

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 18, 2019  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 18, 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, Randy Coble, Steve Dunlap, Ron Johnson, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor. Council member absent: None.

Father Jeremy Huser of St. Rose Catholic Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of March 4, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, February 28, 2019 Budget Planning Work Session Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-487 as presented. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Johnson, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**VISITOR – JEAN PRITCHETT/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Jean Pritchett from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce spoke to the council about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. She noted a deposit has been paid for a 2019 presentation and informed the first Fire Up for Fireworks cookout had a small turnout due to the cold, windy weather. Mrs. Pritchett explained the cookouts held the second Thursday, March through June are a fundraiser for the firework show in addition to contributions and donations from the area businesses and the public. They are looking for groups, organizations or individuals to take over or at least help with the games in the City Park before the firework display.

**VISITOR – LAURA ATKINSON**

Laura Atkinson and Justin Moore spoke to the council about fire agreements for Spring Valley, Lowell and Shawnee townships. Mrs. Atkinson stated the townships agreed to budget 2.5 mills for fire protection coverage beginning in 2020 and any shortfall under 2.5 mills for 2019 will be made up over the next four years; by the end of five years each of the townships will have paid 2.5 mills per year for fire protection coverage. Contracts are in the works for review.

**City Administrator Report-**

- Results of the First Impression program are in. The full report including community improvement opportunities will be available 6 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at the State Theatre. Public is invited and everyone is encouraged to attend.
- Beginning April 1, I will have a hiring memo the first council meeting each month. We have filled one of the Sanitation Collector positions with an internal candidate leaving an open Laborer position. City Clerk will have more information on open City positions later in staff reports.
- Administration is working on several items for upcoming council meetings including:
  1. Inclement Weather Policy
  2. Take Home Police Vehicle Policy
  3. Workout Policy

4. IT Request for Proposal
5. Community Building RFP
6. Draft 2020 budget

-Firetruck in Florida is complete and we are awaiting delivery date. Fire Chief Allison will coordinate delivery to Fire Master in Springfield, Missouri for a third-party inspection.

#### **City Treasurer Report –**

- Treasurer Report in your council packets.
- First transfer to the Kansas Pooled Money Investment Fund. This will generate more interest than we can receive locally.
- Will meet with City Administrator in the next few weeks for future planning.

#### **Interim City Superintendent Report**

- Will be attending Kansas Rural Water Conference in Wichita with Justin Graham next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Ordered 614 digital water meters to finish change over to digital meters.
- Contractor has started on the Mulberry drainage project March 15.
- Crews installed new equipment in the City Park and updated several existing features.
- Crews took out old playground equipment at Lions Park.
- Ordered replacement parts for two spring toys in the City Park and Lions Park. They should be delivered in 2-3 weeks.

Positive feedback on the work being completed in the City's parks.

#### **City Clerk Report –**

- Open positions with the City include: Laborer, Sanitation Collector, Seasonal Laborers for the Cemetery and Public Works Departments, Pool Managers and Lifeguards.
- League of Kansas Municipalities News Letter in you packets. Couple of items in the Legislative Update section include abandoned housing and the tax lid, both are important topics.
- LKM Emergency Management training Friday March 29 in Cimarron from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thursday, March 21 the Chamber of Commerce Third Thursday Coffee will be at Highland School from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Opportunity to tour the facility and see what is going on at the school.
- Next Fire up For Fireworks Cookout Thursday, April 11 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Volunteer to help, buy a burger or just donate.
- Audit team began work today on the City 2018 audit. Will have full report in the upcoming weeks.
- Check marquee for upcoming events.
- Last three years the City has donated \$2,500 to the Chamber of Commerce for a general operating donation and \$1,500 for fireworks.

#### **FIREWORK DONATION**

Opela moved to donate \$1500.00 to the Columbus Chamber of Commerce fireworks, to be paid out of the economic development fund. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

## **CHAMBER DONATION**

Opela moved to donate \$2,500.00 to the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, to be paid out of the transient guest tax fund. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

## **Police Chief Report-**

-Review of Weed Ordinance Memo.

## **Fire Chief Report-**

-All storm sirens are working with the exception of the unit at the ball park. It will be addressed in the next few weeks.

-Full-time Firefighters Jud and Cody finished training classes this week.

-Painting and equipping the most recent firetruck purchase should be complete in the next two weeks.

-Calls for grass fires are increasing.

-City Code states leaves are not to be burned in the City streets, alleys or after dark.

## **City Attorney Report –**

-Need an executive session at the end of the meeting for attorney – client privilege to discuss contract.

## **STREET PLAN**

Lucian moved to approve the 2019/2020 street overlay plan including ten-year curb/gutter replacement plan and allow City Administrator to proceed with CDBG grant application and obtain financing for the High School Street project. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

## **Old Business – None.**

## **New Business –**

- 1. Consider 2019/2020 property/liability insurance renewal.** City Administrator Rivas provided a breakdown for the insurance renewal premium quotes. Department Heads provided up to date inventory lists for quote. Renewal shows an approximate increase of 3% (\$2,024) for the 2019/2020 premium through EMC. This is mainly due to the addition of vehicles to the City fleet and premium increases in the Linebacker policy. The separate Fire Department Policy with Glatfelter will renew at an approximate 7% increase (\$372) for the 2019/2020 plan year. The City has an option to go with EMC for Fire Department coverage at a cost of \$14,581. This is an increase of \$9,098. Opela moved to renew City property/liability insurance with EMC and Glatfelter through Ryan Insurance, Pittsburg, Kansas. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 10-0.
- 2. Consider Charter Ordinance reducing the size of the City Council.** City Attorney Barbara Wright informed council members Charter Ordinance 1435 approved at the March 4 meeting was purposely not published a second time and is not valid. This was done due to a time restraint that would not allow time for a protest petition before the May 1 candidate notification deadline at the County Courthouse. This new ordinance is

the same idea moving the effective date out one year. If passed there would still be a City election November 2019 for one council member from each of the five wards and the Mayor position for two-year terms. The council seats expiring in 2020 would dissolve; there would be five council members elected in 2021 with staggered terms. Opela moved to approve Charter Ordinance 1436, “*A Charter Ordinance Restructuring the Columbus City Council, Thereby Reducing the Number of City Council Members From Ten to Five and Establishing a Schedule for Staggered Three-Year Elective Terms of Office for Council Members and Mayors by 2024.*” Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Pryor, Spieth. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Patterson. Motion carried 8-3.

*(Mayor is part of the Governing Body and votes on Charter Ordinances.)*

**Mayor –**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Burton called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 7:52 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship to discuss contract and property with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and Fire Chief in attendance. Meeting will reconvene at 8:07 p.m. in the council chamber. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**REGULAR SESSION 8:08 P.M.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Meetings:**

**Water/Sewer**

Tuesday March 19, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Cemetery**

Tuesday March 19, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Personnel**

Wednesday March 20, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*