

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 5, 2018  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met March 5, 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, Ron Johnson, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, John Paradee, Tom Pryor, Drew Richards. Council member absent: Alvin Patterson.

Mrs. Clara White 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 February 20, 2018 council meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 18-459 as presented. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Lucian, Opela, Paradee. Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Dunlap, Johnson, Richards. Motion carried 6-0-3.

**VISITOR – JUNIOR CLASS PROM COMMITTEE**

Police Chief Jason Daniels addressed the council on behalf of the Junior Class Prom Committee requesting permission to close Pine Street, between Kansas and Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Street, between Maple and Pine on April 7, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight for prom. It was requested parking be allowed on these two blocks for family members, but no through traffic.

**STREET CLOSING FOR PROM**

Burton moved to allow street closings on April 7, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight for high school prom as presented. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**VISITOR – BLANKENSHIP – 515 WEST OLIVE UPDATE**

Mrs. Blankenship/Box informed the council the contents of the building in question at 515 West Olive have been removed. She is not able to renovate the structure as planned and is requesting additional time for family to take down the building to eliminate demolition cost. Police Chief Daniels noted process started last November and owner has received two extensions to date.

**EXTENSION – 515 WEST OLIVE**

Richards moved to approve thirty-day condemnation extension for 515 West Olive with a progress report at the April 2, 2018 council meeting. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Johnson, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: Bennett, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee. Motion failed 4-5.

**VISITOR – DR. KURTIS GREGORY- RENOVATION-SIGNAGE- COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Dr. Kurtis Gregory, area veterinarian and chairman of the K-State extension board, addressed the council on several topics.

Gregory is applying for a commercial rehabilitation matching grant through the city for expansion to his veterinary clinic on West Country Road. Plans are to extend the building to the north and east to support growing practice and feed store.

Second matching grant application will provide signage for the K-State extension office to help bring attention to the building, so it is more readily identified and easier for residents to find.

The extension agents are looking for ways to help and engage the community. Last year a garden project at Highland School proved very successful. A new greenhouse will enhance the program capabilities this year. Agents are planning a community garden. Farmers COOP has been approached about donating the use of their two empty lots on East Maple Street. It would be beneficial if the City would help/supply water for the venture. Life and Career Skills students can build a shed as part of their training for less than \$2,000. This building could house tools and produce. Vital Signs is donating signage.

Gregory also spoke to grant applications. He noted often there is a short window for some of the opportunities the agents find. Time is lost in the process of going to committee then council for project and expense approval. Gregory asked if there is a way to approve or set aside a certain dollar amount to be used towards matching grants so the agents could go ahead and submit the application, then if the grant is approved the council could vote at that time if they would like to accept the grant and move forward with the project.

#### **PROVIDE WATER – COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Opela moved to provide water connection, frost free hydrant and water for the community garden as presented as long as the garden is available to the residents of the community. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

#### **PROVIDE BUILDING**

Johnson moved to provide funds for the community garden shed as presented, not to exceed \$2,000 to be paid out of economic development. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

#### **City Treasurer Report –**

- February report will be in the next council packet. City is financially stable.

#### **City Superintendent Report –**

- New trash truck on the route today. Will use new truck Monday, Wednesday, Friday, older truck on Tuesday and Thursday routes.
- Pothole asphalt came in Friday, crews have been filling holes. Call City Hall if you see some that have been missed.
- Street sweeper started last week in east town picking up leaves in ditches and as requested.
- Unplugging sewer lines.
- Water tap for new house.
- Will be asking for street committee meeting to discuss paving project and sidewalk program.
- Four employees to Ft. Scott next week for excavating and trenching training – free training, only cost is transportation.
- Cemetery signs up – looking at parking options.

- working on landscape quote for cemetery, City Hall and Discovery Park.
- Discussed to reseed all of Crossland Park and fertilize if necessary for proposed use this fall.

### **City Clerk Report –**

- Thank you received from Cherokee County Development Director Janet Miller for the City's donation to the recent Cherokee County Youth Entrepreneur Fair. She stated there was a large turn out and many good ideas. Columbus News Report covered the event.
- Thank you from participants of the Cherokee County Youth Entrepreneur Fair.
- Auditor will be in the office March 13
- PRIDE newsletter in your packet with information about the organization and upcoming April workshops. I can help you get registered if you wish to attend.

### **Police Chief Report –**

- Officer Corie Brown completed the firearms training for reciprocity.
- Officer Samantha Saxinger will leave tomorrow for the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center to complete the firearm portion of her training.
- Received two bids for a new police truck – would like to request police and license committee meeting to open bids.
- Request personnel meeting to interview for police officer opening.
- Officer Brown and department praised for their participation recently in what ultimately led to the arrest of an individual for attempted kidnapping. Those actions kept two young girls from being potentially harmed.

### **-Fire Chief Report-**

- Fire truck in middle bay in “blacked out” in honor of Jimmy Reed, previous Columbus Firefighter who passed away Sunday. Fire department will be represented at the services tomorrow.
- New cameras in – will demonstrate on request.
- New hire training program two nights per month. Kale Kitterman and Justice Ganaway have put this program together. It starts with the basics, SOP's (standard operating procedures) and bylaws then covers gear and equipment. This is for new volunteers and refresher course for more experienced firemen as well. Training is open to area fire departments.
- Eighty-two fire runs so far this year.
- Responded to recent arson structure fires in Galena.
- Area Fire Chiefs are meeting with townships to negotiate new township fees. Will meet with the Fire Committee and Attorney once we have more information.

### **City Attorney Report-**

- I will need an executive session toward the end of the meeting.

### **RESIGNATION – SAM BEST**

Opela moved to accept resignation of Sam Best, Volunteer Firefighter in good standing effective immediately. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

### **HIRE CEMETERY SEXTON – RUSSELL ZWAHLEN**

Opela moved to approve Russell Zwahlen for the position of Cemetery Sexton with a starting wage of \$13.14 per hour. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**ADVERTISE FOR SEASONAL LABORERS**

Opela moved to advertise for Seasonal Cemetery Laborers, Seasonal Laborers, Life Guards and Pool Manger/Co-Manager positions. Johnson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Discussion of old pool bath house at the City Park. It was noted it is becoming a potential hazard. The Lion’s Club remodeled the building years ago and turned it into a covered shelter. The area has been vandalized many times in recent years. It was suggested to get restoration bids and survey the public to evaluate interest in restoring the structure.

**PURCHASE EQUIPMENT – MUNICIPAL COURT**

Dunlap moved to purchase two tablets, a laptop and wireless printer for municipal court from Stronghold Data, Joplin, Mo. in the amount of \$4,348.94 to be paid out of the police department VIN fund. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**TRANSFER FUNDS TO CERTIFICATE(S) OF DEPOSIT**

Richards moved to invest up to an additional \$1,000,000.00 certificate(s) of deposit with American Bank. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Johnson, Pryor Richards. Voting nay: Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Paradee. Motion carried 5-4.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY REVITALIZATION INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

Richards moved for the City to participate in the Cherokee County Neighborhood Revitalization Interlocal Agreement. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**APPROVE 2017 BUDGET TRANSFERS**

Richards moved to approve the following 2017 budget transfers subject to auditor approval. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**General Fund**

|                |               |                |  |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| Administration | \$ 2,000.00   | 100% capital   | website/codification                         |
| Streets        | \$ 130,000.00 | 100% capital   | street project                               |
| Cemetery       | \$ 5,000.00   | 100% capital   | columbarium                                  |
| Parks          | \$ 26,300.00  | 100% equipment | 10,000-Lions park equip.<br>16,300 TBD       |
| Pool           | \$ 12,400.00  | 100% capital   | pool painting                                |
| Property       | \$ 71,300.00  | 100% capital   | 31,300 animal shelter<br>40,000 streets barn |
| Animal Control | \$ 2,500.00   | 100% equipment | truck  |
| Fire           | \$ 32,500.00  | 100% equipment | fire truck                                   |

Total transfer to general fund: \$282,000

**Utility Funds**

|         |               |                                  |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Water   | \$ 100,000.00 | digital water meters & equipment |
| Sewer   | \$ 28,000.00  | future project                   |
| Garbage | \$ 25,000.00  | sanitation truck                 |

**Old business –**

- CitiLink advertisement discussion. Budget and finance committee decided to leave this decision with City Hall as it is under the City Clerk’s spending limit.
- Shower in fire department needs remodeled.

**New business-**

- First Fire up for Fireworks Cookout of the season Thursday, March 15. Money raised is used for the Fourth of July firework display. Committee would like to set up in front of the Community Building this year if there are no objections.

**Mayor-**

- Received letter from Senator Jerry Moran congratulating the City on its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- After prom donation request presented at last council meeting mentioned. No motion made.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Opela called for a ten-minute executive session at 8:26 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss litigation with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk in attendance. Richards seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**REGULAR SESSION 8:36 P.M.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Opela called for a five-minute executive session at 8:37 p.m. for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to discuss FMLA issue with the Council, Mayor, City Attorney, Chief of Police, City Superintendent and City Clerk in attendance. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**REGULAR SESSION 8:42 P.M.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Paradee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Paradee, Pryor, Richards. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**Meetings:**

**Water & Sewer**

**Wednesday 3/07/2018 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**Streets/Alleys/Bridges**

**Thursday 3/15/2018 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Police & Licensing**

**Thursday 3/15/2018 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Personnel**

**Thursday 3/15/2018 @ 6:30 p.m.**

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*