

City of Columbus
Council Proceedings
October 7, 2019

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

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

Employees present: Christine Aasheim and Raymond MacBeth

Guests Present: Chris Goga and Shawn Brien, Burke County Sherriff.

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

Motion by Ronning, second by Kihle to approve the September 9, 2019 minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Ackerman Estvold – SRF Loan Update – Tabled
- First District Health Notices – Tabled
- Meter Install at the Park – Tabled
- Playground – Tabled (in process)
- Final 2020 Budget – **Motion by Kihle, second by Ronning to approve 2020 final budget. Motion carried.**
- Burke County Sheriff Contract – Council discussed contract and left funds in the budget for potential future acceptance of contract in 2020; no action taken.
- Trees with Dutch Elm Disease – Estimate for removing trees \$250-\$300 per tree; property owners will be billed unless they opt to remove the trees themselves.
- Ordinance updates – Tabled
- Equipment update – Skid steer had to be ordered from Bobcat, delivery date expected in October.
- NCC Proposed Ordinance – second reading – **Motion by Ronning, second by Lautenschlager to approve proposed ordinance as read. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Nygard absent. Motion carried.**

New Business:

- Building Permit Request – **Motion by Kihle, second by Ronning to approve building permit for a shop to be constructed outside city limits at 305 County Rd#5. Motion carried.**
- Approval of Special Assessments – **Motion by Kihle, second by Ronning to approve and direct the Burke County Auditor to collect the Curb Stop Construction and Water Meter Upgrade special assessments as presented. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.**

- Approval of Utilities and Mowing Assessments – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to approve and direct the Burke County Auditor to collect the Utilities and Mowing special assessments as presented. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.**
- Application for Abatement of Taxes – **Motion by Ronning, second by Lautenschlager to approve reduction in taxable value for parcel #07222000 owned by Patrick Kinsella from \$502,836 (\$24,500 for land and \$478,336 for improvements) to \$355,4000 (\$16,400 for land and \$339,000 for improvements) as presented. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.**
- Circle Sanitation Contract Renewal – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Kihle to accept new contract as presented. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.**
- List of properties that will be offered for sale in Columbus by the Burke County Auditor for nonpayment of taxes was reviewed with Council.
- Use of Community Center for 4-H meetings – discussion was held, no motion was made, but Council agreed that the 4-H group can continue to use the Community Center. They will not pay a rental fee but will be asked to return the building to the condition which it was before their meetings. The City will provide trash bags, cleaning supplies, paper towels, and toilet paper.

Maintenance Report – Raymond discussed maintenance issues and activities over the last month. He also discussed that he will be repairing and updating the “Seasons Greeting” sign.

Auditor’s Report:

- Bills to Pay – Bills were reviewed.
- Financial Reports – September financial reports were presented.
- Delinquent accounts – account 30 days past due were discussed with council and any account 60 days past due will be issued shut off notices in October.

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

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

Meeting adjourned.

Announcements: Next regular meeting will be held November 4, 2019, 7:00pm at the Columbus Community Center.

Bills to pay: NCC 199.07, MDU 179.15, Raymond MacBeth 2,252.44, Christine Aasheim 2,113.91, EFTPS 921.38, BCBS 2,102.80, Northwest Rural Water 2,659.53, Verizon Wireless 244.70, Burke County Tribune 156.00, Circle Sanitation 1,373.00, First District Health Unit 25.00, Lignite Oil 210.69, Visa – Maintenance 20.24 (Wal-Mart), Visa – Auditor 14.95 (Intuit), Jerry’s Transfer Service 20.00, H&H Coatings Inc. 400.00, Border Pains Equipment Company 31,924.00.

Christine Aasheim
City Auditor

JoAnn Lunstad
Mayor