

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 1 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met July 1, 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.

Pastor Allan McCamey of Camp Joy Ministries provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of June 17, 2019 Council Meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-494 as presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Report –

-Mayor Spieth appointed Korey Lucian as a Volunteer Firefighter at the recommendation of the Fire Department.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER – *KOREY LUCIAN*

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Korey Lucian as a Volunteer Firefighter. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Lucian. Motion carried 7-0-1.

City Administrator Report-

- Land bank research is still in progress, plan to present at the next council meeting.
- Received the insurance check for the remainder of the 2014 firetruck claim. We have \$278,000 to go towards replacement vehicle.
- Beautification team coming together – we are seeking two more interested people to be a part of the project. Contact City Hall if you are interested or would like more information.
- George Dockery from the Kansas Department of Transportation informed the department will place reflectors on the road signage at Country Road and Highway 69. The department had been contacted to see what can be done to improve the visibility of the turnoff, especially at night. The next step would be a letter to the State requesting a traffic study if this does not improve the issue.
- Working with bond company on possible refinancing of the City's sewer bonds, with a potential \$10,000 - \$12,000 annual savings to the City.
- Aimee Saporito reported one of the softball tournaments that received a donation from the City has been cancelled. Council voiced agreement for the softball association to use the funds for the State tournament.

City Treasurer Report –

- Cash balance report in your council packet. The City is currently earning 2.13% on sweep account funds in Kansas Municipal Investment Pool.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- Will spray for mosquitos Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Historic sweet gum tree at the cemetery lost another big section and caused damage to two headstones. Contacted monument company for repairs.
- Staff will be getting things ready Wednesday for July 4 celebration.
- Overlay crews will work Tuesday, then be off for the holiday – start up again July 8.
- Installed speed limit and children at play signage on Crossland Lane.
- Placed no truck signage on North Indiana Street.
- Person coming to inspect the pool slide has been detained, will not have slide for the free swim on the fourth.
- Liberty Empire Utilities and contractors will be trimming/removing trees behind Sunset Circle near the railroad tracks.

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

Properties to be addressed tonight are 531 East Country Road and 421 South Indiana. Six other properties originally planned for tonight have been rescheduled to July 15 due to a publication error.

Mayor Spieth asked if anyone would like to speak on behalf of 531 East Country Road. No one responded.

PROCEED WITH DEMOLITION – 531 EAST COUNTRY ROAD

Opela moved to proceed with demolition of property located at 531 East Country Road as presented. Dunlap 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 421 South Indiana to come forward. Howard Trott came approached the podium stating he is the son of Gershon Trott, listed owner of the property. His father (Gershon) has passed, there was no will and he has not contacted a lawyer for the probate process. He asked for 30-day extension to remove personal property, has no intent to repair the structure. Police Chief Daniels and City Attorney Barbara Wright informed Mr. Trott there will be time available if council wishes to proceed with demolition to remove property. Mr. Trott voiced understanding.

Opela moved to proceed with demolition of property located at 421 South Indiana as presented. Dunlap 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 July 15, 2019.

Mayor closed the condemnation hearing at 6:50 p.m.

City Clerk Report –

- City Hall office will be closed Thursday July 4 for the holiday.
- Free swim at the City pool on the 4th beginning at noon.
- Several Chamber members will be hosting games at the City Park starting at 6 p.m. Fireworks will follow at dark. Lion's Food Shack will be open with refreshments for purchase.
- PRIDE meeting noon, Tuesday July 9 at City Hall; volunteers and ideas are welcome.

-Wednesday department heads and Ms. Rivas will be attending training through our work comp provider KMIT in Independence.

Police Chief Report-

- Memo in your council packets requesting closing Country Road from Park Drive to Kansas Street from 5 p.m. to midnight on July 4 for games and firework display and July 22 -27 during the Cherokee County Fair.

CLOSE COUNTRY ROAD

Burton moved to close Country Road from Kansas Street to Park Drive, July 4 and July 22 – July 27 from 5:00 p.m. to midnight each evening for July 4 activities and Fair week. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Officer Gurney is in town and will be covering shifts, Academy closed for the holiday. He will return for class on Monday. Graduation is Friday July 19 if any of you would like to attend. Officer Hosier is scheduled for Academy August 19 – November 22, Officer Petree should be called up in the next several weeks.

-Weed notice update – 64 citations to date; 41 of these properties came into compliance. Public works staff mowed 2 properties last week and are scheduled to mow 5 this week.

Fire Chief Report-

-126 fire runs to date; 25 of these were structure fires

-Firemen’s Relief Association, several staff members and City Attorney working on plan to provide life and accident insurance for volunteer firefighters.

-Ladder truck report, Fire Master is working on striping, expect delivery soon.

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City Attorney Report –

-Need executive session at the end of the meeting.

Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Tom Pryor and Administrator Rivas spoke about the proposed 2020 City budget included in council packets. Mr. Pryor explained valuation numbers are down, library budget is up resulting in a 3.2 mill increase in the 2020 budget. This equates to a \$28 property tax increase on a \$75,000 house.

APPROVE 2020 BUDGET

Pryor moved to approve 2020 City budget as presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Motion and second withdrawn before the vote.

SET BUDGET HEARING DATE

Pryor moved to set the 2020 budget hearing date for 6:30 August 5, 2019. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

ORDINANCE 1443 - LIBRARY BUDGET CAP

Pryor moved to approve Ordinance 1443 setting a six-mill limit for Library budgets beginning with the 2021 budget. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dunlap called for a 15-minute executive session at 7:25 p.m. for confidential data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of second parties with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, Fire Chief, Lead Fire Driver, Police Chief and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting will reconvene in the Council Chambers at 7:40 p.m. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR SESSION 7:40 P.M.

PURCHASE FIRETRUCK

Bennett moved to waive the bidding process and purchase the 2019 Custom Cab Firetruck from Fire Master in the amount of \$450,000. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Dunlap, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton, Lucian. Motion carried 6-2.

CITY SUPERINTENDENT JOB DESCRIPTION

Opela moved to approve City Superintendent job description with updated salary range. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Brassart, Burton. Motion carried 5-3.

Old Business –

None.

New Business –

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a ten-minute executive session at 8:06 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, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk in attendance. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

REGULAR SESSION 8:16 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Brassart seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

None.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk