

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 4, 2020  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met May 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Connie Bennett, John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Jan Houser and Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom conference call/video: Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Nate Long and Sammye Opela. Council member absent: None.

Gary Yurk representing Sherwin Christian Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Grant Spieth read a proclamation recognizing May 3 – May 9, 2020 as Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 20-517 and the April 2020 Personnel Report as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Mayor Spieth noted a request has been made to allow chickens within the City limits on property not currently approved by City Code. Matter was referred to Police and License Committee for review.

**City Administrator Report-**

- Thank you to City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk for the hours of dedication to the City.
- Photo opportunity listed in your council packets for 5/18 is being rescheduled again and new information will be sent out.
- Employee appreciation luncheons with City staff will be rescheduled as well. Social gathering size continues to be limited for a bit longer in Governor Kelly's reopening the State plan. New dates will be distributed to all.
- The City received a dividend check from our property and liability insurance carrier EMC.
- Connecting Link site visit tomorrow. This is for a section of North East Avenue.
- March sales tax collection down but not as much as first expected.

**City Treasurer Report –**

- None at this time.

**City Superintendent Report –**

- Report in council packet.

**City Clerk Report –**

- Thank for you to all for the proclamation and kind words.
- New dates for employee lunches in the council packets.

**Police Chief Report –**

-Nothing at this time.

### **Fire Chief Report –**

-83 runs to date.

-Awarded \$2,000 Frontier Farm Credit grant. Funds will be used for small equipment on the new fire trucks.

-Working the ventilation system company on design and installation for the system approved at the last council meeting.

-Working on fire occupancy ratings for all of the City facilities. Signage will be ordered and installed in the coming weeks.

-KU training for the month cancelled.

### **City Attorney Report –**

-County Health Department will be following the guidelines of the Governors Executive Order. They do not feel the County needs to be more restrictive than the State Order at this time.

-Suggested reviewing current ordinances dealing with chickens and livestock when considering request for chickens.

### **Old Business –**

1. **Discuss 2020 City overlay project.** City Administrator Rivas noted Teeter Asphalt has informed the City they are ready to proceed with our overlay project as early as this coming Monday. I had hoped for a longer delay to see how City revenues are impacted by the COVID matter. Rivas mention we have several options to consider:

- a) Proceed with project as planned – make up any shortfall from street reserves and finance more of the High School Street project.
- b) Discontinue overlay project.
- c) Do smaller overlay project.

Houser moved to postpone 2020 overlay project and carryover fund to future project.

Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton. Motion carried 8-2.

### **New Business –**

1. **Discuss Governor's reopening plan.** Mayor Spieth noted Governor Kelly's Ad Astra plan was in your council packet. Ms. Rivas gave overview of City's reopening plan in conjunction with Governor Kelly's directive.
  - a) Playground equipment – take down barricades 5/5 and disinfect twice a week.
  - b) Pool – tentative open 6/1 when gathering limit will increase to 90 with practicing of social distancing.
  - c) City Hall – did not open to the public today, would like to remain closed to foot traffic until 5/11 to allow time for protective shield to arrive. We are still able to contact through the drive-up window and by telephone.
  - d) Police Department – VIN inspections resumed today.
  - e) Court is scheduled to begin 6/8 in the council chambers possibly adding additional dates to allow for social distancing.
  - f) Community Building – Plan to start taking reservations for dates of 5/18 and later for gatherings of 30 or less.
  - g) Staffing – all departments have returned to regular work schedules; we have ordered additional PPE and are disinfecting accordingly.
  - h) Council meeting – resume regular schedule 5/18 practicing social distancing.

All of these provisions are contingent on the phases continue to progress as planned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Houser moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

**Meetings:**

**Property/Pool/Parks**

Monday May 11, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.

**Sanitation**

Monday May 11, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Personnel**

Tuesday May 12, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Water/Sewer**

Wednesday May 13, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Streets/Alleys/Bridges**

Wednesday May 13, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Police and License**

Tuesday May 19, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Fire**

Tuesday May 19, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Cemetery**

Thursday May 21, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.

**Economic Development**

Thursday May 21, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*