

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 2018
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Steve Dunlap, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, John Paradee, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor. Council member absent: Ron Johnson and Drew Richards.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of March 5, 2018 council meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 18-460 as presented. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee. Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

VISITOR – AMERICAN LEGION – PHILLIP BASS

Post Commander Phillip Bass approached the council on behalf of the American Legion. He thanked the council for their support in the previous year and stated the Post Home is getting back on their feet. Bass asked the council to continue free water for the Post Home for another year. City Clerk informed the previous council had approved waiving the base charge of \$24.75 for one year, the Legion paid for additional use, sewer and trash collection charges.

FREE WATER – AMERICAN LEGION POST HOME

Dunlap moved to provide free water for the American Legion Post Home for one year beginning with the bill due March 2018. This is for the base water charge only which includes the first 1,000 gallons of water. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

VISITOR – RYAN INSURANCE – PAM MENDICKI

Pam Mendicki, representative of Ryan Insurance, Pittsburg, Kansas provided property/liability insurance renewal information for council review. Mrs. Mendicki also spoke of cyber insurance coverage, she is working with Stronghold Data the City's IT provider to see if the City is adequately covered in this area. Mrs. Mendicki noted some of the new items added to the policy include the new trash truck, speed radar sign and Community Building marquee. She explained even with these additions the increase over last year's premium is about 2.5%. The company checked with several other underwriters and EMC still came in with the best pricing.

Police department rifles to be added to the policy. Supervisors are to double check their department inventory records against the proposal and report discrepancies to the City Clerk.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

Opela moved to renew the City's 2018 property and liability insurance through Ryan Insurance in the amount of \$73,070. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

VISITOR – DEXTER OPELA

Dexter Opela addressed the council regarding capital improvement plans and financial accountability to the citizens of Columbus. Investments and interest were questioned versus paying debt and follow through with capital projects. City Administrator would be beneficial in oversight of City operations and staff.

HIRE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Dunlap moved to hire a City Administrator. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Patterson. Motion carried 5-3.

Job description and search procedures will be referred to the personnel committee.

City Treasurer Report –

- Cash balances as of last Friday were included in your council packet.
- Several reserve funds – each with separate balance. Council to decide if there is too much in a specific fund.
- Need over \$1 million in the bank for day to day operations.
- Money in all funds were kept in one account starting many years ago due to good interest rates. Rates have fallen over the years. Current rate on this account is .25%.
- Last CD purchased at 1.42% interest. This will earn an additional \$11,000 in interest over the course of a year.
- Short term CD's keep money liquid, readily accessible when needed.
- While the money is in the bank, makes sense to maximize the interest earned.

City Superintendent Report -

- Crews have been filling potholes – have ordered more asphalt.
- Rock in alley holes.
- Crews vacuuming leaves.
- Street sweeper running.
- GIS water valves and lines.
- Contacted by Mr. Case from Farmer's COOP. They have purchased land on Messer Road near City lagoon. They will be taking out old fence between the two properties and replacing with new. They would like to remove a quarter mile of tree line on our property for the safety of semi-trucks entering and exiting off Messer Road. They are asking the City to share the expense of the project at a cost of \$1,500.

REMOVE TREES

Burton moved to allow Farmer's COOP to remove tree line on Messer Road on City property as presented at a cost of \$1,500 to be paid out of 2018 sewer budget. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

- New Cemetery Sexton has started his duties.
- Will power wash the north side of the museum.
- KRWA meeting next week – meals are included – have employee that will be testing for certification.
- Water at the cemetery is still on hold. Rural water district is still looking for company to bore across the road (solid limestone).

City Clerk Report –

- Judi Mogle and I will be attending City Clerk Conference in Wichita this week, leaving Tuesday evening.
- Columbus Recreation Commission meeting Monday, March 26, 6 p.m. at Crossland Construction. Enter on the south side – second floor.
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 31 at the City Park. Staggered starts with the first round taking off at 10 a.m. Rain will move the event to the Fair Ground livestock barn.
- Thank you from Burton family for sympathy flowers.

Police Chief Report –

- Have two employees from the Police Department here tonight for special recognition, Animal Control Officer Gary Gideon and Patrol Officer Corie Brown. Mayor Spieth will present each with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the City for their actions.
- May of 2016 armed individual traveling on Country Road, verbally threatened people on the road and at the local vet clinic. Officer Gideon was also verbally threatened at gun point as he diverted the gunman away from the park and clinic to keep residents safe. Last week the assailant was turned over to KDOC to serve seven years for his actions.
- February of this year Officer Brown initiated a “routine” traffic stop for a minor traffic infraction. Noticed two juvenile females in the vehicle and felt that something wasn’t right. Brown was able to remove the juveniles from the car who were returned home unharmed. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of a man for attempted kidnapping, possible federal charges are pending.
- B3 quote for 515 West Olive, \$900 plus the cost of trash removal.

APPROVE DEMOLITION QUOTE – 515 WEST OLIVE

Dunlap moved to approve B3 quote for demolition and cleanup of shed at 515 West Olive in the amount of \$900 plus the cost of trash removal. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

- Pastor John Waring from First Christian Church will be hosting event for local youth at the City Park pavilion, Wednesday evening May 2 and Saturday May 5, 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Yearly firearm qualifications.
- Met with School Superintendent Carriger and local Principals - open communication regarding responses and responsibility in case there is an intruder in one of the schools.

Fire Chief Report-

- 106 runs so far this year.
- KU grain engulfment trailer in last Saturday for grain elevator extraction training.
- Saturday April 14 KU will be conducting wild land training in Galena – will have staff there.
- Working with Superintendent Burton on storm siren issue – have an antenna problem on tower behind the station. Will change that antenna out and fix coax. Set off fine when we did the state-wide tornado drill. Part of the problem could be that the County has a repeater down, should have that fixed this week.
- Township fee update. We have all of our townships complete. Waiting on Galena to get finalized numbers. Goal is to have a standard contract for all City Attorneys to look at, then will have numbers for the fire committee to review.
- Will have some overtime in the department in the next few weeks due to recent resignation.

City Attorney Report-

-Neighborhood revitalization resolution in your packet to accompany decision at last council meeting to participate in the program.

RESOLUTION 527 – NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Opela moved to adopt Resolution 527 – “A Resolution by the Governing Body of the City of Columbus, Kansas, Adopting the Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Through an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Columbus, Kansas, and Cherokee County, Kansas”. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

RESOLUTION 528 – DEMOLITION 515 WEST OLIVE

Opela moved to adopt Resolution 528 – “A Resolution Finding That the Garage Structure Located at 515 West Olive Street, Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas, Consisting of Lots 20 and 21, Block 1 in Deems Addition, Columbus, Kansas, is Unsafe and Dangerous, and Directing That the Structure and Debris Be Removed and the Premises Made Safe and Secure”. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

HIRE PATROL OFFICER – MATT HATFIELD

Opela moved to hire Matt Hatfield for the position of Police Officer II with at starting wage of \$15.00 per hour, providing he passes all pre-employment requirements. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

RESOLUTION 529 - PERSONNEL HANDBOOK ARTICLE IV

Opela moved to adopt Resolution 529 – “A Resolution by the Governing Body, Adopting the Revised, Updated Article IV of the Personnel Regulations for the Employees of the City of Columbus, Kansas”. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton. Motion carried 6-2.

RESIGNATION – DAVID ALLEN

Opela moved to accept the resignation of David Allen, Fire Driver, effective March 21, 2018 in good standing, providing he fulfills his two-week notice. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

PAY BACK WAGES – CITY CLERK

Opela moved to pay the City Clerk \$ 1,432.13 in back wages. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

City Clerk was moved from salary to hourly in December 2016. Overtime for 2017 was calculated incorrectly.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER – GARY GIDEON

Dunlap moved to approve Gary Gideon as a Volunteer Firefighter providing he respond only outside of regular work hours. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

PURCHASE WATER METERS

Burton moved to purchase 518 digital water meter communication modules and 400 digital water meters with modules for a total of \$126,502.00 with \$40,250.00 being paid out of 2018 water meter budget and remaining \$86,252.00 paid out of water reserves. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pryor called for a ten-minute executive session at 8:01 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney client relationship to discuss legal matter with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, City Superintendent and City Clerk in attendance. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 8-0.

REGULAR SESSION 8:11 P.M.

No action taken.

REJECT TRUCK BIDS

Dunlap moved to reject all truck bids and allow police department to bid police car. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

ORDINANCE 1418 – CITY CODE ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATE

Dunlap moved to approve Ordinance 1418 – *“An Ordinance by the City Council of the City of Columbus, Kansas Amending and/or Repealing Sections 102(c), 115,118(b), 201(d), and 201(e) and Establishing Section 208(d) of City Code Chapter II, Animal Control and Regulations.* Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

City Superintendent Burton provide pictures of a driveway / culvert damage and cave in on West Maple Street that poses a potential hazard. Problem was discussed at previous Street Committee meeting. City Attorney helped draft letter advising property owner of issue and responsibility to correct issue. Burton is asking council to offer property owner option to abandon drive. He informed the committee residents have access off Parmenter Street.

DRIVEWAY OPTION

Dunlap moved to offer abandon damaged driveway option to Maple Street property owner (Humble). Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Old business –

- Auditor has sent information back for review. Sercer will finish up the report for presentation to the council.
- Received tax exemption for Crossland Park from the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals.

New business-

- Spring Cleanup April 16-27.
- E-waste collection Saturday April 28 from 9-noon at the Fairgrounds.
- Sheriff Dept. conducting drug take back April 28 at Apple Market.

-Working on tire take back.

-Outside city limit garbage collection considered. Person receiving City water outside the city limits is requesting the service. It was noted if perk is offered to one, it would have to be offered to all customers receiving outside limits water service. It was also noted these people do not pay taxes to assist with upkeep of city services. Will refer to committee.

Mayor-

-PRIDE committee met today. First Impressions opportunity discussed. This teams city with another city of comparable size and each evaluates the other in several areas. This will provide a fresh set of eyes to see where we might make changes or improvements.

-CDBG workshop in Newton April 17 – no charge to attend.

- A group has requested to use the small room in the Community Building a couple of times a week at a reduced fee. Currently all rooms in building are rented for a single fee. Refer to property committee.

-Reminder for all to speak directly into microphones so all may hear conservations.

ADJOURNMENT

Paradee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Streets/Alleys/Bridges

Monday 3/26/2018 @ 5:30 p.m.

Personnel

Monday 3/26/2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development

Wednesday 3/28/2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk