

City of Columbus  
Council Proceedings  
February 4, 2019

The regular meeting of the Columbus City Council was called to order by Mayor JoAnn Lunstad at 7:10 pm on Monday, February 4, 2019 at the Columbus Community Center.

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

Employees present: Christine Aasheim and Raymond MacBeth

Guests Present: Valerie Post, Brian Day with Midwest Assistance Program and Ward Heidbreder with North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association.

**Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Nygard to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Ronning, second by Lautenschlager to approve January 7, 2019 minutes with correction to remove "January" from announcements. Motion carried.**

Old Business:

- MDU – City of Columbus street light update – lights to be de-activated, will be marked with yellow tape.
- First District Health Notices – Update on status:
  - Estimates to tear down houses – two estimates were received; more estimates will be requested.
  - Fencing around theater – Tabled.
- SRF Loan Update – Ackerman-Estvold – Tabled.
- Bulk Water Depot – Tabled.
- Meter Installs – Ivers Plumbing – waiting for weather to improve.
- Meter Audit – Post cards will be mailed out requesting customers contact Raymond to set up appointment.
- Credit Card Payments – Vendor to be determined before March meeting.
- Sale of Equipment/Real Property – waiting for information from City Attorney.

New Business:

- Utility Rate Study – Brian Day with Midwest Assistance program presented figures and suggestions for raising utility rates to meet North Dakota Public Finance Authority requirements.

**Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to increase utility rates as follows:**

- **Water Access fee will increase from \$25.00 to \$27.30 per month,**
- **Water Usage will increase from \$7.25 per 1000 gallons to \$8.80 per 1000 gallons,**
- **Sewer Access fee with increase from \$12.50 to \$13.50 per month**
- **Sewer Usage will increase from \$3.625 per 1000 gallons water used to \$4.50 per 1000 gallons water used.**

**Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Lautenschlager, Nygard; nays: Kihle; Motion carried.**

- Service Contract – ND Sewer Pump & Lift Station Service Co, Inc. – **Motion by Nygard, second by Lautenschlager to accept the contract. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager, Nygard; nays: None; Motion carried.**
- Burke County Tax Assessor Contract – **Motion by Ronning, second by Kihle to approve contract. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager, Nygard; nays: None; Motion carried.**
- Health Insurance Renewal – Tabled.
- Trinity Lutheran Church Raffle Permit – **Motion by Nygard, second by Lautenschlager. Motion carried.**

Auditor's Report:

- Bills to Pay – Bills were reviewed.
- Financial Reports – through January 31, 2019 were presented **Motion by Nygard, second by Lautenschlager to approve the financial reports through January 31, 2019, and to pay bills as presented. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager, Nygard; nays: none. Motion carried.**
- Delinquent accounts – A list of all City utility customers that were 30 days or more delinquent on payment of their utility billing as of the Council meeting was presented. Accounts not brought current by February 25, 2019 will receive shut-off notices on February 26, 2019.
- Certificate of Deposit – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Nygard to cash out rather than roll-over. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager, Nygard; nays: None; Motion carried.**

**Motion by Ronning, second by Kihle to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned.

**Announcements:**

Next regular meeting will be held March 4, 2019 at the Columbus Community Center.

Bills to pay: Shannon Logelin 688.81, BCBS 2,452.14, MDU 1,073.45, Raymond MacBeth 2,271.20, Christine Aasheim 1,904.81, JoAnn Lunstad 129.99, ND Workforce Safety & Insurance 1,748.40, EFTPS 1,092.56, Burke County Tribune 172.50, Circle Sanitation 1,618.00, First District Health, 25.00, Lignite Oil 3,718.00, NCC 56.08, Northwest Rural Water 2,220.68, One Call Concepts 1.30, Verizon Wireless 234.86, Visa 844.33 – Auditor (Lowe's 105.44, Microsoft 104.99, Intuit 4.20, Amazon 138.58) Maintenance (USPS 50.00, Wal-Mart 53.69, Menards 387.43)

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Christine Aasheim, City Auditor

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JoAnn Lunstad, Mayor