

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 8, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Sean Gilmore, Jan Houser, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom: None. Council members absent: Connie Bennett and Nate Long.

Curt Zahm representing Center Christian Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of revised August 03, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, August 17, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 20-524, August 2020 Personnel Report and resignation of Utility Technician, Brian Vance as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Report –

-If there are no objections, I have been asked to move New Business #5 up on the agenda.

Consider request from Columbus Land Bank for funding of 2020/2021 Land Bank Budget in the amount of \$50,000. Bryce Buerger, Land Bank Board Member, spoke to the council about the purpose of the Landbank highlighting returning property to the tax rolls. City Administrator Daniela Rivas noted this funding will jump start the program with a goal to eventually be self-sufficient.

Houser moved to approve \$50,000 seed funding for the Columbus Land Bank to be paid out of economic development and approve the Landbank 2020/2021 budget. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

City Administrator Report-

- Report in your council packet.

-Trash carts are expected to be here Friday with the truck being delivered in the next several weeks.

-Received information today the City was awarded \$138,000 in SPARK funding.

-Website rollout in the coming weeks. Admin staff are working out the kinks in the credit card payment portion of the site.

-Introduction and welcome to new Community Development Coordinator Jake Letner.

City Treasurer Report

-Quarterly report and Cash Balance report for August 2020.

- Cash balances are solid.

-Very little if any interest revenue for the next several years.

City Clerk Report –

- For Your Information report in your council packet contains virtual LKM conference information. Contact me if you would like to register.
- Census countdown.
- Out of the office next week for vacation. Contact Assistant City Clerk Erin Williams if you need assistance.

Community Development Coordinator –

- Thankful for the opportunity to be back in the area.
- Getting acquainted with staff and community.
- Have a lot of ideas for the BCBS Pathways Grant and more, will have report for next council meeting.

Police Chief Report –

- Police Chief on vacation/Lieutenant unable to attend.

Fire Chief Report –

- 23 runs since last council meeting.
- Fire hydrant painting will begin 9/15.
- Working on schedule for hydrant testing in Ward 5.
- Explanation of Light and Air Truck approved by SPARK funding and how it will assist the department. Truck will be equipped with compressor and lighting to aid visibility. Air bottles will be on the unit, enabling air tanks to be refilled on scene. Rehab and decontamination section that will permit firefighters to be evaluated before going back on duty and equipment cleaning and sanitization capabilities on site.

Discussion of whether or not SPARK expenditures need council approval before purchase.

SPARK PURCHASES

Houser moved to allow City Administrator to approve and purchase items with SPARKS funds as allocated by the SPARKS award confirmation. Brassart seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton, Opela. Motion carried 6-2.

City Attorney Report –

- None.

PUBLIC WORKS RESTRUCTURE

Opela moved to approve restructure of the Public Works Department to provide for a Utilities Division and Director and a Property & Parks Division and Director as presented. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton, Doherty. Motion carried 6-2.

It was noted the hope is the Public Works restructure will provide an opportunity to develop departments and leadership that will bring about more efficient workers and department.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Opela moved to approve Parks Groundskeeper, Property & Parks Director and Utilities Director job descriptions as presented. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 7-1.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Brassart moved to allow municipal court to utilize community service to work off fines and court costs. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

CHIP/SEAL STREETS – BAILY’S ASPHALT

Gilmore moved to accept bid from Bailey’s Asphalt to chip and seal the following streets: 700-800 block of E. Lake, 600 block of N. Magnolia, and 600 block of E. Mill not to exceed \$23,000 to be paid from the 2020 General Fund – Streets budget. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Alley definition, use and paving were discussed. City Attorney noted monitoring alley traffic is difficult to regulate and enforce. It was agreed to defer the matter to the Street committee and ask the Chief of Police to attend.

Old Business –

1. ***Consider Ordinance 1472 amending council committee structure.*** Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1472 amending council committee structure. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 7-1.
2. ***Consider Resolution 596 approving 45-day condemnation extension for property at 415 South Indiana.*** Doherty moved to adopt Resolution 596 approving a 45-day condemnation extension for property at 415 South Indiana. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
3. ***Consider Resolution 597 approving demolition of property at 533 West Country Road.*** Burton moved to adopt Resolution 597 approving demolition of property at 533 West Country Road. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
4. ***Consider Resolution 598 approving demolition of property at 302 North Kansas.*** Farstvedt moved to adopt Resolution 598 approving demolition of property at 302 North Kansas. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
5. ***Consider Resolution 599 setting a condemnation hearing date for property at 419 South Delaware.*** Opela moved to adopt Resolution 599 setting a condemnation hearing date for property at 419 South Delaware. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

- 6. Consider renewal of Fire Department work out policy.** Houser moved to approve renewal of Fire Department work out policy as amended. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 7-1.

New Business –

- 1. Consider Ordinance 1470 adopting the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, Edition 2020.** Burton moved to approve Ordinance 1470 adopting the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, Edition 2020. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 2. Consider Ordinance 1471 adopting the Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities, Edition 2020.** Opela moved to approve Ordinance 1471 adopting the Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities, Edition 2020. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 3. Consider employee Advance life insurance benefit renewal for 2021.** Houser moved to renew employee Advance life insurance benefit for 2021. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.
- 4. Consider right of way easement for Rural Water District #3.** Ms. Rivas asked this postpone this discussion at this time.
- 5. Consider request from Columbus Land Bank for funding of 2020/2021 Land Bank Budget in the amount of \$50,000.** Addressed earlier in the meeting.
- 6. Discussion: Installation of resident requested streetlights.** Administrator Rivas noted Admin staff are working on a streetlight request process and forms for street committee review. In a general discussion, it was noted several previous streetlight requests have been reviewed and did not make it as far as a council motion and vote.
- 7. Consider Resolution 600 allowing for Fire Department EMS billing.** Fire Chief Steven Burton explained the fire department would submit bill to collection company when the department is the primary responder to a fire or accident. The collection company bills the insured's insurance company directly for services rendered. Burton noted this is a standard component of many insurance policies. Department intent is not to go after an individual directly. City Attorney Barbara Wright pointed out a conflict to the Resolution in the current City Code 16-27 that only allows the department to bill individuals who live outside the city limits. An ordinance to update the code can be available for the next council meeting if Resolution 600 is adopted tonight. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 600 allowing for Fire Department EMS billing. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Brassart, Doherty. Motion carried 6-2.

8. *Consider employee Social Security Tax deferral.* Doherty moved to opt out of the employee Social Security Tax deferral for the 4th quarter of 2020. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried. 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 8-0.

Meetings:

None

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk