

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 21, 2020  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 21, 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, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Sean Gilmore, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser.

Council member Tom Pryor led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of December 16, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 19-508 and Appropriation Ordinance 20-509 as presented. Long seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**Mayor Report –**

-Presented Jason Allison as appointment to the Volunteer Fire Department.

**VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER – JASON ALLISON**

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Jason Allison as a Volunteer Firefighter. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Reminded council that council committees will need to be addressed this year. With the reduction in council size the current set up will no longer work. November election will be for Hospital Board member only.

-Attended Cherokee County Solid Waste meeting with Mr. Bass. The County is reviewing current recycling program. Opportunities to dispose of recycled materials are changing, County may not be able to continue the service.

**City Administrator Report-**

-City offices were closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This has been come to be known as a community day of service. Rivas shared favorite quote of Dr. King, “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality”.

-Spoke with Kansas Rural Water representative today, he promised report by the end of the week. Once we have this information, we can schedule a Water committee meeting to discuss the findings.

-Representatives from Mercy Hospital and Columbus Library will present annual report at the February 18 council meeting.

-2019 financial report planned for next council meeting.

-Applied for Kansas Department of Health and Environment grant for additional benches at City parks.

-Working with Police Chief and City Clerk on records management system. Planning for RFP and purchase in the coming months.

### **City Treasurer Report –**

-Things are running smoothly. Will have 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report in the next few weeks once the 2019 books are closed.

### **City Superintendent Report –**

- Attended flood plain training.
- Staff will change out canopy lights at City Hall tomorrow morning.
- Staff replaced lighting at Community Building.
- Motor for south lift station being repaired.
- C17 hatch water test system contracts have been renewed.
- Street overlay list.
- Proposed 2021 street list being developed.
- Street sign replacement list being compiled.
- Bid specs/backhoe RFP finalized.
- Salt spreader repaired. Plan in place for next weather event.
- South Penn water leak repaired; area covered with crushed stone until we are able to pave.
- Staff removed holiday flags.
- Two trash trucks ran today to cover both Monday and Tuesday routes.
- One call list report.
- Conducting weekly safety meetings each Thursday.
- Public Works buildings are being cleaned and staged with equipment and supplies.
- Attended Cherokee County Solid Waste meeting.
- Working with property committee on pool maintenance needs.
- Ian's Place progress delayed due to weather.
- Mechanic has all public works equipment serviced and on schedule. Two fire vehicles, police vehicles and animal control truck serviced. PW blue dump truck sent to Joplin for exhaust leak.
- Training in house for equipment operator.
- Reminded brush dump site is for limbs only.
- Animal shelter plans are ready to review.
- Revised Public Works building plans to include safe room.
- Purchased equipment to clean tennis courts.
- Cardboard is scheduled for Friday pickups. Working on signage for site. Requesting dumpster with top.
- Staff who tested for water and wastewater certification were under by a few points in first attempt. Training and retest scheduled.
- Street paving plan and milling requirements will be discussed at upcoming street committee meeting.

### **City Clerk Report –**

- Chamber of Commerce retreat Wednesday 1/22 at CLASS LTD conference room from noon to 3 p.m. Come and go event.
- Census complete count committee meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday 1/22 at the Community Building.
- Reception for retiring Fire Chief Jason Allison 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday in the Fire Department training room.
- Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet Wednesday 1/29; social hour 6 p.m. dinner at 7 p.m.

### **Police Chief Report –**

- Attended the Law Enforcement Leadership Academy last week. Eye opening experience, looking forward to the rest of the year.

-Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt presented 6-month report. Data showed:

- 113 vegetation letters.
- 38 properties mowed by City staff.
- 27 properties required multiple mowing.
- 23 inoperable vehicle violation letters.
- 10 sanitation violation letters.
- 15 dangerous and unfit structure letters.
- 5 structures repaired or removed as result of letters.
- 12 housing violation letters sent.

-Officer Holt presented 3 properties to be considered for condemnation hearings: 423 North Magnolia, 603 South Vermont and 510 South Indiana.

City Attorney Barbara Wright noted 423 North Magnolia is on the County tax sale list for February 2020 and suggested waiting to begin process due to time constraint. She advised we would not be able to complete publishing time requirements before the sale and would have to start the process over with new owners if the property sells.

Contact information was provided for 603 South Vermont. Officer Holt will follow up. It was agreed to table 423 North Magnolia and 603 South Vermont condemnation action.

#### **CONDEMNATION HEARING – 510 SOUTH INDIANA**

Opela moved to proceed with condemnation process adopting resolution setting March 2, 2020 hearing date for property at 510 South Indiana. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 8-0.

-Police Chief Daniels noted \$15,000 - \$20,000 is usually budgeted annually for demolition.

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

Lead Driver Steven Burton in attendance for the department.

-19 runs year to date for 2020.

-Working with Mr. Bass/City Mechanic on truck maintenance program.

-Working with State Fire Marshal on occupancy rating for the Community Building.

-Developed 2020 monthly training schedule.

-Brush truck damaged in deer accident is back in service.

-Would like to schedule a fire committee meeting.

#### **City Attorney Report –**

-Resolution to speak on under Old Business pertaining to amendments to the Personnel Handbook.

#### **Old Business –**

1. *Consider Resolution 582 amending Article VII and Article XII of the City of Columbus Personnel Handbook removing nepotism policy and updating evaluation process in the event of family ties.* Opela moved to adopt Resolution 582 amending Article VII and Article XII of the City of Columbus Personnel Handbook removing nepotism policy and updating evaluation process in the event of family ties. Pryor seconded the motion.

Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**New Business –**

1. **Consider Diehl Banwart Bolton financial audit contract for the year ended December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$10,295.** City Clerk Cherri Chancellor informed this is the same company the City has utilized the last few years. Would like to continue with them in order to get the audit performed in the next several weeks. Pryor moved to approve audit contract with Diehl Banwart Bolton for the year ended December 31, 2019 not to exceed \$10,295. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
2. **Consider Cherokee County Youth Entrepreneur Fair sponsorship.** City Clerk reminded council the Youth Entrepreneur Fair is put on by Cherokee County Economic Development to encourage area high school students with entrepreneur endeavors. The City has contributed \$500 towards prizes in the last several years. Opela moved to contribute \$500 to the Cherokee County Youth Entrepreneur Fair to be paid out of economic development. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
3. **Discuss City Website.** City Administrator provided information about the City's current website, costs/responsibilities to change or improve with current vendor, change vendors, a custom product or manage own product. She presented an opportunity to work with the Pittsburg State University Information Technology Department to develop a website for the City. Rivas noted students would develop website with information provided by the City. Opela moved to allow City staff to proceed with plan to develop new City website with the assistance of Pittsburg State University Technology Department not to exceed \$5,000 to be paid out of Administration Reserves. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**Meetings:**

**Budget/Finance**

- *Thursday January 23, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.*

**Property/Pool/Parks**

- *Monday January 27, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m.*

**Fire**

- *Monday January 27, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.*

**Economic Development**

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

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*