

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 2, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council member absent: Connie Bennett, Sean Gilmore.

Pastor Lindsey Clarke of the First United Methodist Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of February 18, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 20-513 as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

PUBLIC FORUM – DALE BURTON

Columbus resident Dale Burton addressed the council with concerns of east/west roadway off of North High School Street near the railroad tracks. Mr. Burton stated the City has maintained this roadway for years and asks they continue to do so. It was noted this is a railroad right of way. City Superintendent is meeting with railroad supervisors to discuss the matter. Council agreed City upkeep will continue in the meantime.

PUBLIC FORUM - LARRY KETCHER

Larry Ketcher spoke to the council about the Old Pool Bath House located at the City Park. Ketcher offered the historical importance of the facility and community efforts to form committee with focus of funding to keep and new purpose for structure.

CONDEMNATION HEARING – 510 SOUTH INDIANA

Mayor Spieth opened the Condemnation Hearing for 510 South Indiana at 6:45 p.m. He noted this property came before the council January 21 for consideration and a March 3 hearing date set. Spieth asked if anyone would like to address the council regarding this property. No one came forward. Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt provided photos of the property taken today showing no positive change in the property condition.

DEMOLITION – 510 SOUTH INDIANA

Opela moved to proceed with demolition process for property located at 510 South Indiana as presented. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Update on additional properties from the January 21 council meeting: 423 North Magnolia sold at the recent tax sale; 603 South Vermont property is involved in probate. Officer Holt will contact new owners of Magnolia property.

Mayor Spieth closed the condemnation hearing at 6:49 p.m. regular council meeting resumed.

Mayor Report –

-Addressed annual donation to the Chamber of Commerce. Last year the City donated \$2,500 to Chamber operations and \$1,500 for the annual firework fund. Spieth advised that transient guest tax revenue is allocated to promoting tourism. City Administrator Daniela Rivas added that the City typically collects \$3,000 - \$4,000 per year from transient guest tax. She advised there is a small balance in this fund and the City usually budgets \$10,000 per year in this line to be able to expend funds if needed.

City Administrator Report-

-Announced award of a Safe Routes to School grant. Council agreed last year to split the \$15,000 cost of an engineer study of sidewalks/trails in the City with the Columbus Recreation Commission. The grant is for \$12,000 so the City and the CRC will each contribute \$1,500 towards the report.

-MuniCode sent final draft of City Code Book. Department supervisors and I will be reviewing over the next 30 days.

-Request reschedule of cancelled sanitation meeting.

-Cost benefit analysis of digital water meters.

-Working with Pitt State, providing information for new City website. They will be in the City taking photos to include on the new site.

-Photo contest. We are always in need of pictures for website, Facebook, budget book, etc. Rivas noted the winning photo will receive a gift card and be included on the front page of the 2019 budget book. Rivas explained a budget book tells the story of the City and the accomplishments of the year. This document can be shared with anyone wanting more information about the City.

City Treasurer Report –

-No report at this time.

City Superintendent Report –

-Unable to attend. Report in the council packet.

City Clerk Report –

-Youth Entrepreneur Fair Thursday 3/5.

-PRIDE meeting Tuesday March 17 noon at City Hall.

-Third Thursday coffee American Bank Thursday March 19

-League of Kansas Municipalities Governing Body Institute will be Friday/Saturday April 24 & 25 in Topeka. This is a great training opportunity for newly elected council members and a good refresher course for everyone.

-City audit week of March 16.

-Assistant City Clerk Erin Williams and I will be out of the office Wednesday – Friday of next week to attend Clerk Conference in Manhattan.

Police Chief Report –

-Lieutenant Dave Justice in attendance for the department.

-Report in council packets detailing the vehicle transfer to the fire department.

Fire Chief Report-

-Department has responded to 45 calls to date.

- Storm siren test 10 a.m. tomorrow in conjunction with the Statewide tornado drill.
- Completed fire safety inspection at 1923 West Maple. Connecting Point Church has acquired the building for a children/teen activity center.
- Fire department accepted Chevy Impala donation from the Police Department. This vehicle will serve as a command vehicle for the department and be utilized for transportation to training and errands. This will save the department money in fuel costs.

City Attorney Report –

- Will address Ordinances under old business section.
- Asked about KOMA training. Administrator Rivas noted she was working with LKM on the matter.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REHABILITATION AND MATCHING GRANT

Long moved to approve the Commercial Property Rehabilitation and Matching Grant Program application and guidelines as amended. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REHABILITATION AND MATCHING GRANT

Long moved to approve annual cap of \$20,000 for Commercial Property Rehabilitation and Matching Grant Program. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

2020 STREET PAVING PROJECT

Doherty moved to accept Teeters street paving estimate not to exceed \$200,000 with the recommended 2020 street overlay list to be completed in 2020. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: Opela. Motion carried 7-1.

Old Business –

1. ***Discussion of Old Pool Bathhouse.*** Those present discussed several items of concern regarding the keeping versus removing the Old Pool Bathhouse. Vandalism, maintenance, security, purpose and many other topics addressed.
2. ***Consider Ordinance 1462 increasing water base and usage rates.*** City Attorney Wright noted this ordinance reflects water rate increases approved at the last council meeting. Burton moved to approve Ordinance 1462 increasing water base and usage rates. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
3. ***Consider Ordinance 1463 increasing sewer base and usage rates.*** Wright noted this ordinance reflects sewer rate increases approved at the last council meeting. Burton moved to approve Ordinance 1463 increasing sewer base and usage rates. Long seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business –

1. ***Consider Fire Department bunker gear purchase in the amount of \$7,437 from 1st Due Emergency Response Solutions LLC out of Bartlett, Kansas to be paid out of fire bunker gear budget.*** Fire Chief Steven Burton informed the practice is to purchase three

sets of gear each year. Plan is to rotate so gear in use is less than ten years old. Houser moved to approve Fire Department bunker gear purchase in the amount of \$7,437 from 1st Due Emergency Response Solutions LLC out of Bartlett, Kansas to be paid out of fire bunker gear budget. Long seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Opela moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Economic Development

- *Wednesday March 4, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.*

Fire

- *Wednesday March 4, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.*

Budget/Finance

- *Monday March 9, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.*

Personnel

- *Tuesday March 10, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.*

Sanitation

- *Thursday March 19, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.*

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk