

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 20, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met May 20, 2019 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, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: John Brassart, Randy Coble, Ron Johnson.

Council member Alvin Patterson provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of May 6, 2019 Council Meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-491 as presented. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

VISITOR – AUDITOR TERRY SERCER

Terry Sercer of Diehl, Banwart, Bolton accounting firm addressed the council with findings from the 2018 City audit. Mr. Sercer informed the Governing Body that the City received an unqualified opinion in accordance with regulatory basis of accounting which is an accounting that is designed to show compliance to Kansas Statutes. He also commented that Columbus has healthy cash and reserve balances. Sercer stated as a general rule it is good to have at least two to three month's expenses in your cash balances. The City was not cited for any statutory violations.

Mayor Report –

- Mayor Spieth announced receipt of Ron Johnson's resignation from the council. Will be looking for someone to fill the remainder of Mr. Johnson's term of office.
- Speakers for the first item under new business are unable to be present tonight, topic will be continued to the next council meeting.
- Organizing a City Beautification Team, interested parties should contact City Hall.
- Training/information for persons interested in running for office, 6 p.m. Wednesday May 22 at the Community Building. Filing deadline is Monday June 3, 2019.

City Administrator Report-

- Facebook page up and running, received positive feedback and good questions so far.
- Meeting with committees on 2020 proposed budget.
- Presented preliminary pay study findings to the personnel committee, I am waiting for responses from two key cities and have no recommendations at this time.
- Firetruck update later in the meeting.
- Signage update for East Country Road/Hwy 69 turnoff. Sign is on state property; we can send a letter to Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) requesting an engineering study of the area.

It was agreed for City Administrator to send engineering study request letter to KDOT.

-Street overlay update. Susan Galemore from Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission visited to review Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for High School Street project. Ms. Galemore recommended doing a geotechnical study to determine road base condition before applying for grant. Ms. Rivas informed PEC (Professional Engineering Consultants) could be out Friday May 24 to do the testing and have an answer before the scheduled overlay date. City council approved geo tech study by PEC.

ALTERNATE PAVING PLAN

Dunlap moved to approve updated street overlay plan, paving the VFW Park roadway and camping slips if High School Street is not paved in 2019. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

-Columbus PRIDE was awarded a \$15,000 grant for renovations/updates at Reeves Park. Working on getting a date scheduled for project.

City Treasurer Report –

-City Treasurer unable to attend. Treasurer report is in your council packet.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- North Indiana paving began today.
- City crews installed Story Walk posts at the City Park.
- Crews working to get City Cemeteries ready for Memorial Day.
- Swimming pool is 90% ready – will be up and going for this weekend.
- City staff has sidewalk for Mulberry project formed, we are waiting for good weather to pour the concrete.

City Clerk Report –

- Deadline to file for City Council is noon Monday, June 3 at the County Clerk's office in the Courthouse. There is a potential candidate training and information opportunity Wednesday May 22 at the Community Building.
- Farmer's Market Thursday May 23 on the Southeast corner of the Square this week, weather permitting.
- Free swim at the City Pool Saturday.
- City offices closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day.
- Received \$11,141.31 dividend check from EMC today, the City's property/liability insurance carrier. These dividend checks help keep the coverage costs down. Checks averaged \$9,000 annually over the past 3 years.

Police Chief Report-

- Police Chief unable to attend.

Fire Chief Report-

- Fire Chief unable to attend.

City Attorney Report –

- Protest petition filed in response to Charter Ordinance 1436 has been turned in. County Clerk's office verified petition contained more than required number of needed signatures. The council can repeal the Charter Ordinance or call for an election of the people. Consulted with County

Clerk and election could fall on the August 6 primary. City would cover the cost of the election unless another entity(es) utilize the primary ballot, then the cost would be split.

CALL FOR ELECTION

Dunlap moved to call the election in response to Charter Ordinance 1436 protest petition. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton. Motion carried 5-2.

PURCHASE LADDER TRUCK

Bennett moved to purchase 1990 Ladder Fire Truck from Fire Master, Springfield, MO for \$55,000 plus trade-in of Engine 20 (2002 Freightliner Pumper) to be paid out of Fire Capital Reserves and 2019 Fire Budget. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: Lucian. Motion carried 6-1.

SANITATION COLLECTION RATE INCREASE

Patterson moved to approve sanitation collection user fee increase effective 01/01/2020: Residential, \$12.50; Commercial, \$12.50; Residential w/dumpster, \$60.00; Commercial w/dumpster, \$60.00, Fire Zone w/o dumpster, \$22.00; Fire Zone w/dumpster, \$71.00; with extra dumps at \$5.00 per week for each time dumped. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

CROSSLAND LANE SPEED LIMIT

Lucian moved to approve 20 mph speed limit and signage for Crossland Lane. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

Old Business –

1. **Consider Ordinance 1437 increasing cemetery fees effective August 1, 2019.** Pryor moved to approve Ordinance 1437 increasing cemetery fees effective August 1, 2019. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.
2. **Consider Resolution 551 setting a condemnation hearing date for 531 East Country Road.**
3. **Consider Resolution 552 setting a condemnation hearing date for 421 South Indiana.**
4. **Consider Resolution 553 setting a condemnation hearing date for 401 South Lash.**
5. **Consider Resolution 554 setting a condemnation hearing date for 816 West Maple.**
6. **Consider Resolution 555 setting a condemnation hearing date for 314 North Minnesota.**
7. **Consider Resolution 556 setting a condemnation hearing date for 518 West Oak.**
8. **Consider Resolution 557 setting a condemnation hearing date for 544 West Olive.**
9. **Consider Resolution 558 setting a condemnation hearing date for 1317 East Walnut.** Opela moved to adopt Resolutions 551 – 558 setting July 1 condemnation hearing date for 531 East Country Road, 421 South Indiana, 401 South Lash, 816 West Maple, 314 North Minnesota, 518 West Oak, 544 West Olive and 1317 East Walnut. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

10. **Consider IT bids.** City Administrator Daniela Rivas stated four bids for IT service were received. One did not meet requirements and was disqualified. Tabulation sheet was included in the council packet for comparison. Dunlap moved to approve KISS-TECH bid for City IT services. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business –

1. **Consider use of City pool, assistance with blocking Country Road and a monetary donation of \$250 for each tournament (\$750 total) for the State Senior Babe Ruth tournament, the 14U State Softball tournament and the 14U Regional Softball tournament in Summer 2019.** Topic postponed until June 3 council meeting.
2. **Consider Resolution supporting the City’s participation in KPERS 457.** City Clerk Cherri Chancellor explained this would be an additional retirement opportunity for full-time City employees. Several employees have asked to increase their current KPERS contribution, this is not an option. Participating employees contribute 6% of their gross pay. KPERS 457 is a governmental 457(b) deferred compensation plan that allows employees to supplement existing retirement benefits with pretax dollars. There would be no cost to the City and this option would not replace any current product. A resolution by the City is required for participation in the program. Opela moved to approve Resolution 559 approving the City’s participation in KPERS 457. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.
3. **Consider Ordinance 1438 correcting Section nine (9) of Ordinance 1411 which grants Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. City access.** City Attorney Barbara Wright provided this Ordinance corrects typographical error in previous Ordinance 1411 approved a couple of years ago. Wording of the Ordinance is correct, there was an extra ‘zero’ in the numbering. Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1438 correcting section nine (9) of Ordinance 1411 Craw-Kan Telephone agreement. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.
4. **Consider closing street for downtown Farmer’s Market events May 23, June 27 and July 18.** City Administrator Rivas informed Farmer’s Market group has asked for a portion of Kansas Street to be closed for these events from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Lucian moved to approve closing Kansas Street from Pine to alley from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 23, June 27 and July 18. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 8:15 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 Administrator, City Attorney, and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene at 8:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

REGULAR SESSION 8:30 P.M.
NO ACTION TAKEN.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a ten-minute executive session at 8:31 p.m. to continue consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss litigation with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene at 8:41 p.m. in the council chambers. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

Meetings:

Property/Pool/Parks

Tuesday May 21, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

Budget & Finance

Tuesday May 21, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

Police & License

Wednesday May 22, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk