

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 17, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met June 17, 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, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Randy Coble, Alvin Patterson.

Pastor Jim Thomas of the First Baptist Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of June 3, 2019 Council Meeting minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 19-493 and resignation of Animal Control Officer Gary Gideon as presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

VISITOR – LORIE JOHNSON

Lorie Johnson of B-3 Construction spoke to the council about property on West Elm and other properties their company has worked on in the last several months. Mrs. Johnson stated rain has hampered their efforts to finish the groundwork and once the weather dries up they will be hauling dirt and leveling these areas.

Mayor Report –

-Mayor Spieth appointed Jan Houser to fill the unexpired term of Ron Johnson, previous 2nd ward council member.

SECOND WARD COUNCIL MEMBER – JAN HOUSER

Lucian moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jan Houser to fill the unexpired term of Ron Johnson. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

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

-Mayor Spieth the following one-year appointment:

- Barbara Wright as City Attorney
- John Bullard as Municipal Judge
- Jacob Conard as Prosecuting Attorney

CITY ATTORNEY – BARBARA WRIGHT

Lucian moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Barbara Wright as City Attorney. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

MUNICIPAL JUDGE – JOHN BULLARD

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of John Bullard as Municipal Judge. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY – JACOB CONARD

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jacob Conard as Prosecuting Attorney. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

City Administrator Report-

- Monthly personnel update in your council packet.
- Received valuation numbers from the County Clerk and have a draft budget, will be asking for a Budget & Finance committee meeting to review.
- Looking for persons interested in participating in the City Beautification Team, call City Hall.
- Website review. Council suggested RFP for new website a few meetings ago. Working with our current vendor, eGov Strategies, a refresh of the current website and additional training might get us closer to what we need at little to no cost. I recommend trying this before going out for proposals for a new website.
- Speed limit on Crossland Lane was reduced to 20 mph at the last council meeting. Interim City Superintendent Scott Bennett expressed concerns after the meeting this should be lowered to 10 mph in the area providing parking where children will be loading and unloading. Council members noted several citizens use this path to 20th Street on a daily basis going to and from work, etc. and feel 10 mph would be too restrictive. Police Chief Jason Daniels informed speed limits are set by the Standard Traffic Ordinance Book adopted by the City and believes they are adequate and should be observed. It was agreed to place children playing signage in the area.
- Ms. Rivas informed the Cherokee County Economic Development Corporation is not going forward with forming a land bank at this time. She noted experience with land banks through a former employer and can gather information if the council would like to proceed from a City level.

City Treasurer Report –

- Cash balance report as of June 14 in your council packet.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- Sprayed for mosquitos last Thursday and will spray again on 6/26 or 6/27 weather permitting.
- Sweet gum tree at the cemetery lost large limbs. No damage to headstones in the area, pictures in your council packet. Tree is claimed to be the largest/oldest sweet gum tree in Kansas. Bennett stated tree is hollow on the inside.
- City crews took down two dead/dying trees in the City Park by the horseshoe pits and planted four new trees in the area. Also planted nine trees at Reeves Park.
- New cell phone for meter reading allowed all of the meters to be read in a single day.
- Seasonal workers are painting curbs.
- Street overlay project is still delayed due to rain.
- Water slide at the City Pool is shut down for repairs.

City Clerk Report –

- Claythorne Shoot wrapped up last week, 600 participants from all over the country where in the area. Claythorne staff are preparing for the 2020 U.S. Open that will be May 31 – June 7 next year. Four hundred shooters have already registered for the event and they are planning for 1,200 participants.
- Third Thursday coffee is this Thursday at Medicalodge. Make plans to attend from 8 – 9, great networking opportunity.
- Softball fundraiser for upcoming tournaments – Movie Night at the Ballpark featuring *Captain Marvel* Friday June 21. Gate opens at 8 p.m. with \$2 admission, movie starts at dark and concessions will be available. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy.
- Blood drive tomorrow at Crossland Construction from 9 am to 2 pm in the HR Building training room. Second opportunity Monday June 24 at the Community Building from 1 pm to 5:30 pm.
- Night swim at the City Pool Friday, June 28 from 8 pm to 10 pm. Four-dollar admission / no pool passes.
- Last Fire up for Fireworks cookout last Thursday. Report shows funds are still several hundred dollars short of the \$10,000 needed for the larger aerial display. Still time to make a last-minute donation to help the cause.

Police Chief Report-

- All officers have successfully completed their required 40 hours of yearly training.
- Officer Christopher Gurney will be graduating from Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center Friday, July 19. Let me know if you would like to attend.
- Weed notice update. Staffing changes, one of the Officers has stepped up to help, 59 properties identified last week. Nine of these became compliant within 3 days, 32 of the 59 property owners are not residents of the City, notification letters are being sent certified mail. Nineteen of the 59 are properties involved in recent condemnation proceedings.

Fire Chief Report-

- Fire hydrants have been inspected and issues identified. Painting will begin when weather clears.
- Tanker 24 back in service.
- Cherokee County received Presidential disaster declaration for recent storms and flooding.

City Attorney Report –

- League publication in your packets regarding setting swearing in of elected officials. We can address this after the August election.
- Will need an executive session at the end of the meeting.

TERMINATION – PATRICK BURNS

Opela moved to terminate Patrick Burns, Laborer, for just cause. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

JOB DESCRIPTION -ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Opela moved to approve the Animal Control Officer job description. 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 KISS TECH IT Contract.** City Administrator Daniela Rivas stated copy of contract was included in council packets. Duplication on page 3 was brought to my attention. I would like City Attorney to address sections 5 and 7. Dunlap moved to approve KISS TECH IT contract as amended. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business –

1. **Consider Commercial Property Rehab Grant – Vital Signs application for new signage. Total lowest cost \$11,775.61 from Vital Signs. City Match \$5,000.** City Administrator Rivas noted application was included in council packets. Purpose of the program is to support rehabilitation and preservation of commercial buildings; encourage new businesses and retain, revitalize and expand existing businesses in Columbus. This application falls under the revitalize and expand category, they are requesting full \$5,000 match for new signage. Houser moved to approve Vital Signs Commercial Property Rehabilitation Grant up to \$5,000. Lucian 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 twenty-minute executive session at 7:56 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss litigation, contract and personnel matter with the Council, City Administrator, Mayor, City Attorney, Fire Chief and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene at 8:16 p.m. in the council chambers. Bennett 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dunlap called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 8:17 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss personnel matter with the Council, City Administrator, Mayor, City Attorney, and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene at 8:32 p.m. in the council chambers. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

FIRE TRUCK SETTLEMENT

Opela moved to accept the \$287,986 Glatfelter settlement offer for the 2014 International Firetruck less prior payments totaling \$175,816 for a net due the City of \$112,170. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Houser. Motion carried 7-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Houser, Lucian, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Budget & Finance

Wednesday June 19, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Water/Sewer

Wednesday June 26, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

Personnel

Wednesday June 26, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk