

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

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: John Brassart, Kathy Doherty (6:32), Stephanie Farstvedt (7:42), Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Connie Bennett.

Toni Spieth of the First Presbyterian Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Houser moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of December 2, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 19-506, Appropriation Ordinance 20-507 and the December 2019 personnel report as presented. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

**Mayor Report –**

-Presented Jerri Burton as appointment to fill the unexpired term of Stephanie Farstvedt 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Council Member. Mayor Spieth noted Ms. Farstvedt was appointed September 2019 to fill the remaining term of previous Ward 1 Council Member Randy Coble. Ms. Farstvedt filed as a candidate in the November 2019 election for the Ward 1 council position running against incumbent Jerri Burton. Ms. Farstvedt won the election and took oath of office for the 2020-2021 Ward 1 seat, leaving her appointed position vacant.

**FIRST WARD COUNCIL MEMBER – JERRI BURTON**

Doherty moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Jerri Burton to fill the unexpired term of Stephanie Farstvedt/Randy Coble. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Burton pledged the oath of office and took her seat at the Governing Body table.

-Appointed City Superintendent Dave Bass and Public Works Foreman Scott Bennett as City representatives to the Spring River #19 and Bone Creek water districts.

**WATER BOARD REPRESENTATIVES – SPRING RIVER/BONE CREEK**

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of City Superintendent Dave Bass and Public Works Foreman Scott Bennett as City representatives to the Spring River #19 and Bone Creek water districts. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Appointed Austin Niemeyer and Brier Martin as Volunteer Firefighters.

## **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS – NIEMEYER / MARTIN**

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Austin Niemeyer and Brier Martin as Volunteer Firefighters. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Appointed council committees as follows:

**COMMITTEES: \*CHAIRMAN FIRST \*\*VICE CHAIRMAN SECOND 2020**

### **Budget & Finance**

\*Tom Pryor, \*\* Connie Bennett, Stephanie Farstvedt

### **Sanitation**

\*Kathy Doherty, \*\*Stephanie Farstvedt, Connie Bennett

### **Cemetery**

\*Stephanie Farstvedt, \*\* Kathy Doherty, Jerri Burton

### **Property/Pool/Parks**

\* Jan Houser, \*\* Jerri Burton, Sammye Opela

### **Economic Development**

\*Nathan Long, \*\* Jan Houser, Sean Gilmore

### **Fire**

\*Connie Bennett, \*\*Sammye Opela, Nathan Long

### **Personnel**

\*Sammye Opela, \*\* Tom Pryor, Jan Houser

### **Police & License**

\*John Brassart, \*\*Sean Gilmore, Tom Pryor

### **Streets/Alleys/Bridges**

\*Sean Gilmore, \*\*John Brassart, Kathy Doherty

### **Water & Sewer**

\*Jerri Burton, \*\*Nathan Long, John Brassart

**3 individuals to a committee.**

## **APPROVE 2020 COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of 2020 Council Committees as presented. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Noted a new President of the Council needed to be chosen for 2020. Mayor stated nominations come from the floor/council members. Houser nominated Tom Pryor. No other nominations were made.

## **PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL – TOM PRYOR**

Houser moved to approve Tom Pryor as 2020 President of the Council. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Pryor. Motion carried 7-0-1.

- Mayor Spieth read a proclamation naming January 9, 2020 as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Columbus, KS.

-Made note of League of Kansas Municipalities booklet in council packets titled "You've Been Elected... Now What?" is a good resource for new and returning council members.

## **City Administrator Report-**

-Should know the outcome of LKM social media grant application any day. Grants are being awarded to help with print/social media costs in preparing for the 2020 census. The City is working with Cherokee County Economic Development Director Janet Miller organizing a 2020 Census Count Committee.

- City Staff are working with a new service order process to better track reporting and documenting issues within the City. City Clerk will provide more information in a bit.
- Expect results from the Kansas Rural Water Association water rate study sometime this month.
- Contacting City boards for annual presentations to the Council.
- 2019 annual budget report pending. Presentation to the council in the next few weeks.

### **City Treasurer Report –**

- Treasurer reports included in council packets. Ended the year strong, balance very stable.

### **City Superintendent Report –**

- Working with team to develop customer service initiative, long term commitment of excellence.
- 34 funerals at City Cemeteries in 2019. Plan to work on roadways in 2020.
- Museum bathroom project complete.
- Disc golf signage up / loaner equipment can be checked out at the Columbus Library.
- Sycamore Street between hospital and medical clinic has been opened. Sign and fence have been removed.
- Reeve's Park All Wheel Park progress is slow due to weather.
- Training for water certification.
- Mechanic getting caught up on equipment maintenance.
- Equipment Operator training opportunity.
- Received preliminary animal shelter and public works building plans.
- City Park basketball court project on hold due to weather delay.

### **City Clerk Report –**

- As the Mayor mentioned the LKM booklet for new council members in packets, it is also a good resource for all staff. The Kansas Government Journal that came with the booklet has several training opportunities – contact me if you would like more information or to register for any of these programs.
- Chamber of Commerce Third Thursday Coffee January 16 from 8 – 9:30 at Mike Carpino Ford.
- Chamber Retreat Wednesday, January 22 at Class LTD conference room noon – 3. You can come and go, not required to stay for the entire event. Send ideas, comments to myself or Ms. Rivas if you are unable to attend and we will forward them to the committee.
- Annual Chamber basketball tournament, this is one of their big fundraisers. Help is needed with the clocks, keeping books, manning the doors and working the concession stand. Contact Janet Graham/Graham Accounting or Jane Rinehart at Commerce if you would like to help.
- Chamber Banquet January 29, invitation and information included in the council packet. RSVP to me by Friday January 17 end of business. The City will cover the cost of the ticket for council members, if you wish to take a guest you will be responsible for the cost of the ticket. This is a good opportunity to get to know are business leaders, program will include the Golden Apple Award and Sports Hall of Fame induction.
- New work order/service order program began. City Hall will be central administrator of service requests. This was put together in order to obtain data that will assist us in making decisions in the future The number for City Hall is 620-429-2159. Nuisance calls will still be routed through the Police Department, 620-429-1332 during the day and after hours 620-429-3992. After hours number routes to County dispatch and an officer will be notified. Calls and requests will come to City Hall, we will create service order in our Incode software. Service orders will be picked up by Mr. Bass or his staff at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day. We realize this is a bit different that what has been done in the past – this will be a more organized approach utilizing labor efforts more efficiently. Service requests received after 1 p.m. will be addressed the following day.

Emergencies will funnel directly to the City Superintendent or Foreman. Information from completed service orders will be entered into the computer and hard copy filed. This will allow staff to run reports and track data.

-New Assistant City Clerk Erin Williams has officially taken over social media duties. Please direct ideas and suggestions for post content to her.

- Next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 21. Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and City offices will be closed. A reminder will be included in the council packet.

Mayor mentioned houses and businesses should have building numbers that are readable from the street. This would help responders locate the correct address/property.

### **Police Chief Report –**

-Demolition complete on four properties deemed dangerous structures by the council: 314 N Minnesota, 531 E. Country Road, 421 S. Indiana and 816 W. Maple. Three other structures have been addressed by owners.

- Code Enforcement Officer Holt will be submitting properties in the next few weeks for council condemnation consideration.

-Staff working on year end reporting.

- Next staff meeting we will be discussing and establishing new goals, training/certification requirements, community projects.

- I will be attending the Law Enforcement Leadership Academy and be out of the office all next week.

### **Fire Chief Report-**

Lead Driver Steven Burton in attendance for the department.

-5 runs year to date for 2020.

-2019 finished out with 258 runs.

-Year-end structure fire report in council packets.

-Columbus is hosting the quarterly fire chief meeting 1/11/2020.

-Storm sirens tested today. Three sirens still out of commission. Company will be back on site this week to follow up with problem.

### **City Attorney Report –**

-Nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Spieth noted pit bull ordinance on file is being discussed at the county level. May be a discussion for council in the near future.

### **PAY INCREASE – CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Opela moved to approve 3.5% salary increase for City Administrator Daniela Rivas based on annual evaluation, retroactive to October 15, 2019. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

### **Old Business –**

- 1. Consider naming all-wheel/bike feature at Reeves Park.** Council woman Jan Houser noted weather delays have slowed progress, but project should be completed in the next several weeks. An official ribbon cutting, and dedication celebration will be announced at a later date. Houser moved to name all wheel/bike feature at Reeves Park Ian's Place.

Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**New Business –  
None.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Opela called for a twenty-minute executive session at 7:32 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel regarding Administrator evaluation and the open Fire Chief position with the Council, Administrator, Mayor and Attorney in attendance, meeting to reconvene in the Council room at 7:52 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**REGULAR SESSION 7:52 P.M.  
NO ACTION TAKEN.**

### **FIRE CHIEF – STEVEN BURTON**

Opela moved to approve Steven P. Burton for the Fire Chief position with a starting wage of \$17.60 per hour. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Burton, Long. Motion carried 7-0-2.

### **UPDATE PERSONNEL POLICY – NEPOTISM**

Opela moved to remove nepotism section XII-8 from the City Personnel Manual. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Brassart. Motion carried 8-1.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Meetings:**

**Property/Pool/Parks**

**Tuesday January 7, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Property/Pool/Parks**

**Monday January 13, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Streets/Alleys/Bridges**

**Monday January 13, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.**

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*