

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
October 5, 2020  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met October 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Connie Bennett, John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammie Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom: Sean Gilmore. Council members absent: None.

Pastor Jim Thomas of First Baptist Church led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of September 8, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 20-526 and the September 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.

Condemnation review for property at 415 South Indiana. Owner Steven Beaty approached the council stating work is in progress on the property but not yet complete, he needs more time to finish. Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt provided photographs of the property, showing progress and recommended a six to eight-month extension to finish rehab of the building. Beaty commented his intention is to sell the property, he has not been successful with this so far. He would not commit to having work completed by the eight-month deadline. It was noted this property has been a work in progress and has not had utilities on the property for many years. It was noted it is not the City's intent to demolish and tear down houses, quite the opposite. The City goal is to restore houses and neighborhoods in hopes to increase value and interest in Columbus.

**CONDEMNATION EXTENSION – 415 SOUTH INIDINA**

Burton moved to approve an eight-month condemnation extension for 415 South Indiana to bring the exterior of the building up to code with a review at the June 21, 2021 council meeting. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore. Voting nay: Bennett, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Mayor Spieth broke the tie with a no vote. Motion failed 5-6.

**CONDEMNATION EXTENSION – 415 SOUTH INIDINA**

Burton moved to approve an eight-month condemnation extension for 415 South Indiana to bring the exterior and interior of the building up to code with a review at the June 21, 2021 council meeting. Brassart seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Farstvedt, Gilmore. Voting nay: Brassart, Doherty, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Motion failed 4-6.

**CONDEMNATION EXTENSION – 415 SOUTH INIDINA**

Doherty moved to approve a 30-day condemnation extension for 415 South Indiana to allow property owner time to consult with the Columbus Land Bank for possible remedy. It was advised property

owners have 30 days to seek remedy before the City acts on a condemned property. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Conversation on the topic was suspended to give the City Attorney opportunity to attend the meeting in person due to computer issue.

**Mayor Report –**

-Appointment of Austin Hosier as a Volunteer Firefighter.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER – AUSTIN HOSIER**

Opela moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Austin Hosier as a Volunteer Firefighter providing, he passes all pre-employment requirements. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 9-1.

**PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION – 415 SOUTH INDIANA**

Opela moved to proceed with condemnation and demolition of property at 415 South Indiana. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore. Mayor Spieth broke the tie with a no vote. Motion failed 5-6.

**CONDEMNATION EXTENSION – 415 SOUTH INIDINA**

Houser moved to approve a three-month condemnation extension for 415 South Indiana to bring the exterior of the building up to code with a review at the January 19, 2021 council meeting. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Bennett, Burton. Motion carried 8-2.

**City Administrator Report-**

- Report in your council packet.
- Staff members attending LKM annual virtual conference next week. We will be still be available by email.
- Photo opportunity October 18 at the City Park to showcase the recently revamped basketball court.
- Construction will begin in the coming days in the Police Department making new office areas.

**City Treasurer Report**

-Treasurer Report included in the council packet.

**City Clerk Report –**

-City wide clean up event sponsored by Columbus PRIDE is happening tomorrow. Look for opportunities on the City Facebook page or meet in front of the Community Building at 9 a.m. We will have trash bags, bring any tools you have that may be handy. The intent is to get the town spruced up for Columbus Day events this weekend.

**Community Development Coordinator –**

-Finalized KDOT cost share grant for \$438K for walking path around Eddington Park.

-Land Bank met virtually Monday 9/28 with Pittsburg Land Bank representative. We are looking to model the Pittsburg program and plan to meet with Cherokee County Commissioners soon regarding tax sale properties.

-Worked with Fire Chief Steven Burton on a Firehouse Sub grant for department AED equipment.

-Working on Land Bank donation information for new City website.

### **Police Chief Report –**

-Officers continue to monitor the intersection of High School Street and Country Road as well as other school routes and crossings. Jake is working with the school about the possibility of a volunteer crossing guard(s).

-Reviewing applications for the open Animal Control Officer position, interviews will begin in the next week or two.

Chief Daniels was asked about the possibility of adding crossing guard duties to the Animal Control Officer. Idea to be reviewed.

### **Fire Chief Report –**

- 14 calls since last council meeting,

- Staff participating in fire prevention training at area schools this week. Interacted with approximately 160 kids today at Park Elementary, we will be at Highland School on Wednesday.

-Will be active in the Columbus Day parade and activities this weekend.

-Finishing up the Fire Department fundraiser this weekend, stop by to purchase a chance.

Chief Burton was asked about the status of 322 West Walnut. A fire earlier in the year damaged the structure. Burton relayed that he believed the property sold since the fire and no work has begun on the property to date. It was questioned whether the City held insurance proceeds on the property. City Clerk will review and report back. It was noted if insurance proceeds are not being held it could be handled through code enforcement.

Another structure on West Oak Street west of Highland School was mentioned. It too was damaged by fire and has not been repaired. Code Enforcement Officer Holt stated he has been in contact with someone regarding this property.

-Department found a Light and Air rescue truck today that would meet the requirements of the SPARK grant opportunity and plan to examine and hopefully purchase later this week.

### **City Attorney Report –**

-None.

It was noted the Land Bank is funded and is moving forward. Liz Simpson through the Columbus Project is conducting a Columbus housing assessment that will be wrapping up next month. November 18 is the tentative date for a meeting to provide the study results.

Personnel Chair Sammye Opela covered guidelines for the City Administrator annual evaluation process and noted the importance of providing specific notes and recommendations. Evaluations are due at City Hall Monday 10/19 by noon.

## **DISC GOLF UPGRADES**

Houser moved to allow Columbus Disc Golf Club to relocate and install new disc golf baskets/tees to upgrade the course to 18 holes and install a 20' X 20" hazard feature to the course. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

Public Works facility design proposal from Arck Construction was discussed. No motion was made to proceed with the project at this time.

**Old Business –  
None.**

**New Business –  
None.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 10-0.

### **Meetings:**

#### ***Personnel***

Tuesday October 6, 2020 @ 3:15 p.m.

#### ***Water/Sewer***

Tuesday October 20, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

#### ***Economic Development***

Wednesday November 4, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

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*Cherri Chancellor City Clerk*