

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 16, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 16, 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, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council member absent: None.

Father Jeremy Huser of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of March 2, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 20-514 as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Mayor Report –

-Appointment of Terri Jones and Mary Hill Crosby to the Columbus Housing Authority with terms expiring April 1, 2024 and April 1, 2023 respectively. Both currently serve on the board.

COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS – JONES / CROSBY

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Terri Jones and Mary Hill Crosby to the Columbus Housing Authority with terms expiring April 1, 2024 and April 1, 2023 respectively. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

-Appointment of Lindsey Grundy to the Columbus Recreation Commission with a term expiring February 28, 2024. This appointment is to fill the open position of David Schoech.

COLUMBUS RECREATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – GRUNDY

Houser moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Lindsey Grundy to the Columbus Recreation Commission with a term expiring February 28, 2024. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

-Mayor informed that he and other City staff are keeping up to date on COVID 19 information by email briefings, webinars and telephone conferences with several entities and agencies.

-Presented Ordinance 1465 allowing payment of City bills in the event the Governing Body is prevented from meeting due to emergency situation or lack of quorum. City Administrator Rivas noted this ordinance would only be in effect until the last council meeting of 2020 and would only be used in the case of an emergency causing the council to be unable to meet or a lack of a quorum for a council meeting.

ORDINANCE 1465 – EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION PROCESS

Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1465 providing for the payment of claims and charges against the City in the event the Governing Body is prevented from meeting due to emergency situation or lack of quorum. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

City Administrator Report-

-Information from Department Supervisors in the council packets, suggest moving forward with the meeting unless there are specific questions.

-Noted several training opportunities have been cancelled.

-Staff is meeting regularly to keep up on top of the rapidly changing information regarding COVID 19. I am the City's Public Information Officer; Police Chief Daniels is the second PIO and Mayor Spieth is the backup.

-Addressed scheduled committee meetings. It was agreed to suspend all committee meetings until further notice.

TRADE FOR LADDER APPARATUS

Bennett moved to trade Rescue #30 (2001 Ford Rescue) valued at approximately \$25,000 for a 1993 E-One Fire Ladder Apparatus valued at \$30,000 from 1st Due Emergency Solutions. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 9-1.

-Houser noted dedication and celebration for Ian's Place all wheel bike park has been moved to Thursday, April 30 from 4:30 – 6:30 due to weather and other factors.

Old Business –

- 1. Consider Resolution 585 finding structure located at 510 South Indiana Avenue, Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas unsafe and dangerous, and directing that the structure and debris be removed, and the premises made safe and secure.** City Attorney Barbara Wright noted this reflects council's decision at the last meeting to proceed with condemnation and demolition of structure at 510 South Indiana. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 585 finding structure located at 510 South Indiana Avenue, Columbus, Cherokee, County, Kansas unsafe and dangerous, and directing that the structure and debris be removed, and the premises made safe and secure. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Police Chief Jason Daniels noted he has received bid for demo and cleanup of the property and would like to proceed since it is under his budget authority and is included in this year's budget. Daniels was instructed to move forward.

New Business –

- 1. Consider renewal of property and liability insurance policy with EMC insurance for the 2020-2021 coverage year totaling \$75,704.** Ray Ryan and Wally Wilson of Ryan Insurance Pittsburg, Kansas answered questions regarding the renewal. Wilson advised that Glatfelter Insurance has been bought out by AIG and is under new leadership. The Glatfelter quote for the fire coverage is about \$2,400 less than the other options. Concerns were made about how the City's firetruck claim was handled last year. Ryan agreed this

was an unusual situation and stated he believes under the new Glatfelter leadership this will be a good policy for the City. Ryan noted the added perk of EMC dividend. Last year the City's dividend check was \$11,141. This is not a guarantee but there is usually an annual dividend. Opela moved to approve renewal of property and liability insurance policy with EMC insurance for the 2020-2021 coverage year totaling \$75,704. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Houser moved to approve renewal of fire insurance policy with Glatfelter insurance for the 2020-2021 coverage year totaling \$7,579. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

City Administrator Rivas noted the League of Kansas Municipalities has recommended an emergency resolution itemizing or detailing decision-making authority if the occasion arose.

ORDINANCE 1466 – MAYOR EMERGENCY POWER

Pryor moved to give the Mayor authority to act in an emergency situation for the betterment of the community. Opela seconded the motion. Motion and second were amended to approve Ordinance 1466 providing emergency powers and authority to the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Kansas, to respond to emergencies affecting public health and welfare and for the protection of City residents and City employees. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Rivas noted the City has been approved for a Kansas Department of Health and Environment grant that will help provide benches for Reeves Park. These benches are made of recycled tires. There are already a couple of these benches in the park.

City Clerk provided meeting cancellation list:

PRIDE 3/17

Third Thursday Coffee 3/19

Public Works watershed meeting and Kansas Rural Water Association Conference end of March

Police Department – 4 trainings cancelled

Fire Department will not be conducting a controlled burn set for 3/21 for area departments

Municipal court continued until June 8

ADJOURNMENT

Farstvedt moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Meetings:

None

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk