

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 3, 2020

6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met August 03, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom: Sean Gilmore. Council members absent: John Brassart, Nate Long.

Paul Cook of Bethel Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the budget hearing at 6:35 p.m. Spieth asked if anyone wished to speak in regard to the 2021 budget. No one came forward. Spieth asked if council had any questions. Seeing none, he asked for motion to approve.

**APPROVE 2021 CITY BUDGET**

Pryor moved to approve 2021 City budget as presented. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Spieth closed the budget hearing at 6:37 p.m. and opened the regular council meeting.

**VISITOR – JACOB JARRETT**

Police Chief Jason Daniels noted Mr. Jarrett contacted him and is no longer requesting approval to bring a mobile home into the City.

**VISITOR – JEAN PRITCHETT**

Columbus Chamber of Commerce Director Jean Pritchett gave an update for the Columbus Day and Hot Air Balloon Regatta scheduled for October 9-11, 2021. She noted the Chamber is planning and looking forward to holding the events. Pritchett informed there was a nice write up about Columbus and the events in the quarterly *Kansas* magazine. The Chamber has also advertised in the *Southeast Kansas Day Trips and Adventures*. She advised a group is needed to oversee the Kid's Corner and activities for the Columbus Day event.

**Mayor Report –**

-Nothing at this time.

**City Administrator Report-**

-Report in your council packet shows sales tax receipts are up about 5% which is better than what we had anticipated earlier in the year.

-Gas tax is down about 5% for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. If we decide to do street work this year and receipts continue to decline, we will need to adjust our \$200,000 street capital budget.

-Water leak at High School and Maple Street intersection is scheduled for repair this week.

-A line break in the clearwell while removing a pump scheduled for repair caused a drop in water pressure last Tuesday 7/28 to residents in the north and west part of town. Staff were able to get the line repaired and bring pressure back up without a need for a boil order.

-City standpipe, there is a bid to perform a full metal and structural analysis later in the meeting to determine the cause of water leaks.

-City pool will close Saturday, August 15. Dr. Brian Smith, USD 493 Superintendent informed City staff that the school has decided against using the pool for physical education classed this year.

### **City Treasurer Report**

-Report in your council packet. Cash balances remain strong right now.

### **City Clerk Report –**

-For Your Information report in your council packet.

### **Police Chief Report –**

- Justin Butler has been hired as a Police Officer for the City and will begin duties on Monday, August 10. Butler has 4 years of experience with the Baxter Springs Police Department.

-Dr. Gregory inspected dog pound and has made recommendations

-Fair week went well, no major issues.

-Officer training on digital reporting. The State is moving to a digital reporting system, City officers will be ready when the requirement is implemented.

-City Park vandalism over the weekend. Video footage has been posted on our FaceBook page and information sent to the local newspaper, we are asking for the public to contact the department with any information.

### **Fire Chief Report –**

-141 runs to date, 15 since the last council meeting.

-New engine in the shop for warranty fuel service and air conditioning work.

-Ventilation system installation for the fire bay still planned for later this month. Slight modifications to the plans include spring loaded wall mount system providing a cost savings of about \$3,000 for the department.

-Ladder truck still in Springfield, no interest in the unit to date. Looking at trade opportunities to present to the fire committee.

-Crews working on controlled burn at the disc golf course expansion area. Will evaluate and report progress.

-Hydrant test planning for Ward 5.

### **City Attorney Report –**

-Resolutions and Ordinances coming up under old and new business sections.

Ms. Rivas noted newly appointed Land Bank Board met and is working on budget and policy guidelines to present to council.

**CITY CLERK – FLSA SALARY EXEMPT POSTION**

Opela moved to relocate city clerk position to pay range 15 and change pay rate from an hourly to a FLSA exempt salaried status effective August 3, 2020. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton. Motion carried 6-2.

**Old Business –**

1. ***Consider bid from McGuire Iron, Inc. in the amount of \$9,000 to perform a full metal and structural analysis to be paid from the 2020 City Budget – Water Fund.*** Houser moved to approve McGuire Iron, Inc. bid of \$9,000 to perform a full metal and structural analysis to be paid from the 2020 City Budget – Water Fund. Burton seconded the motion. Mayor noted and Ms. Rivas confirmed this is only an inspection to investigate leaks and stability and does not cover repair. Opela asked if standpipe is needed or could be done away with. Rivas informed City Superintendent advised we need standpipe for water backup and pressure reasons. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
2. ***Discussion: 2021 council Structure.*** Administrator Rivas noted this is a continuation from an earlier discussion. Rivas made recommendation for council’s input and decision sooner than later so that the City attorney can begin working on the City ordinance for the restructure. One of two options voiced previously regrouped committees considering the smaller council number. A second option called for a work session in between council meeting weeks to discuss business. A third option was offered that all business be conducted at council meetings. Mayor Spieth noted Council responsibility is planning, administration is to handle the day to day business. He asked council members think on this for more discussion at the August 17 council meeting.
3. ***Consider Resolution 595 authorizing cleanup of property at 310 North Indiana.*** Opela moved to adopt Resolution 595 authorizing cleanup of property located at 310 North Indiana. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
4. ***Consider Ordinance 1469 updating Code to include Sanitation cart program and fees.*** Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1469 updating City Code to include Sanitation cart program and fees. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

It was agreed that sanitation cart damage/loss would be addressed on a case by case basis by administration staff with consideration of police report.

**New Business -**

1. ***Consider Spark Resolution 594.*** City Attorney Wright explained this resolution is necessary for the City to be eligible to apply for Spark funding from the county. This funding is part of the federal CARES act distributed by the State to the county level. This resolution assures the City will make an honest application for funds. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 594

regarding Spark funding. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

2. ***Consider approval of Community Development Coordinator job description*** City Administrator Rivas noted this position will oversee the BCBS Pathways grant. This position has been posted and will be filled fairly quickly due to the grant requirements and trainings. Opela moved to approve the Community Development Coordinator job description as presented. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
3. ***Consider subsidizing water t the American Legion through August 1, 2021.*** Administrator Rivas noted a memo in council packets speaks to the request from the Legion for assistance with their water bill. Houser moved to subsidize base water charges for the American Legion Post Home for bills due August 2020 through December 2021. Burton 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 8:16 p.m. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **Meetings:**

##### **Property/Pool/Parks**

**Tuesday August 4, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.**

##### **Personnel**

**Wednesday August 45, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.**

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*