

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 4, 2021  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met January 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Kathy Doherty, Stephanie Farstvedt, Jan Houser, Nate Long, Tom Pryor. Council members absent: None.

Council Member Tom Pryor provided the Invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance 20-532, Appropriations Ordinance 21-533, December 21, 2020 council meeting minutes, December 2020 Personnel Report and Cereal Malt Beverage License renewal for Quick Shop as presented. Houser seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Mayor Report –**

- Noted need to elect a council member as 2021 President of the Council and asked for nominations. Council member Kathy Doherty by passed the nomination request and made a motion to elect Tom Pryor as 2021 President of the Council

**PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL – *Tom Pryor***

Doherty moved to approve Tom Pryor as 2021 President of the Council. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

-Appointed 2021 Council Business Category Representatives as: Administrative – Tom Pryor; Property – Jan Houser; Emergency Response – Nate Long; Streets/Alleys/Bridges/Stormwater – Kathy Doherty; and Public Works – Stephanie Farstvedt.

**BUSINESS CATEGORY APPOINTMENTS**

Houser moved to approve the Mayor’s 2021 Council Business Category Representative appointments of: Administrative – Tom Pryor; Property – Jan Houser; Emergency Response – Nate Long; Streets/Alleys/Bridges/Stormwater – Kathy Doherty; and Public Works – Stephanie Farstvedt. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

-Appointed Attorney Barbara Wright as City Prosecuting Attorney to fill the unexpired term (June 2021) of Jake Conard who recently resigned.

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY – *Barbara Wright***

Houser moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Attorney Barbara Wright as City of Columbus Prosecuting Attorney to fill the unexpired term of Jake Conard. Long seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

- Council work session discussion. It was agreed to keep council work sessions at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month as needed in accordance with city ordinance 1472.
- Mayor Spieth read a proclamation naming January 9, 2021 as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Columbus, KS.

**City Administrator Report-**

- Unable to attend meeting, personnel report in the packet.

**City Treasurer Report**

- December 31, 2020 cash balance report included in council packet.

**City Clerk Report –**

- Construction phase of the front office remodel project is complete. Staff is coordinating with Property Director and IT to move desks and equipment in the coming days.
- Work session Monday January 11 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Next council meeting Tuesday January 19 due to City Hall being closed Monday, January 18 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
- Monday sanitation routes will be picked up on Tuesday.

**Community Development Coordinator Report –**

- Received restoration estimates for the City Park Old Pool Bath House. Exterior only restoration estimate falls below the City’s bid limit requirement. Interior and exterior project is over the threshold and the City will need to go out for bids if we choose to do both. Needing direction if council would like to proceed with the project. Discussion included grant opportunities, community involvement, securing the structure. It was agreed to bring this to a future work session for further discussion.

**Police Chief Report –**

- B3 has finished the 302 North Kansas demolition project and will be starting on the West County Road project next.
- I will be out of the office attending the Law Enforcement Leadership Academy and Certified Public Managers training next week. This program started last year but was unable to continue due to COVID-19.
- Received Officer resignation this weekend that was effective immediately, it will be included in the next council meeting consent agenda.

**Fire Chief Report –**

- 7 calls since the last council meeting, 353 calls for the year 2020, up 109 over 2019.
- Working with Property/Parks Director Coble on the installation of the fire bay new ventilation system and gear extractor (gear cleaning system).
- Will work with Administrator Rivas on selling/moving small department equipment.

**Property & Parks Director Report –**

- Employees out on medical and COVID-19 leave.
- Cemetery has been busy 11 funerals
- Working on construction easements and with the railroad to move High School Street project forward.
- Develop/update storm route/plan for snow and ice.

**Utility Director Report -**

- Lift station motor burnt up during recent ice storm - have one on order.
- Power pole down at Indiana lift station due to recent ice storm. N. Penn lift station problem as well.
- Thank you to staff who responded and worked on New Year's Day.
- Varied sizes of sanitation poly-carts coming for council review.
- Staff has dumpsters painted and numbered.

**City Attorney Report –**

- No report tonight, will cover ordinances later in the meeting.

**New Business –**

**8.1.1 Consider Ordinance 1474 updating Mayor fire appointments.** City Attorney Wright pointed out this ordinance cleans up the fire section of the City Code Book bringing it in line with the Administrative officer and employee section of City Code covering mayoral appointments. Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1474 updating the fire section of City Code making it consistent with Chapter 2 Administrative and employee section of City Code. Doherty seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**8.1.2 Consider Ordinance 1475 repealing Datacentric cable franchise obligations.** City Attorney Wright explained Optic Communications has discontinued cable television service in Columbus and asked for the associated franchise fee ordinance to be repealed. Houser moved to approve Ordinance 1475 repealing Datacentric cable franchise obligations. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Spieth noted COVID-19 vaccine has been received by the Cherokee County Health Department and 65 vaccines have been administered to date. City Administrator Rivas is working with the Health Department to schedule COVID-19 vaccinations for essential City employees wanting the vaccination.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Long seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Houser, Long, Pryor. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Meetings:**

**Work Session**

**Monday January 11, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Council Meeting**

**Tuesday January 19, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.**

  
Cherri Chancellor City Clerk

