

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 20, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met July 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. by zoom presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Nate Lone, Sammye Opela and Tom Pryor. Council members absent: Connie Bennett, John Brassart.

Council member Jan Houser led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Report –

- Mayor Spieth noted City Hall has been closed for the past two weeks; City Hall employees were quarantined when staff members tested positive for COVID 19. City Administrator Rivas and I have discussed safety measures for facilities going forward.
- Cherokee County Fair begins this week, be safe.

City Administrator Report-

- Thank you to department heads for holding down the fort while we were out of the office.
- Columbus was selected for a 2022 Connecting Link Improvement Grant for the section of US-69 from Maple Street to the north City limits. The City's portion of the project will be \$10-\$15K which we will include in the 2022 budget. Engineering will begin next year.
- The link for the City's new code was included in your council packet.
- Work continues on a job description for the position to manage the BCBS Pathways grant.
- City Park basketball court near completion.

City Treasurer Report

- Report in the council packet.

City Clerk Report –

- Fair begins tomorrow.
- Chamber Third Thursday coffee will be at the Fair Board Office July 23 at 8 a.m.
- Staff is back in the office and utilizing phones and drive thru window for customer service.

Police Chief Report –

- The City Mechanic has the department 2014 Taurus back on the road, actual repair cost was less than half of the original estimate.
- Working with the Cherokee County Sheriff office to be able to submit reports digitally.
- Modified duties at the County Fair this year. Staff will patrol and report when needed but will not be manning a table at the event.

Fire Chief Report –

- 126 calls year to date, 10 since the last council meeting.
- Department assisted with the Oswego storm damage cleanup 7/11.

- Fire bay ventilation system installation has been pushed to August due to the pandemic.
- Department applied for a \$2,000 grant from Farm Credit Services of America / Frontier Farm Credit. and were awarded the grant. Funds from this grant and a donation from the Columbus Farmer's Co-op will be used to purchase Grain rescue equipment to be put into service on the 75' ladder truck. This will allow Fire to have the equipment needed, to safely respond and assist in rescuing a trapped victim within a grain bin or truck.
- Department will have ladder truck at the fair, staff will not be on site unless needed.
- Mike Carpino Ford donated to a smoke detector give away being put together by the department.
- Next week could be a high fire hazard week if we do not get any rain. Looking at possible burn ban in August if it stays dry.

City Attorney Report –

-None.

POOL HOURS

Houser moved to close the City swimming pool at 5:00 each evening during fair week. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Dale Helwig and Christina Holmes, K State Research and Extension Agents, spoke to the group about Cherokee County SPARKS funding and possibility to recoup COVID – 19 related expenses. Deadline is August 5 for paperwork to be turned in to the Extension Office.

Old Business –

1. **Discussion: opening City Hall.** City Administrator Daniela Rivas noted the drive through window at City Hall is open for business. Staff are handling all aspects of customer service through the window or over the phone. Rivas suggests leaving City Hall closed to walk in traffic and re-evaluate the situation at the next council meeting.

Council discussed in person session for the August 3 council meeting. Decision will be made closer to the event and information will be included in the next council packet.

New Business –

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

Streets/Alleys/Bridges

Tuesday July 28, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

Economic Development

Wednesday July 29, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk