

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 2019
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 16, 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, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Steve Dunlap, Alvin Patterson.

Jay Evans of Center Christian Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of September 3, 2019 Council Meeting minutes and Appropriation Ordinance 19-499 as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

VISITOR – ANITA DEVOLT POW/MIA WATCHFIRE

Anita Davolt representing the members and auxiliaries of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) informed the council of the upcoming annual Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Watchfire. The Watchfire is in remembrance and honor of POW/MIA Military Men and Women. There will also be a flag retiring ceremony. Davolt asked the council to allow the Watchfire to be held at the VFW pond and to waive the camping fees September 21-22.

ALLOW POW/MIA WATCHFIRE

Houser moved to allow the annual POW/MIA Watchfire to be held at the VFW Pond September 21 and to waive the camping fees for the participants of the event for September 21-22. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Report –

- Presented Sean Gilmore as appointment for vacant Ward 2 Council Seat.

WARD 2 COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – SEAN GILMORE

Opela moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Sean Gilmore to the vacant Ward 2 Council seat. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 7-0.

City Clerk Cheri Chancellor administered the Oath of Office and Ms. Gilmore took her seat with the Governing Body.

-Presented appointment of Trevor Allen to the Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Spieth noted this appointment comes at the recommendation of the Volunteer Fire Department.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER – TREVOR ALLEN

Houser moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Trevor Allen as a Volunteer Firefighter. Brassart seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Farstvedt, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Abstain: Gilmore. Motion carried 6-1-1.

City Administrator Report-

- Rivas informed of a community workday at Reeves Park Tuesday October 1 and Wednesday October 2. Volunteers will be giving the park a cleanup and facelift. More information is on the website and City Facebook page.
- Mandatory diversity training for all full time City staff Monday, September 23. Class is open to council members, reserve police officers and volunteer fire department as well. Sessions will be in the council chamber at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Resolution for CDBG project/application will be presented at the next council meeting.
- KDOT funding opportunity October 19 deadline.
- October 1 City Hall cleaning detail will revert back to the fire department as we have ended our agreement with Helping Hands for the cleaning of City facilities. Process will be examined to see how to move forward with this in the coming year.
- Rivas provided review of the City's Reserve Funds.

City Treasurer Report –

- No Treasurer Report in the council packets.
- \$4.4 million cash balance.
- \$1 million CD invested with KMIP.
- Remaining funds are earning 1.75% interest.

Interim City Superintendent Report

- Thanked council for approving employee boot purchase. Public works employees received boots and tee shirts.
- Fall cleanup 9/23 – 10/4.
- Hedge row behind Sunset Circle cleaned up by Liberty Empire Utilities.
- Staff put together new playground equipment in Reeves Park. Volunteers will finish out project October 1-2 spreading mulch under the equipment.
- Crews will be in town inspecting the water tower 9/19- 9/20.
- Staff continuing to spray for mosquitos. Ordered 2 more barrels of chemical at \$4,200.
- Liberty Utilities has finished with the painting of the downtown light poles. City staff has finished painting and installing the brackets for flags, etc.
- Water burnout complete.
- September 26 Farmer's Market on the City square.
- Tree stumps in the Cemetery and City Park will be removed next week weather permitting. Contractor has been delayed because of the rain.
- Cherokee County Health Department would like to close Walnut Street from Kansas to Indiana for their annual drive thru flu clinic October 2.

CLOSE STREET FOR FLU CLINIC

Opela moved to close Walnut Street from Kansas to Indiana, Wednesday, October 2, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to allow Cherokee County Health Department to conduct a drive through flu clinic. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

- Crews have been mowing weed notice property as needed/instructed by the Police Department.
- Bridge repaired on the 900 block of West Elm.
- Repaired two water leaks.
- Preparing for Columbus Day Activities.
- Trash pickup will be two hours late Monday, September 23 due to the diversity training.
- Crews cleaned debris from City Park tennis courts.

City Clerk Report –

-League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) Regional Suppers will be coming up soon. Good opportunity for legislative update and to network with other area city governing bodies and staff. Will have more information in the next several weeks.

Police Chief Report –

- 518 West Oak update. Property owner was given 60-day extension at the July 15 condemnation hearing. I have confirmation B-3 has been hired by the owner to demo the structure.
- Photographs in your packet showing positive impact of adopting the IPMC and utilizing code enforcement to clean up property.
- It has been requested to close Maple Street from Titan Alley to Vermont Street during home varsity football games. School personnel are in favor of the practice with council approval.

CLOSE MAPLE STREET

Houser moved to close Maple Street from Titan Alley to Vermont Street during varsity home football games. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

-Discussed parking at Eddington Park during Saturday soccer games. Police Chief Daniels agreed to have officer at 20th and Crossland Lane for the next few Saturdays to reroute traffic and encourage Maple street entrance.

Fire Chief Report-

- Lead Driver Steven Burton in attendance for the department.
- Department has logged 190 emergency calls to date.
- Provided structure fire report through 9/13 to department heads and City Administrator.
- Open House Wednesday September 25 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Staff will be painting fire hydrants this week, plan to have those around square completed by Columbus Day weekend.
- Emergency preparedness month. EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home)

City Attorney Report –

-Will address ordinance under old business.

DISC GOLF

Houser moved to approve disc golf course project as presented not to exceed \$5,000 to be paid out of special parks fund upon written consent from the American Legion and the Fair Board. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Old Business –

- 1. Consider Ordinance 1448 repealing Craw Kan Ordinance 1438.** City Attorney Wright informed this ordinance reflects necessary change to our relationship with Craw Kan Telephone based on statute revision. Now the City is limited to actual expenses of reimbursement in conjunction with Craw Kan having service lines going through the City to service their customers. In the past the City was able to collect a flat fee (\$1,000) each year, now we are limited to actual cost. Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1448 repealing Craw Kan Ordinance 1438. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 2. Consider payment of special election invoice.** City Administrator Rivas presented the invoice covering the cost of the special election. She explained the cost exceeds the amount budgeted for 2019. Rivas asked for direction whether to pay this out of reserve funds or absorb through 2019 general fund. Houser moved to pay special election invoice with \$4,000 coming from the legislative budget and remainder out of legislative reserves. Burton seconded the motion. Motion and second were withdrawn before the vote.

New Business –

- 1. Consider purchase of new sanitation vehicle to be paid out of sanitation reserves.** City Administrator Rivas noted bid results were accidentally omitted from the council packet. Information will be included for the next council meeting and bidders will be advised of the delay.
- 2. Consider approval for Cherokee Rural Water District #3 to dig under City road.** Interim City Superintendent advised Rural Water District #3 would like to run line under driveway of our sewer lagoons to save having to go through the process of gaining state access. This road is an alternate route and seldom used. Attorney Shumake is handling paperwork for the Rural Water District. Burton moved to allow Rural Water District #3 to run water line underneath our roadway at the lagoon. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Burton called for a fifteen-minute executive session at 7:59 p.m. for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship to discuss potential litigation with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and Interim City Superintendent in attendance. Meeting to reconvene in the council chambers at 8:14 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

8:14 P.M.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:
Personnel
Tuesday 9/17/2019 @ 4:00 p.m.
Property/Pool/Parks
Monday 9/23/2019 @ 4:30 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk