

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

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met May 6, 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, Randy Coble (6:31), Steve Dunlap, Ron Johnson, James Lucian, Sammye Opela, Alvin Patterson, Tom Pryor. Council member absent: John Brassart.

Juanita Dobkins representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of April 1 and April 15 Council Meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-490 as presented. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain Johnson. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Mayor Report –

- Public Service Proclamation read. Appreciation voiced to all who serve their communities, country and fellowman expressed.
- Visited with representative from Kanas Appleseed. This program educates and assists people who are interested in running for public office. Would like to offer the community building for this training.

WAIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING RENTAL FEE

Opela moved to waive Community Building deposit and rental fee for the Kansas Appleseed candidate training workshop. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye, Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-E-waste update: 13th year for project, 40 thousand pounds collected, 123 participants, \$202 donated to help offset costs of the program.

City Administrator Report-

- Received four responses for the IT Request for Proposal, reviewing submission and plan to have presentation for the next council meeting.
- Draft 2020 budget is ready, still meeting with committees for review.
- Municode, the company approved by council to handle the Code Book recodification has verified receipt of our material. Their staff attorneys will review over the next 3-4 months.
- Wrapping up pay study, will present findings at the next personnel committee meeting.
- Firetruck update: Unit arrived at Fire Master in Springfield about 3 weeks ago for independent inspection. Fire Chief Allison went to Springfield twice to review. Several items were noted, truck did not pass inspection. Demand letter sent to Glatfelter asking for everything to be fixed or full replacement value of the truck before the accident. We are also requesting additional funds for another loaner truck.
- Facebook page ready – idea is platform for information at this time.

LAUNCH CITY FACEBOOK PAGE

Opela moved to allow City Administrator to launch a City Facebook page. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

City Treasurer Report –

- Quarterly report as of March 31, 2019 in council packets.
- Monthly report with cash balances as of April 30, 2019 in packets as well.
- Moved \$1 million from Investment account at American Bank to Kansas Municipal Investment Pool (KMIP) for increased interest earnings. (2.19 \$ vs. .25%)
\$19,000 annual interest.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- Spring Cleanup complete, everything went well.
- Crews finished installing active residential digital water meters. Still have 5 or 6 bigger meters to order and install.
- Street overlay project will begin in June weather permitting.
- Little behind schedule on cemetery mowing and swimming pool. Will get up to speed as soon as it quits raining. Everything will be ready for Memorial Day.
- Appreciation voiced for brush pick up by staff after recent rainstorm.

City Clerk Report –

- Working to hire and ready seasonal staff.
- Next Fire Up for Fireworks Cookout Thursday 5/9 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in front of the Community Building. Weather has hampered previous events and we are still about \$5,000 short of the \$10,000 goal for the larger aerial display.
- PRIDE meeting noon Tuesday 5/14 here at City Hall. Invitation open to all, we welcome ideas and helping hands.
- City Administrator Rivas and I will be attending a budget workshop Thursday 5/16 in Chanute.
- Council and staff are invited to an employee appreciation lunch Friday 5/10 at noon in the Fire Department as a small thank you for all you do in conjunction with Public Service Recognition Week.
- Filing deadline for those wishing to run for City Council is noon Monday June 3 at the County Clerk's office. Candidate guide available at lkm.org and City Hall.
- League News included in council packet includes photo and information for the Kansas Mayors Association Board. Our own Mayor Spieth is the Southeast Kansas Representative for the Board.

Police Chief Report-

- Plans being considered for exposed wall of Graham Accounting building.
- Owner of house at corner of Pine and Kansas damaged in the demolition of the adjacent Bulldog building has been served. May 13 deadline to comply.
- In communication with the owner of property north of the Donut Shop regarding debris on the property. Owner aware that fence will not remedy the problem, plans to haul debris to his country property when weather allows.
- Weed/mowing notices going out.
- Eight properties to consider for condemnation.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 314 NORTH MINNESOTA

Dunlap made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on house and garage at 314 North Minnesota. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 401 SOUTH LASH

Opela made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on property at 401 South Lash. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 421 SOUTH INDIANA

Burton made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on property at 421 South Indiana. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 518 WEST OAK

Opela made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on property at 518 West Oak. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 531 EAST COUNTRY ROAD

Burton made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on property at 531 East Country Road. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 544 WEST OLIVE

Opela made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on garage at 544 West Olive. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 816 WEST MAPLE

Opela made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on property at 816 West Maple. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 1317 EAST WALNUT

Lucian made a motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings on property at 1317 East Walnut. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

-City Administrator Rivas noted blight problem was one of the areas noted on the First Impression report. Meeting with department supervisors to better address the issue. Mayor would like to work on inactive utility account list to stay ahead of the problem. Mechanic liens, land banks and other ideas discussed.

Fire Chief Report-

- Working on list of 2019 structure fires.
- New washing machine should be in Thursday.

- Storm siren set up for repairs later this week or first of next week depending on weather.
 - Suggestion to give daily fire risk information to City Hall for marquee display.
 - Department is one tanker down. Baxter Springs and Galena sending aid when we have a structure fire call.
- Allison left the meeting to act as storm spotter for the area.

City Attorney Report –

- Will draft resolutions for condemnation properties for next council meeting.
- Will need an executive session at the end of the meeting.

CEMETERY BURIAL RATE INCREASE

Coble moved to approve baby grave opening fee increase from \$150 to \$200 effective August 1, 2019 and to include baby definition on the forms. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

ORDER WATER METERS

Burton moved to allow Interim City Superintendent Bennett to order digital water meters as presented not to exceed \$11,450. Patterson seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Old 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.** City Administrator Rivas asked this topic to be postponed to next council meeting to allow representatives to be present.
- 2. Consider 2019 Columbus swimming pool pass for Full time City employees, Volunteer Firefighters, Seasonal employees and their immediate family.** City Clerk Chancellor noted this employee perk has been approved by council the past several years and the office has had inquires about the 2019 season. Burton moved to provide 2019 swimming pool passes for Full time City employees, Council members, Volunteer Firefighters, Reserve Police Officers, Seasonal employees and their immediate families. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 9-0.
- 3. Consider agreement with E-gov in the amount of \$8,375 for planning and redesign of City website to be paid out of Fund 20 Capital Improvement Reserve Funds – City Administration.** City Administrator Rivas spoke to the council about revamping the City website. The redesign would make the site more user friendly, move away from the block design and interact with mobile devices. Council asked Administrator to look for other alternatives before making a decision.
- 4. Consider approval of City Storm Siren policy.** City Administrator Rivas presented draft City Storm Siren policy for council review. Opela moved to approve Storm Siren Policy with suggested changes. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

**New Business –
None.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 8:37 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss policy and rules with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, Chief of Police, Interim City Superintendent and City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene at 8:52 p.m. in the council chambers. Lucian seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Coble. Motion carried 8-0-1.

Council member Coble returned to the meeting 8:39 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION 8:52 P.M.
NO ACTION TAKEN.**

ADJOURNMENT

Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Coble, Dunlap, Johnson, Lucian, Opela, Patterson, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Meetings:

Sanitation

Wednesday May 8, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Property/Pool/Parks

Thursday May 9, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Streets/Alleys/Bridges

Tuesday May 14, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

Fire

Tuesday May 14, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Personnel

Tuesday May 14, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

Budget & Finance

Tuesday May 21, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk