

city OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 15 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met July 15, 2019 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, Steve Dunlap, Jan Houser, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Randy Coble, Alvin Patterson.

Mr. Skip Louthan of Camp Joy Ministries provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of July 01, 2019 Council Meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-495 as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

VISITOR – JANET MILLER

Janet Miller director of the Cherokee County Economic Development Corporation thanked the council for the City's membership and support and provided brief update on their activities. The Corporation is working on multiple fronts including business attraction/marketing, business retention and expansion, entrepreneurship, supporting infrastructure and housing initiatives in the county, workforce readiness, and tourism. She noted the Corporation is here to assist local cities; the county will be successful when the individual cities are successful.

Mayor Report –

-None.

City Administrator Report-

- Attended reasonable suspicion training in Independence with department heads last week.
- Looking into an Employee Assistance Program, this would be a new benefit for employees. The program could assist employees in obtaining help they need to resolve personal or work-related problems, through referred services, counseling, assessments. Personnel committee will be reviewing a proposal at their next meeting.
- First Beautification team meeting Wednesday at 5:30 here at City Hall. The team's mission: promote the quality of life in Columbus by improving and beautifying the physical environment of our City.
- Facebook update – 337 likes in the first month, working to increase following.
- Learned at the Bone Creek, PWD #11 board meeting last week they are considering at least a \$.35 per one-thousand-gallon rate increase. Using last year's purchase amount the rate being discussed would cost the City an additional \$20,000. This will be something we will need to address once we have more information.

City Treasurer Report –

- Cash balance report on your desks.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- Pool slide fixed this weekend.
- Street overlay and crack seal projects complete.
- Fogging for mosquitos Wednesday and Thursday evenings.
- New ground cover under park toys/equipment.
- Crews will be painting street lines the end of July.
- Water burnout beginning August 5, information will be on Facebook and utility bills.
- Blocking roads for Thursday Farmer's Market event.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the condemnation hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Spieth asked if anyone would like to speak on behalf of 816 West Maple. Amanda Bryant approached the council. She commented she feels harassed because she is the only one being pursued regarding the property and Joseph Manning is listed on the property taxes. Police Chief Daniels stated they attempted to serve Mr. Manning but have had difficulty obtaining a good address. Ms. Bryant provided Mr. Manning's contact information for the record. Ms. Bryant stated she has no plans to fix the property.

PROCEED WITH DEMOLITION – 816 WEST MAPLE

Dunlap moved to proceed with demolition of property located at 816 West Maple as presented. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Spieth asked for anyone present wishing to speak regarding 314 North Minnesota. No one came forward.

Mayor called for interested parties for 518 West Oak. Police Chief Jason Daniels reported he had spoken with the property owner today. Owner is unable to be here tonight, asks for 60-day extension to take down and clean up the property on his own.

EXTENSION – 518 WEST OAK

Burton moved to provide 60-day extension for 518 West Oak to allow the property owner time to remove structure, with follow up at September 16, 2019 council meeting. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Dunlap, Lucian. Motion carried 6-2.

PROCEED WITH DEMOLITION – 314 NORTH MINNESOTA

Opela moved to proceed with demolition of property located at 314 North Minnesota as presented. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Spieth asked for persons on behalf of 1317 East Walnut to step forward. Sandra Stanley and Alan Garmany approached the council. Mrs. Stanley stated Mr. Garmany is purchasing the property on contract, a garage fire has caused extensive damage to the house as well. Mr. Garmany has been cleaning up as he is able. Insurance was not in force at the time of the fire. Work came to a stop when they learned of the condemnation hearing. Mr. Garmany believes the house is salvageable and would like time to cleanup and repair.

EXTENSION – 1317 EAST WALNUT

Dunlap moved to provide 30-day extension for 1317 East Walnut to allow the property owner time to cleanup and repair structure, with follow up at August 19, 2019 council meeting. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Dunlap, Burton, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Brassart, Lucian. Motion carried 6-2.

Chief Daniels noted garage at 544 West Olive has been removed by the owner.

He also stated he received a letter from Rick Parmele owner of 401 South Lash. Mr. Parmele apologized for letting property get out of hand. Garage has been sided and repairs made to the house. He has plans to have it available for sale in the future. Daniels recommends removing property from the condemnation list as progress has been made and allow code enforcement to monitor progress on remaining items.

REMOVE FROM CONDEMNATION LIST – 401 SOUTH LASH

Opela moved to remove property located at 401 South Lash from the condemnation list. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

City Attorney Wright will draft resolutions for the next council meeting August 5, 2019.

Mayor closed the condemnation hearing at 7:15 p.m. and announced we are back in the regular council meeting.

City Clerk Report –

-Reported information from the State Forestry Service regarding the Cemetery Sweetgum tree. The email stated is it up to the City how to proceed. The Service would like to know if we decide to remove it and they will record it in the Dead Trees file. If we decide to prune the tree, they will have someone come and remeasure it.

REMOVE CEMETERY HISTORIC SWEETGUM TREE

Dunlap moved to take down the Cemetery Historic Sweetgum tree. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Tomorrow is the deadline for voter registration at the courthouse.

-Downtown Farmer’s Market Thursday July 18. Farm to table dinner being served this time instead of food truck vendors. Market will start at 6 p.m. due to the heat with dinner being served at 7:30 p.m. Need to purchase \$5 dinner tickets in advance, tickets are available at the local banks and Chamber of Commerce.

-Governing Body is invited to a thank you luncheon Monday July 22 at noon for their support of the county fair.

-Fair week is July 22-27, swimming pool will be closing at 5 each evening. Arm bands for the rides are on sale now at area banks, City Hall and Chamber office for \$20. Early purchase arm bands raise money for the Chamber and are usually less expensive than purchasing at the fair. Last day for early purchase is noon July 22. Rides will start on Tuesday.

-Several training opportunities coming up:

- Three LKM open records classes in August – see me for dates and more information.

- Annual LKM conference October 12-14. This is Columbus Day weekend; it is arranged so you can attend the Columbus Day events and come to the conference on Sunday. Great training information and opportunity to network with other Kansas cities. City covers the cost of the conference and hotel, just need a headcount if you would like to attend.

Police Chief Report

- July 3 Kansas Department of Agriculture dog pound inspection approved recent updates to the north side of the building. Agent recommended continuing update on the south side. New facility is not as urgent of a need as it was this time last year.
- Officer training tomorrow in town.
- Officer Gurney graduating from KLETC is this Friday.
- New Officer Raymond Vazquez starts work on Monday. Department staffing is improving.

Fire Chief Report-

- Steven Burton in attendance for the department.
- 139 fire calls year to date compared to 191 at this time last year.
- Provided structure fire list to Administrator and City Clerk.
- Crews at the animal barns helping get ready for the fair.
- New fire truck here – we would like to take it to the Farmer’s Market on Thursday.
- Ladder truck due this week.

City Attorney Report –

- Resolutions being considered under old business.
- Budget hearing at next council meeting August 5.

New Business #1 moved up.

- 1. Consider Resolution authorizing the offering for sale of general obligation refunding bonds, Series 2019, of the City of Columbus, Kansas.** City Administrator Rivas stated we have an opportunity to refinance our Sanitary Sewer bonds. Interest rates make this a great time to consider this option, possible \$120,000 savings to the City. Mr. Clayton Kelly from Piper Jaffray spoke to the council and answered questions about the process. Opela moved to adopt Resolution 567 allowing for the refinancing of the City’s sanitary sewer bonds. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Old Business –

- 1. Consider firetruck lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$172,000.** Ms. Rivas spoke to the bid tab sheet included in council packets showing Commerce Bank / Clayton Holdings LLC with the lowest interest rate of 2.48%. Houser moved to approve firetruck lease purchase agreement through Clayton Holdings LLC for 60 months at 2.48% with an annual payment of \$36,536.03. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 7-1.
- 2. Consider Resolutions calling for demolition of property at 531 East Country Road and 421 South Indiana.** City Attorney stated these resolutions reflect the vote from the previous council meeting calling for demolition and cleanup of the property. Opela

moved to adopt Resolution 568 approving the demolition of structure and cleanup of property at 421 South Indiana. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Opela moved to adopt Resolution 569 approving the demolition of structure and cleanup of property at 531 East Country Road. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business –

- 1. A Resolution Authorizing the offering for sale of general obligation refunding bonds, Series 2019, of the City of Columbus, Kansas.** Addressed earlier in the meeting.
- 2. Consider Agreement with PEC for Highschool Street CDBG application PER totaling \$16,500 to be paid out of General Fund Streets 2019 Budget.** Administrator Rivas noted PEC information in your council packet. She stated this study could help our High School Street CDBG grant standing. Findings can be used on future applications. Cost savings from this year's paving project could help finance this study/report. Houser moved to approve phase 1 traffic/engineering study of the North High School Street project through PEC in the amount of \$8,800. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Houser moved to approve phase 2 Preliminary Engineering Report of the North High School Street project through PEC in the amount of \$7,700. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

- 3. Landbank presentation.** Administrator Rivas provided landbank information for the council to determine if they wish to pursue the idea for the City of Columbus.

ADJOURNMENT

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Dunlap. Motion carried 7-1.

Meetings:

Personnel

Tuesday July 16, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.

Water

Thursday July 18, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.