

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met November 18, 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, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: John Brassart, Steve Dunlap, Jan Houser.

Pastor John Waring of the First Christian Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of November 4, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-503 presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Report –

-Presented Kathy Doherty as appointment for vacant Ward 5 Council Seat to fill the unexpired term of Alvin Patterson.

WARD 5 COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – *KATHY DOHERTY*

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Kathy Doherty to the vacant Ward 5 Council seat. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 6-0.

-Official results from the November election have been mailed by the Cherokee County Clerk's office.

-Noted importance of attending committee and council meetings to be informed and have input on topics of the City.

-Floodplain meeting in Parsons tomorrow at 2 p.m. I am representing Columbus to see how this might impact the City and encourage other interested parties to go as well.

-SEKTR (Southeast Kansas Tourism Region) meeting Thursday 11/21. I will be attending with Cherokee County Extension Agent Dale Helwig. Hope to gain tourism promotion ideas for the area.

City Administrator Report-

-Ms. Rivas out on vacation leave.

City Treasurer Report –

-Treasurer reports for 10/1 and 10/14 in your council packets. You can see from the report we moved funds from the sweep account to a CD for a higher interest rate.

-Interest rates are down. Reviewing 2020 revenue projections with the City Administrator.

Interim City Superintendent Report –

- Leaf pick up complete in Wards 1 and 2. Crews started in Ward 3 today. Reminder that leaf piles need to be free of sticks and trash in order to be picked up.
- December 12 will be sending Justin Rogers, Justin Graham and David Spatafora to Emporia for water and wastewater testing.
- Disc Golf baskets and poles set. Mayor Spieth explained signage is still in the works, original information charted direct path between goals/not yardage around obstacles.
- Thanksgiving dinner/cookout for department 11/21.
- Working with Newberry Floor Covering on fixing Museum bathroom floors. Work scheduled to begin after Thanksgiving.
- New Mechanic will begin December 2. Still down an Equipment Operator and Laborer.

City Clerk Report –

- November Kansas Government Journal on your desks. They arrived today and contain a lot of good information that I did not want to hold until the next meeting. Please take time to look at the 2020 Census booklet included with the KGJ; it has a breakdown showing the impact to the community of missing just one person in the 2020 census.
- Still looking for people for the 2020 Census committee. This group will work to see that all areas are covered including the hard to count population. Need a wide variety of participants to ensure adequate coverage. Contact City Hall to participate or for more information.
- The League of Kansas Municipalities is offering grants to help defray the cost of promoting the 2020 census. The City will apply for this grant.
- LKM Ethics and Civility training opportunity Friday, December 6 from 10-2. Contact me to register or more information.
- LKM Rural Housing Incentive District Webinar Tuesday, December 10 at 10 a.m. This will be available at City Hall if you would like to attend.
- Third Thursday Coffee 8 a.m. 11/21 at ParCom.
- Council packets for the December 2 meeting will go out Wednesday, November 27 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. City Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday November 28 and 29. City staff will run Thursday, Friday and Monday trash routes on Monday, December 2.
- Department supervisors need to have purchase orders to City Hall on Friday, November 22 to be included on the December 2 appropriation ordinance.
- Christmas parade will be Wednesday, December 4 at 7 p.m. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. Chamber members will be selling hamburgers and hot dogs getting started on the 2020 4th of July firework fund.
- Columbus Recreation Commission meeting 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 20 at City Hall.
- City employees will be hosting the Angel Tree Project again this year with a few modifications. This year Santa will visit with and deliver presents to the angels at the Fire Station on Saturday December 21 from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. There will be hot chocolate and cookies and possibly a craft project opportunity. Sign-ups started today and we already have four angels on the tree. Adoptions can start tomorrow.

Police Chief Report –

- Lieutenant Justice and I will be out of the office Wednesday – Friday, November 20-22. We have been invited to be guest instructors at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Wednesday and Thursday. Academy graduation ceremonies for Officers Preston Hosier and Antonio Petree will be on Friday, November 22.

Fire Chief Report-

Lead Driver Steven Burton in attendance for the department.

-238 year to date.

-Department Awards banquet and Christmas party December 14 at Rowden's Rustic Moose Lodge.

-Excited about the Angel Tree Christmas party with Santa on Saturday December 21.

City Attorney Report –

-Reviewing the first draft of the Code Book revision with the City Administrator. May need committee or council input to help us get through this.

Old Business –

- 1. Discussion to move forward with plans to develop a landbank. City Attorney Barbara Wright will review material and workup draft document.*
- 2. City Attorney Wright informed she has spoken with Mercy Hospital Attorney concerning the hospital lease with the City. Mercy Attorney has not seen document the City was asked to sign, we both agree that authority has been delegated to the Hospital Board. Mercy Attorney does not see conflict of interest for one person to serve on local Hospital Board and the Mercy Joplin Hospital Board at the same time.*

New Business –

None.

Mayor Spieth noted the importance of attending council and committee meetings and asked members to notify City Hall when they will be unable to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

Meetings:

Water/Sewer

Thursday November 21, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk