

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 2, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met November 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom: Sean Gilmore. Council members absent: Connie Bennett.

Girl Scout Anna Head led the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of October 5, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, October 19, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes, Appropriation Ordinance 20-528, October 2020 Personnel Report and resignation of Volunteer Firefighter Jeff Woods as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Spieth opened the condemnation hearing for 419 South Delaware and asked if anyone present would like to speak regarding the property. Seeing none, he asked for council input. Opela moved to proceed with condemnation process for structure located at 419 South Delaware. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 8-1.

Mayor Report –

- Recognized Girl Scout Troup 70363 in attendance and noted they are working toward a democracy badge. Anna Head posed questions to council members including:
 - Why did you choose to run for office?
 - Why is it important for women to be on the council?
 - What do you believe is the biggest challenge faced by the council?
 - What do you think if the biggest issue for the City?

Many responses centered around a love of the town, wanting to promote and provide for the needs of the residents and future growth of the City.

City Administrator Report-

- Year end report will be presented next meeting.
- Official welcome to new Property & Parks Director Randy Coble.
- Public Works Foreman will be covering the Clear well report later in the meeting.
- Jason with BG Consultants here in support of the Safe Routes to School Plan being discussed later in the meeting. Liz Simpson and Dan Walters from the Columbus Recreation Commission are in the audience as well.

City Treasurer Report

- Working on the third quarter report.
- CD interest rates are falling. We will not be receiving much in the way of interest revenue in 2021.

City Clerk Report –

- Offices will be closed Wednesday 11/11 in observance of Veteran’s Day.
- In light of the shorter work week, anything to be included in the 11/16 council packet needs be turned in to the office by Tuesday 11/10.
- Electricians were in the office today moving electric outlets, getting ready for cabinet installation.
- Chamber has set the Christmas celebration and parade for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 2.
- Reminder to vote tomorrow.

Community Development Coordinator –

- Results of the cost share grant for Eddington Park sidewalk/trail will be in November 12.

Police Chief Report –

- Chief Daniels unable to attend the meeting.
- Rivas noted Gage Hudson has been hired as the new Animal Control Officer for the City.

Fire Chief Report –

- 267 calls for the year, 25 since the last council meeting.
- New light and air truck #23 in service. Have a few more items yet to arrive to have it completely equipped.
- Fire bay ventilation system parts in, working with Property & Park Director for possible installation by City staff.

Property & Parks Director Report –

- Thank you to everyone for your support.
- Working with Contractor Tim Vanatta on the office remodels.
- Reviewing applications for Property & Parks Laborer positions. Will be interviewing for these positions in the coming days.

City Foreman Report –

- Replaced pipe and pump in the clear well.
- Park restrooms closing for the season 11/16.
- Leaf pick up program begins 12/7. Will run two days in each ward just like city wide cleanup.
- Dragging ditches to help with waterflow.

City Attorney Report –

- Ordinance under New Business.

Committee Reports- Council member Kathy Doherty asked about the retro-fitting the older sanitation vehicle. Administrator Rivas mentioned we were holding off for two reasons. We have a meeting planned in December to review the outcome of the cart program (so far) and we were waiting for the hiring of the utility director. She also asked for an update on the street listing. Rivas mentioned the

street plan of action was passed on to Coble and we would be meeting as well again for his update in the coming weeks.

Old Business –

- 1. Consider Ordinance regarding Fire Rescue Billing.** Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1473 updating City Code to allow for Fire Department Rescue billing. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Abstain: Long. Motion carried 7-1-1.
- 2. Consider approval of Safe Routes To School master plan and Resolution.** Jason Hoskinson with BG consultants reported to council the Master plan he has composed for Safe Routes to school Phase 1 which was funded by a grant from KDOT-TA program. This plan can be submitted to KDOT for a Phase 2 grant application (option). Houser moved to adopt Resolution 601 allowing the City of Columbus to apply for KDOT Safe Routes to School funds Option 2 (which includes applying for funding for all work in Master plan except for central street updates and central and high school parking lot updates (apartments) and allow the Mayor to sign the application. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Jason Hoskinson requested the Safe Routes to School Master Plan be officially adopted as a requirement of applying for phase 2. Houser moved to approve Safe Routes to School Master Plan Phase 1. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

New Business –

- 1. Consider Blue Cross Blue Shield 2021 health/dental insurance renewal for City employees.** City Clerk Chancellor spoke to the BCBS memo in council packets showing 2021 renewal rates for employee medical and dental benefits. Chancellor noted 2021 combined renewal rates are up about 8-9%. City Administrator Rivas stated the 2021 City budget included a 12% increase. It was explained that employees are currently participating in a grandfathered insurance plan, providing low deductibles and co-insurance. Three additional coverage options were quoted. The package most similar to the current plan does not provide much, if any savings to the City and has higher deductibles and co-pays for employees. Opela moved to approve 2021 Blue Cross Blue Shield health/dental insurance renewal for City employees. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Farstvedt, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Meetings:

Economic Development

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

Water/Sewer

Thursday November 5, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.

Personnel

Thursday November 12, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.

Property/Pool/Parks

Thursday November 19, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk