

ITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
July 06, 2020  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met July 06, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Sammye Opela and Tom Pryor. Council members absent: John Brassart and Nate Long.

Pastor Alan McCamey of Camp Joy Ministries led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of June 15, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 20-521, June 2020 Personnel Report and resignation from Parks Laborer Garrett Crozier as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**VISITOR – LAURA LOWERY- GREENE/CHAMBER THANK YOU**

Laura Lowery Greene representing the Columbus Chamber of Commerce thanked the council and city staff for their participation and efforts in the Fourth of July fireworks display.

**Mayor Report –**

-Appointment of Matt Ross, Becky Perdue, Jennifer Thompson, Bryce Buergin and Wes Houser as the Columbus Landbank Board of Trustees.

**LANDBANK BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Houser moved to approve the Mayor's appointments of Matt Ross, Becky Perdue, Jennifer Thompson, Bryce Buergin and Wes Houser to the Columbus Landbank Board of Trustees. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried -0.

Rivas will be sending email to Land Bank Board to set meeting date.

-Appointment of Jarrett Lawrence to Volunteer Fire Department.

**VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER – JARRETT LAWRENCE**

Houser moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jarrett Lawrence as a Volunteer Fire Fighter. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 7-1.

Mr. William Farmer approached the council with several concerns regarding fire response timeliness and communication with staff. Mayor Spieth requested he contact the City administrator with any issues and she would follow-up directly.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the condemnation hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Spieth asked if anyone would like to speak on behalf of 310 North Indiana. No one stepped forward on behalf of the property. Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt noted there has been no progress on cleanup of the property to date.

**PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 310 NORTH INDIANA**

Burton moved to proceed with cleanup of property at 310 North Indiana. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor closed the condemnation hearing at 6:52 p.m. and reopened the regular council meeting.

**City Administrator Report-**

-Report in council packet.

**City Treasurer Report**

-Report in the council packet.

**City Clerk Report –**

-Memo in council packet.

-Virtual LKM Governing Body Institute this year. Contact the office by noon Friday July 17 if you would like to attend.

**Police Chief Report –**

-One of the department vehicles is out of commission. 2014 Ford Taurus is with the Mechanic – may be rack and pinion problem could be approximately \$1,500 to repair.

**Fire Chief Report –**

-Department responded to 14 calls since the last council meeting, five of them this weekend.

-Department received \$8,000 wild land grant and will be ordering equipment with those funds.

**City Attorney Report –**

-None.

City Administrator provided overview of proposed 2021 City budget. She noted the mill levy did not increase.

**SET 2021 BUDGET HEARING**

Pryor moved to set the 2021 City budget hearing for July 20 at 6:45 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Property committee thanked City staff and Council for their participation in Ian's Place dedication. Mayor Spieth also thanked those who made monetary contributions and those who volunteered many hours to bring this about.

Rivas noted the City pool is averaging 35 people per session. Houser noted poison hemlock in the proposed disc golf expansion area still needs to be sprayed before moving forward with the project.

Rivas announced the sanitation poly carts and new truck are expected at the end of the month. Poly cart program guidelines are listed under old business tonight for council consideration.

#### **Old Business –**

1. ***Consider Ordinance 1467 adding three-year (alternating) terms and vacancies on the board (filled by appointment for the vacant unexpired term) into Land Bank Ordinance 1457- section 2 and adding land bank staff attorney as supporting staff into Land Bank Ordinance 1457 – section 3.*** Mayor Spieth noted this will add terms to the board appointments and allow consultation with the City Attorney. Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1467 updating Land Bank terms and staffing. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
2. ***Consider Resolution 587 setting condemnation hearing date for structure located at 533 West Country Road.*** Houser moved to adopt Resolution 587 setting a condemnation hearing date for 533 West Country Road. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
3. ***Consider Resolution 588 setting condemnation hearing date for structure located at 415 South Indiana Avenue.*** Opela moved to adopt Resolution 588 setting a condemnation hearing date for 415 South Indiana. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
4. ***Consider Resolution 589 setting condemnation hearing date for structure located at 419 South Delaware.*** Burton moved to adopt Resolution 589 setting a condemnation hearing date for 419 South Delaware. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
5. ***Consider Resolution 590 setting condemnation hearing date for structure located at 302 North Kansas Avenue.*** Burton moved to adopt Resolution 590 setting a condemnation hearing date for 302 North Kansas. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
6. ***Consider sanitation poly cart guidelines.*** Houser moved to approve poly cart program and brochure as amended. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **New Business -**

1. ***Consider Ordinance 1468 adopting and enacting the new Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbus, Kansas.*** Rivas noted once this ordinance is approved and published, we will provide a digital link to the new code. The digital version will be updated as ordinances are approved by council and set to Municode. A few hard copies of the Code

are available; contact the City Clerk if you would like one. Current City Code books should be returned to the City Clerk. Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1468 adopting and enacting the new Code of Ordinances for the City of Columbus, Kansas. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

2. ***Consider Resolution 591 regarding dangerous dead or diseased tree located at 530 South Indiana.*** Code Enforcement Officer Holt informed council this tree has been severely damaged by attempts to cut the tree down. Holt issued a stop order to the resident who was attempting to fall the tree with a hammer and chisel. There were concerns due to the size and location of the tree of how/where the tree would land. Resident has not contacted tree service to finish taking down the tree. K- State Extension Agent was asked to assess the situation and has advised he does not feel the tree can survive the damage inflicted and should be removed. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 591 regarding dangerous, dead or diseased tree located at 530 South Indiana. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
3. ***Consider approval of Blue Cross Blue Shield Pathways Grant Agreement.*** Administrator Rivas explained the grant, funding and new position requirements. She mentioned the positive impact this position will have for our City and in our community and will be coming to the next council meeting with a job description to fill the new grant coordinator position. Houser moved to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield Pathways agreement. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting, aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
4. ***Consider Resolution 592 adopting face mask policy for City employees and facilities.*** Rivas explained her memorandum the recommendation to require face masks for staff not able to socially distance. The requirements follow Governor Kelly's executive order that was published on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 requiring facemasks in buildings. She mentioned the County earlier in the day had voted against requiring them. Pryor moved to adopt Resolution 592 providing a face mask policy for City employees and facilities. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton, Houser, Opela. Mayor Spieth broke the tie with an aye vote. Motion carried 5-4.
5. ***Consider Resolution 593 closing City Hall to walk in traffic.*** City Administrator Rivas requested that City Hall be closed to walk in traffic once again. The increase in COVID local cases and the mandate for masks which was not a county wide mandate anymore but would be difficult to enforce if City decided to require all walk in traffic to wear a mask, that the alternative would be to limit city business to the drive thru. She mentioned this would be reassessed at the next Council meeting. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 593 closing City Hall to walk in traffic. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

**Meetings:**  
**None**

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*