

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met October 21, 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, Steve Dunlap, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Stephanie Farstvedt.

Pastor Jim Thomas representing First Baptist Church led the Invocation. Local Girl Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of September 16, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, October 7, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-501 as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

VISITOR – *CHEROKEE COUNTY CLERK ROD EDMONDSON*

Cherokee County Clerk Rod Edmondson spoke to the council about the special election invoice to the City. Council members voiced several concerns including the number/price of ballots printed, site support/staffing costs and ballot machine transportation charges. Mr. Edmondson provided explanation for charges. He noted the County absorbs many of these costs in county wide elections.

VISITOR – *CHEROKEE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT CHRISTINA HOLMES*

Cherokee County K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent Christina Holmes and local Girl Scouts Anna Head and Izzy Manus spoke to the council about a partnership with Kansas Department of Health and Environment to inform residents of Columbus and Cherokee County of the dangers of smoking. Cherokee County was selected due the county's high smoking rate. Mrs. Holmes stated the project promotes prevention and cessation programs. Ms. Head commented on the danger of second-hand smoke to children. Mrs. Holmes noted the City has an ordinance on the books designating City properties including parks to be smoke and tobacco free. She suggests signage in the City's parks could help inform and maybe encourage social engagement through parents and coaches. KDHE will provide signage free of charge.

APPROVE NO SMOKING SIGNAGE

Houser moved to allow installation of No-Smoking Signs at City Parks, with funding provided by KDHE and Cherokee County K-State Research and Extension. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

VISITOR – *TED KIMZY*

Ted Kimzy spoke to the council requesting the City vacate an alley behind his property on North Delaware. City Attorney explained this request has been reviewed with Interim City Superintendent Scott Bennett. It was agreed this would not be in the best interest of the City.

Mr. Bennett stated he will revisit the request with City Administrator Daniela Rivas when she returns from conference.

Mayor Report –

- Mayor Spieth reviewed the process of signing up to speak during the public forum portion of council meetings.
- Report from League of Kansas Municipalities Conference over Columbus Day weekend. He encouraged council to attend this next year and other available trainings.
- Spoke to importance of upcoming census. Noted we are still looking for individuals interested in being part of the census committee. Interested parties should contact City Hall.
- Columbus PRIDE members took part in a recent community service opportunity, finishing a house painting project for a Columbus resident. Noted PRIDE committee meets at noon the second Tuesday of each month at City Hall and invited interested parties to attend or sign up to be a volunteer for projects.
- Seeking Ward 5 resident interested in filling the remaining term of recently passed Council Member Alvin Patterson. Contact City Hall and complete application.
- Fifteen days until the November election.
- 2020 LKM Annual Conference will be in Wichita.
- Noted City Administrator Rivas is attending training at the national ICMA conference and will be back in the office on Thursday.
- City Staff will be taking part in the CUHS career day on Thursday.

City Administrator Report-

- Away at training.

City Treasurer Report –

- Council packets contained Cash Balance Report as of 10/18 and Quarterly Treasurer Report as of 9/30.
- Interest rates are down. This is good when looking at our bond refinancing, not so good when looking at CD interest rates.

Interim City Superintendent Report –

- Columbus Day projects went smoothly.
- Crews installed Butterball digital water meter last week.
- Ordered ball features for Reeves, Lions and City Parks.
- Crews trimming trees, cleaning ditches and painting at the cemetery.

City Clerk Report –

- LKM Regional Suppers scheduled for November. These are a good opportunity to network with other city officials, meet state representatives and learn about upcoming legislative topics. City will cover registration cost for council/staff. Contact me if you would like more information.
- Candidate forum 6 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building. This is an opportunity to meet and gather more information about the candidates running for office in the November election.
- City staff will be participating in the Halloween Safe Walk again this year. Event will be on Pine Street on the South side of the courthouse square starting at 5:30 p.m. 4-H livestock barns will be used in case of rain.

Police Chief Report –

- Staff worked Columbus Day events and football Homecoming without incident. Thank you to public works staff for their help.
- Department is investigating several criminal acts that came about this weekend.
- Presentation by Code Enforcement Officer Holt planned for tonight is on hold, we are still working on some of the material with the City Administrator and City Attorney, hope to have it ready by the next council meeting.

Fire Chief Report-

Lead Driver Steven Burton representing the department.

- 218 calls to date.
- Working with Officer Holt on the Maple Street property involved in a recent fire.
- Staff has worked 23 fire prevention events at area schools and daycares.
- Have been asked to have the Ladder Truck and Flag at the October 31 football game. Staff will be at the Halloween Safe Walk then head over to the football game.

City Attorney Report –

- Will address items under old/new business.

Mayor reminded council members to consider future revenue for economic development fund.

Council member Jan Houser spoke to those present about proposed plans for a bike/skate facility for Reeves Park. She has been working with representatives of American Ramp Company out of Joplin, Missouri on ideas. Houser noted monetary and in kind donations are in place to provide a pump track, freestanding musical and other features in the park.

WAIVE BID REQUIREMENT

Burton moved to waive bid requirement for the bike/skate project at Reeves Park. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

BUILD SKATE/BIKE PARK

Houser moved to build a skate/bike park at Reeves Park with donations received and City contribution not to exceed \$20,000 to be paid out of park improvement reserves. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 8-0.

Old Business –

- 2. Consider Ordinance 1452 by the City Council of the City of Columbus, Kansas amending Ordinance Number 1444 which adopted the “Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities” Edition 2019, to Correct A Typographical Error.** City Attorney Barbara Wright explained this Ordinance is necessary to correct a typographical error in the UPOC. Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1452 amending Ordinance Number 1444 which adopted the “Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities” Edition 2019, correcting a typographical error. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

3. ***Consider Resolution 578 declaring the Eligibility of the City of Columbus to Submit an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for Use of the Transportation Alternatives Program Funds Set Forth by Map-21 for the Columbus Safe Routes to School Phase 1 Project in Columbus, KS and Authorizing the Mayor, Grant Spieth to sign this application.*** Opela moved to adopt Resolution 578 declaring the eligibility of the City of Columbus to submit an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for use of the Transportation Alternatives Program Funds set forth by Map-21 for the Columbus Safe Routes to School Phase 1 project in Columbus, KS and authorizing the Mayor, Gant Spieth, to sign this application. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

4. ***Consider approval of supplemental agreement to include Construction Observation and Inspection Services for High School Street project.*** Houser moved to approve supplemental agreement to include Construction Observation and Inspection Services for High School Street project with PEC. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business –

1. ***Consider Charter Ordinance 1449 Eliminating Primary Elections of City Officers.*** City Attorney Barbara Wright noted this would allow the City to opt out of the primary election process as discussed at the last council meeting. Houser moved to approve Charter Ordinance 1449 eliminating primary elections of City Officers. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

(The Mayor being part of the ‘governing body’ has an original vote on charter ordinances and may not veto a charter ordinance. *LKM Governing Body Handbook 19th Edition page 62.*)

2. ***Consider Charter Ordinance 1451 Concerning the Commencement of Terms of Office of the Governing Body of the City of Columbus, Kansas, and Establishing That the Oath or Affirmation be Taken and Subscribed Before Entering Upon the Duties of Office.*** City Attorney Wright noted this is an opportunity to change the transition of newly elected officers. Statute calls for newly elected officers take office the second Tuesday in January. Columbus Council meetings are the first and third Mondays of the month. This charter ordinance would allow new officers to take the oath of office in the period following the second council meeting in December to December 31. Houser moved to approve Charter Ordinance 1451 as presented. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Opela called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 7:50 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney – client relationship to discuss accounts payable with the Governing Body, City Attorney and the City Clerk in attendance. Meeting to reconvene in the council chambers at 8:05 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION 8:05 P.M.

PAY ELECTION INVOICE

Houser moved to approve payment of the Cherokee County special election invoice in the amount of \$10,490.32 to be paid out of the legislative budget. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: Brassart, Opela. Motion carried 6-2.

ADJOURNMENT

Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Dunlap, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Personnel

Thursday October 24, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk