

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 4, 2019  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 4, 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 February 19, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-486 as presented. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Burton, Johnson. Motion carried 8-0-2.

**City Administrator Report-**

- First Impression report. Teams visited Garnett, Kansas during the recent weeks and we have had visits from Garnett representatives. Findings from the reports will be presented during a townhall meeting Thursday April 11 at the State Theatre. This report will help identify community improvement opportunities and assist with community planning.
- Thank you to those who attended and provided input for the planning workshop last Thursday. Ideas presented will help with future planning and City budgets.
- We submitted paperwork on behalf of the City for the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) for Hwy 69 project from Maple Street north to Calibrated Forms/railroad tracks. The City has applied for this funding before and will continue to apply until we are awarded funds.
- With the recent approval of the council, Police Chief Daniels and I have interviewed and hired two Reserve Police Officers. Pre-employment testing is scheduled, we hope to have them ready for service soon.
- Firetruck update. Representative from the REV group informed a wiring issue was found and has pushed back the delivery date. I am to contact them again March 13 for update. Plan to have a third party inspect the truck upon delivery.
- Liability and property insurance renewal April 1, will have information in the next council packet for consideration.
- Council chairs are in, Westco staff is assembling the units and they should be in place at the next council meeting.
- Department heads are working on 2020 budgets.
- Putting together IT service request for proposal. Current agreement with Stronghold Data out of Joplin, Missouri expires this May.

**City Treasurer Report –**

- Will have treasurer report at the next meeting.
- Certificate of Deposit coming due at American Bank in the next few days, plan to move the funds to the Kansas Municipal Pool as approved by council.

This will earn .03 of one percent more interest than is being offered locally.

### **Interim City Superintendent Report**

- State representatives were in this past week for the annual water inspection, City has no deficiencies.
- Spillway at Riverside repaired.
- Crews have been working on frozen water meter and leaks due to the cold weather.
- Salted streets Sunday anticipating bad weather.
- Received \$11,000 check from Cherokee County to assist with 2018 East Country Road paving project.
- Notice to proceed sent today for Mulberry Project.

### **City Clerk Report –**

- LKM Emergency Management training Friday March 29 in Cimarron from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- LKM Leadership Summit April 12 & 13 in Salina. Contact me if you would like more information or to register for either of these events.
- Auditors will be in the office the week of March 18.
- Advertising for Seasonal Laborers, Lifeguards and Pool Managers.

### **Police Chief Report-**

- Improvements are complete on the City Animal Shelter.
- Terri Kershaw, Melinda Hosier and I will be attending Municipal Court Training Thursday and Friday March 7 & 8 in Wichita.
- Prom is Saturday April 13 at the State Theatre, organizers have asked to block Pine and Pennsylvania Streets as last year.

### **STREET CLOSING FOR PROM**

Burton moved to allow closing Pine Street and Pennsylvania as presented on April 13, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight for high school prom as presented. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

### **Fire Chief Report-**

- 51 fire runs to date.
- Two drivers in operational training classes this week in Pittsburg.
- Statewide tornado drill March 5 at 10 a.m., new sirens may not be operational, all other sirens should sound. We are moving away from mechanical sirens; new units have solar batteries so they can operate if the electricity is out.
- Fire shower repairs started today.
- Programming needed for ballpark storm siren will be addressed at an upcoming visit.

### **City Attorney Report –**

- Will speak about ordinances later in the meeting.
- Need an executive session at the end of the meeting for attorney – client privilege to discuss a policy matter.

### **SUBSIDIZE WATER – AMERICAN LEGION POST HOME**

Burton moved to continue to subsidize water for the American Legion Post Home through December 31, 2019 usage with no renewal. This is for the base water charge only which

includes the first 1,000 gallons of water. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Old Business –**

- 1. Consider Charter Ordinance 1434 allowing City Administrator and respective department head the authority to hire Level 1-12 employees.**

City Attorney Wright advised this ordinance gives the City Administrator hiring authority as approved at the February 19 council meeting. Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1434 allowing the City Administrator and respective department head the authority to hire Level 1-12 employees. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 11-0.

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

- 2. Consider Municode for City Municipal Code recodification in the amount of \$10,195 to be paid out of Administration Capital Reserves.** City Administrator Rivas provided a spreadsheet comparing the different companies considered for the recodification of the City Code, the services they provide and pricing. She stated this was a difficult process a lot of time was spent viewing and checking references. Municode is not the lowest in price, their upfront pricing is higher but over a ten-year period cost evens out. They have useful features the other companies do not offer. Opela moved to approve Municode for City Municipal Code recodification in the amount of \$10,195 to be paid out of Administration Capital Reserves. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.
- 3. Consider Charter Ordinance reducing the size of the City Council.** City Attorney Wright explained this was one of the topics of last Thursday's Planning Workshop; this ordinance if approved, would reduce the council size beginning with the next election. She explained the council seats coming up for election would go away and we would continue in 2020 with the five remaining council persons. A spread sheet was provided in council packets showing how the council members would be staggered/elected. Opela moved to approve Charter Ordinance 1435 reducing the size of the City Council. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Pryor, Spieth. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Patterson. Motion carried 8-3.

**New Business – None.**

**Mayor –**

-Library Board recommends Jessie Rider for a four-year term to replace Board Member Clara White whose term expires April 1, 2019. They also recommend Board Member Linda Griffitt for another four-year period beginning April 1, 2019.

**LIBRARY BOARD – RIDER/GRIFFITT**

Dunlap moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jessie Rider and Linda Griffitt to the Columbus Library Board with four-year terms beginning April 1, 2019. Lucian seconded the

motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

-Fire Department recommends Breah Biggerstaff and James Minor as Volunteer Firefighters.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER – BREAH BIGGERSTAFF**

Dunlap moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Breah Biggerstaff as a Volunteer Firefighter. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton. Motion carried 8-2.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER – JAMES MINOR**

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of James Minor as a Volunteer Firefighter. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried. 9-1.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dunlap called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 7:40 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship to discuss a policy matter with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, Chief of Police and City Clerk in attendance; meeting to reconvene in the council chambers at 7:55 p.m. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**REGULAR SESSION 7:55 P.M.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Lucian moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Meetings:**

**Streets/Alleys/Bridges**

Tuesday March 12, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Sanitation**

Tuesday March 12, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Water**

Wednesday March 13, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Fire**

Thursday March 14, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Personnel**

Thursday March 14, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

---

*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*