high in the sky before they explode. Evans stated some people in the community expressed interest in a larger firework display, one that would travel higher in the air and be able to be seen from a farther distance. Some like the lower display because it brings more people to the park. The cost has been approximately \$7,500 for the last few years, a class B event would cost \$10,000. The Chamber wanted to have input from the council on the matter. The company that has been used the last few years allows the Chamber to order and pay a deposit in the spring. Fire up for fireworks cookouts have been manned by chamber members in the past to help cover the cost of the Fourth celebration. The grill was even fired up during the Christmas holiday celebration and raised several hundred dollars.

FIREWORK/CHAMBER DONATION

Dunlap moved to donate \$1,500 to the Fourth of July firework fund and \$2,500 to the Chamber of Commerce to be paid out of transient guest tax. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

City Treasurer Report –

-Cash balance report and annual treasurers report on your desks. Interest rates are creeping up. Would like to address the budget and finance committee at a future meeting sometime in the next several weeks.

City Superintendent Report –

- Electronic door locks are installed at City Hall.
- Crews are upgrading lights in the police department to LED units.
- Gearing up for next two storms.
- New garbage truck should be arriving near the end of February.
- Travel voucher in your packet for Substantial Loss training in Topeka on Wednesday. Will not attending conference if bad weather comes in.
- Would like a committee to consider replacement policy for new door lock access items. First card or fob is furnished. Suggest policy for replacement cost be covered by employee. Also consider policy for misuse of card or pin.
- E waste collection at fair grounds Saturday April 28 from 9 a.m. -noon.
- Was chosen chairperson for county solid waste committee when Carl Hayes retired. Have been part of the committee for about nine years, this is a volunteer position. I also serve as the treasurer for the Museum.
- Working with area funeral homes and handicap signage at the cemetery chapel to decide best practice. Planning for handicap parking on the east side.
- Waiting for rural water district to provide water to cemetery.
- Crews spread cinders at several intersections in town by hand, spreader we have will handle salt; salt is not effective in the low temperatures. County trucks helped with Country Road, hill on East Maple and railroad tracks.
- Made aware of pot hole on High School Street by railroad tracks.

-Will be working with street committee, considering major project this year instead of overlay and capital projects for future. Could work towards engineering project one year to be ready for early start on work the following year. Recommend addressing potential water and sewer problems at the same time. Sunset Circle and High School Street have been mentioned.

City Clerk Report –

- Updated committee list and Mayor/Council/Staff list in your council packets
- League of Kansas Municipalities training opportunities in packet – I will be happy to help you register for any of these trainings.
- Reminder next council meeting will be Tuesday February 20 due to President’s Day – City offices will be closed on Monday.
- Paperwork and receipts have been turned in for 2017 Sidewalk project at 325 South Penn. Request motion to approve reimbursement.

SIDEWALK REIMBURSEMENT

Opela moved to reimburse completed 2017 sidewalk program project for First Christian Church parsonage, 325 S. Penn - \$1,631.00 to be paid out of the 2017 sidewalk program funds. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

- Wednesday, February 7, the Kansas Senate will be honoring the 150th birthday of Columbus with a resolution at 2:30 in Topeka. Several from Columbus will be attending.
- Governor will be recognizing the birthday on Friday, March 23.
- Have documents for each council person to sign at the end of the meeting tonight acknowledging the mayor signature updates on the City’s bank accounts.

Police Chief Report –

- Lieutenant Mattice present in the absence of Chief Daniels.
- Nothing to report – open for questions.
- Council member Opela asked for follow up with Chief Daniels on the mobile home placement on Oak Street, making sure they are following all codebook requirements including foundation guidelines.

-Fire Chief Report-

- Fifty-one fire calls so far this year compared to 37 this period last year.
- KU was in to do annual SCBA fit test. This checks to make sure face masks fit the fire fighters properly.
- Copy of updated bylaws in you packet. *(left out of packet – will be included in 2/20 council packets)*

City Attorney Report-

- Ordinance regarding contracted legal fees. This formalizes the council action approved with the passing of the 2018 budget to increase contracted legal fees to \$1,200 per month beginning January 2018.

ORDINANCE 1415 – CONTRACTED LEGAL FEE INCREASE

Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1415 – *“An Ordinance Amending the Code for the City of Columbus, Kansas, Chapter I, Article 4, Establishing Chapter I, Article 4, Section 1-401A Regarding Fees for Individuals Serving in the Appointed Positions: Municipal Judge, City Prosecutor and City Attorney.”* Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton,

Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-I request a motion for an executive session for attorney/client privilege to discuss a personnel issue with the Council, Mayor and myself in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dunlap called for a ten-minute executive session at 7:51 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss a personnel issue with the Council, Mayor and City Attorney in attendance. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION: 8:01 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dunlap called for a ten-minute executive session at 8:03 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship to continue discussion of a personnel issue with the Council, Mayor and City Attorney in attendance. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION: 8:13 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN

RESIGNATION – DENNIS PETTY

Opela moved to approve the resignation of Police Officer Dennis Petty effective January 31, 2018. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

ADVERTISE POLICE OFFICER POSITON

Opela moved to advertise the open Police Officer position internally and externally. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

ADVERTISE CEMETERY SEXTON POSITION

Opela moved to advertise the open Cemetery Sexton position internally and externally and include in avenues like indeed.com and ziprecruiter.com if it is financially feasible. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

APPROVE WAGE RANGE CHART

Opela moved to approve the proposed wage range chart to replace Appendix A, Appendix A-1 and Ordinance 1300 of the employee personnel handbook. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Bennett. Motion carried 8-0-1.

UPDATE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Opela moved to update all current job descriptions to reflect pay ranges of new wage range chart. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY GRANT REIMBURSEMENT – NSOD

Lucian moved to approve Natalie/Steve Burton's (Natalie's Studio of Dance) Property Rehabilitation Matching Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$3,458.37. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Burton, Dunlap. Motion carried 7-0-2.

TRUCK BID

Dunlap moved to allow the police department to go out for bids on a new truck. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Spieth reported he has been made aware of a \$30,000 grant opportunity that could benefit the City, the application deadline is March 1. He asked the property/pool/parks committee to take a look at it. He noted the Recreation Commission will also be considering application.

Old business – NA

New business – Kansas Rural Water Conference, March 27-29 in Wichita. If any council members would like to attend contact City Superintendent or City Clerk for registration.

Attorney asked for a motion for executive session to discuss litigation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 8:40 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss litigation with the Council, Mayor and Attorney in attendance. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION 8:55 P.M

NO ACTION TAKEN

HIRE OUTSIDE COUNSEL

Richards moved to hire outside counsel for pending litigation. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Burton. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Mayor-

- Reorganization of Columbus Recreation Commission. Reappoint members and update terms.
- Ivan Crossland Jr. 1-year term expiring the last day of February 2019

COLUMBUS RECREATION COMMISSION – IVAN CROSSLAND JR.

Pryor moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Ivan Crossland Jr. to the Columbus Recreation Commission for a one-year term expiring the last day of February 2019. Paradee

seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-David Schoech 2-year term expiring the last day of February 2019

COLUMBUS RECREATION COMMISSION – DAVID SCHOECH

Paradee moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of David Schoech to the Columbus Recreation Commission for a two-year term expiring the last day of February 2020. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-Karrah Smith 3-year term expiring the last day of February 2021

COLUMBUS RECREATION COMMISSION – KARRAH SMITH

Burton moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Karrah Smith to the Columbus Recreation Commission for a three-year term expiring the last day of February 2021. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-Clint Ellis and Aimee Saporito 4-year terms expiring the last day of February 2022

COLUMBUS RECREATION COMMISSION – CLINT ELLIS – AIMEE SAPORITO

Burton moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Clint Ellis and Aimee Saporito to the Columbus Recreation Commission for a four-year term expiring the last day of February 2022. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-I attended the last CRC meeting. Members agreed to these appointments. They will be updating the bylaws and establishing officers. Meeting date is subject to change, looking at the last Monday of each month. We will receive a copy of the bylaws once they are complete. They are required to follow KOMA (Kansas Open Meetings Act) and KORA (Kansas Open Records Act). I would like a rotating member of the property/pool/park committee to attend these meetings as much as possible.

-Reseeding Crossland Park was reviewed. Need to establish where fields and buildings will be in order to seed only the areas needed. Mayor suggested the CRC and property/pool/park committees jointly address this.

I would like to appoint Justice Gannaway and Derek Carroll as Volunteer Firefighters.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS – JUSTICE GANNAWAY – DEREK CARROLL

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Justice Gannaway and Derek Carroll as Volunteer Firefighters. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-I will be out of the country next week.

-Reminder that council packet information should be turned in by Thursday prior to the meeting to be included in the packet. Try to refrain from placing information on the desks, this does not allow time to review the information before the meeting.

-Fire district-/county commissioners considering mill levy assessment on rural properties to be distributed to cities involved with fire protection. This would do away with the township fees the city currently receives. Instead of making an agreement with the individual fire districts we would receiving a mill levy from the county.

ADJOURNMENT

Paradee moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Meetings:

Street

Wednesday 2/07/2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

Property/Pool/Parks

Thursday 2/08/2018 @ 6:15 p.m.

Budget & Finance

Thursday 2/08/2018 @ 6:45 p.m.

Cemetery

Monday 2/12/2018/ @ 6:00 p.m.

Water

Thursday 2/15/2018 @ 6:00 p.m.

Personnel - tentative

Thursday 2/15/2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk