

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 16, 2020
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met November 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members physically present: Connie Bennett, John Brassart, Jerri Burton, Kathy Doherty, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Sammye Opela, Tom Pryor. Council members present by zoom: Sean Gilmore. Council members absent: Stephanie Farstvedt.

Susan Shultz representing the First Christian Church provided the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Burton moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 20-529 and resignation of Land Bank Board member Becky Perdue as presented. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Report –

- Mayor Spieth spoke to COVID-19 safety practices including social distancing and face masks.

PUBLIC FORUM

Susan Shultz informed the council about the Columbus Association of Churches Thanksgiving basket distribution project on November 24 at Camp Joy Church. Mrs. Shultz asked for permission to block a portion of East Pine Street during the event.

EAST PINE STREET CLOSURE

Houser moved to block intersection of Indiana and Pine Streets on November 24 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. to accommodate the CAC Thanksgiving basket project. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

City Administrator Daniela Rivas spoke on behalf of Breanna Sauerwein, owner of Brea's Bakery, who was unable to attend the council meeting. Ms. Sauerwein is requesting approval of a sign at her new place of business on North Kansas. The sign will be attached to the building and overhang into the sidewalk area. City Code requires council approval for this type of project.

BREA'S BAKERY SIGN APPROVAL

Burton moved to approve signage for Brea's Bakery on North Kansas as presented. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Tony Grant of Maguire Iron spoke to the council regarding the recent water tower inspection and report by his company. Recommendations include but are not limited to, interior renovation with steel replacement of standpipe sidewall, new roof and coating. Grant noted Maguire Iron can provide routine maintenance agreement on the structures.

RECEIVE AND FILE WATER TOWER INSPECTION REPORT

Opela moved to receive and file Maguire Iron water tower inspection report. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Code Enforcement Officer Gary Holt provided 2020 code enforcement yearend report. Statistics included 49 vegetation violation infractions, 28 properties mowed at least once by City staff, 11 inoperable vehicle violation letters, 26 sanitation violations, 11 housing violations, 2 graffiti letters, 1 dangerous structure removed and four structures awaiting removal.

Holt informed the owner of 507 West Walnut property damaged by fire is getting quotes to demolish the structure.

City Administrator Report-

- City received \$2,000 donation from Commerce Bank towards updating/replacing City welcome signage. Signs are located on highway near Dollar General and Pizza Hut.
- City has automated bill pay option available to assist customers 429-2159.
- Chip and seal material dropped off and work will begin tomorrow.
- 2020 yearend financial report. Rivas noted in spite of COVID-19 sales tax revenue is strong. Prudent spending and steady revenue helped City stay on track.

City Treasurer Report

- Third quarter report included in council packet.
- Reminded everyone that the City receives sales tax from online orders delivered in town. Mogle encouraged residents to shop local when possible and to shop online for items they cannot get in town.

City Clerk Report –

- League of Kanas Municipality Regional Suppers are being replaced this fall by four regional virtual meetings the week of December 14. League staff will host the meetings and provide a Legislative update.
- Offices closed for Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday of next week. Sanitation routes for those days will be collected on Monday, November 30.

Police Chief Report –

- Noted department is fully staffed again with the recent hire of Officer Bryan Lagow.

Community Development Coordinator –

- Work days beginning 10 a.m. Saturday/Sunday, November 21& 22 at the nature trail by Eddington Park.

- The City was not awarded the cost share grant for Eddington Park sidewalk/trail expansion. This grant is offered twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. I will be working with the state to see how to make grant request more competitive and apply again in March.
- More Pathways funding dollars will be available in January 2021.

Fire Chief Report –

- 22 fires since the last council meeting, 289 year to date.
- Kansas State Fire Marshall investigating 315 South Vermont structure fire.
- Structure involved in 507 West Walnut fire is a total loss. Spoke with owner and he is planning to have the structure removed.

Property & Parks Director Report –

- Bailey's Asphalt will be working in town this week on chip and seal project.
- Working with Teeter's Paving on 2021 street overlay project list estimate.
- Working with Liberty Utility on Reeves Park tennis court flood light installation.

City Foreman Report –

- Short staffed this week. Street sweeper will be run in the coming weeks as staff returns.
- Christmas decorations going up before the parade.
- Leaf pickup December 7-18.

City Attorney Report –

- Resolution under New Business.

UPDATE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Opela moved to approve updated Mechanic, Sanitation Collector, Sanitation Lead Man and Sexton job descriptions as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Old Business –

None.

New Business –

1. **Consider Holiday Bonus for employees.** It was noted this is an unusual year with exceptional circumstances allowing for a larger year-end bonus than usual. Administrator Rivas explained that SPARK reimbursements helped offset some employee COVID-19 wage expense, these savings could be carried over to next year or given to employees as a token of appreciation. This should be considered an exception to the rule and not the norm going forward. Houser moved to approve 2020 holiday bonus for City employees, \$200 for those with less than one year of service and \$400 for employees with a year or more of service. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

2. ***Consider tree removal bids for 530 South Indiana, Columbus, Kansas.*** Opela moved to approve Tree-master's Tree Service \$1,150 bid to take down, remove debris and grind stump of condemned tree at 530 South Indiana. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0
3. ***Consider closing early on Thursday December 24th and Thursday December 31st.*** Council was provided information regarding previous year's holiday closings. Doherty moved to approve closing City offices at noon on Thursday December 24th and Thursday December 31st and providing full time city employees four hours of holiday pay for the closure. Opela seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.
4. ***Consider approval of 2020 transfers.*** City Administrator Rivas provided 2020 budgeted transfers for council review. Rivas stated the City is in a solid financial position and requested approval to move these funds in order to finalize additional transfers in the coming weeks. Houser moved to approve 2020 budget transfers as presented (see attachment). Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.
5. ***Consider Resolution 602 providing for the demolition of structure at 419 South Delaware.*** City Attorney Barbara Wright noted this property has been addressed previously by council. There was a problem with owner of record service. This has been resolved and the property is being brought back for council review. Opela moved to adopt Resolution 602 providing for the demolition of structure at 419 South Delaware. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried 8-1.
6. ***Consider GAAP Waiver Resolution 603.*** Attorney Wright noted this is a routine resolution we adopt every year; it has to do with the accounting practices for the City. Houser moved to adopt Resolution 603 regarding the GAAP waiver for the City of Columbus. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.
7. ***Consider PRIDE Resolution 604.*** Wright this noted this done every year as well to endorse/support the PRIDE program in the City. Opela moved to adopt Resolution 604 endorsing the PRIDE program in the City of Columbus. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Brassart seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Brassart, Burton, Doherty, Gilmore, Houser, Long, Opela, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 9-0.

Meetings:

Sanitation

Monday November 23, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

Water/Sewer

Tuesday December 8, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.

Cherri Chancellor City Clerk