

City of Columbus
Council Proceedings
December 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Columbus City Council was called to order by Mayor JoAnn Lunstad at 7:00 pm on December 9, 2019 at the Columbus Community Center.

Council members present: JoAnn Lunstad, David Ronning, Cindy Lautenschlager, Chris Kihle, and Amber Nygard

Employees present: Christine Aasheim and Raymond MacBeth

Guests Present: Chris Hageman with Ackerman Estvold, Valerie Post, and Sandy Stockman.

Motion by Kihle, second by Lautenschlager to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Ronning, second by Nygard to approve the November 4, 2019 minutes as read. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Streetlights – Two lights will be added back, one on 4th Ave West and one on 5th Ave West.
- Ackerman Estvold – SRF Loan Update
- Playground – To date, Brooke Watterud has confirmed \$14,330.00 to be received toward the playground project through grants she has successfully applied for on behalf of the City..

New Business:

- Beer/Liquor License Request – Motion by Kihle, second by Ronning to approve and issue 2020 beer and liquor licenses to O&O, Inc. **Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager; nays: none. abstained: Nygard. Motion carried.**
- Repossessed Properties – **Motion by Kihle, second by Lautenschlager to request purchasing five properties available through Burke County for non-payment of taxes upon Burke County Commissioners approval. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Nygard, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.**
- Street Sweeper – **Motion by Nygard, second by Ronning to accept bid of \$3,500.00 for sale of Elgin street sweeper. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Nygard, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.**
- Resident Concerns/Complaints:
 - Tree Removal - Sandy Stockman, on behalf of Wayne Williams, protested the removal of a diseased tree from Mr. Williams property. Ms. Stockman informed the Council that Mr. Williams will be retaining an attorney with claims that the City trespassed on his property, that the City is responsible for replacing the diseased tree, and refusal to pay for removal. Council discussed and explained the diseased tree situation with Ms. Stockman, disagreed with the claims and responded that the City Attorney will be consulted.

- Lori Edwards send a note with Councilman Kihle complaining that she was overcharged for the tree removal. She stated that she was told by a councilperson that the removal charge would be \$250 but she was charged \$300. Council reviewed the estimate and the final billing from the tree service, the estimate was \$250 but the final cost was \$300 as there was a \$50 additional charge for dirt. A copy of the estimate and final billing will be mailed to Ms. Edwards.
- Sandra Rains sent a letter complaining that she did not receive a garbage tote for her rental for the four months that it was occupied and requested a refund. Council declined the refund request per City Ordinance that all customers are charged for garbage and sewer when the water service is on. Additionally, Council questioned why this was not brought to the attention of either the Auditor or Maintenance in the four-month period rather than waiting until the property is no longer occupied. To avoid any future issues with garbage totes, Maintenance will request a tote from Circle Sanitation at the time any water service is turned on (if the customer doesn't already have one).

Maintenance Report – Raymond discussed maintenance issues and activities over the last month.

Auditor's Report:

- Bills to Pay – Bills were reviewed.
- Financial Reports – November financial reports were presented.
- Delinquent accounts – accounts 60+ days past due will be issued shut off notices.

Motion by Nygard, second by Kihle to pay bills and approve financial reports as presented. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Nygard, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Kihle, second by Nygard to adjourn meeting. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Announcements: Next regular meeting will be held January 6, 2020, 7:00pm at the Columbus Community Center.

Bills to pay: NCC 199.14, MDU 276.29, Raymond MacBeth 2,252.43, Christine Aasheim 2,113.91, EFTPS 921.40, BCBS 2,102.80, Northwest Rural Water 2,002.77 Verizon Wireless 244.73, Al's. Electric 188.95, Burke County Tribune 77.22, Circle Sanitation 1,459.50, First District Health Unit 50.00, Jerry's Transfer Service 40.00, Lignite Oil 1,519.04, Lund Construction 492.50, ND Chemistry Lab 309.84, ND Dept of Environmental Quality 58.26, ND Rural Water Systems Assoc 345.00, ND Sewage Pump & Lift Statation Service 475.00, ND Water Users Assoc 75.00, Office of State Auditor 125.00, One Call Concepts 6.65, The Country Store 43.48, MDU 481.67.

Christine Aasheim
City Auditor