

CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 19, 2008

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas, met February 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Harley McDaniel presided. Council members present: Dana Allison, Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Steve Dunlap, Doug Hosier, John Paradee, Dewey Smith, Gary Smith, Grant Spieth. Members absent: Marie Nepple.

Jim Dahmen led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Harley McDaniel called for additions or correction to the minutes of the February 04, 2008 council meeting. Burton moved to accept the minutes of the February 04, 2008 council meeting. Hosier seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Bennett, Paradee. Motion carried: 7-0 1-A.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #07-173

Spieth moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 07-173. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #08-174

Burton moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 08-174. Hosier seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

VISITORS

Bret Wary – Good evening, my name is Bret Wary and I am the Director at the Good Shepherd Child Care and Pre School at the First Christian Church. Good Shepherd was created as a mission to increase the availability of quality child care in Columbus. What I am here tonight is to present a project that I am working on is to increase that mission. We have worked pretty hard for the past 8 years at Good Shepherd and what we have discovered is we have just barely scratched that surface with what our community needs in child care. We currently have a waiting list of 37 children and it is like that all over town for our private providers. If you will let me run down what I have prepared then I will try to answer any questions you may have. The Children's Center would be a non-profit, community based, early care and education facility. It would be a collaborative effort hopefully of the City of Columbus, of the school district, the County of Cherokee, SEK-CAP and citizens of our community. There is so much study and research on the importance of early childhood. But what it comes down to is a few important facts for our community. The facts: Availability of early care and education is an important part of a community. Whether it is an employer or employee it causes a lot of problems when child care cannot be accessed locally and it causes real stress for families if that care is not quality. Kansas has done a lot of research. They have put together an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan and within that plan they have discovered that childcare is not a viable business in the state of Kansas. Columbus located in Cherokee County unfortunately is at the bottom of the charts. So our local providers struggle to provide quality care at a rate that families can afford. That is why

I feel that we as a community need to step up. We need to create this quality opportunity for our children also opportunities that will attract and maintain capable people to care for and educate our children. People in our community face so many social and economic challenges. Child care is just one of many issues we are up against and we need to use all of those needs to attract it to our community and for our families and children. The immediate impact a community based children's center would be the increased availability of early care and education. Our goal there would be that every child has the opportunity to receive quality care and education. They would have the opportunity either at the Center or from a local provider. The Children's Center would serve as a local support to our local private providers. It would increase school readiness, improve social behavior, increase availability of quality child care for our workforce and create new jobs within our work force. More exciting to me would be the long term impact this could have on our community. We could eventually move up on some of those charts. It could give us lower educational services; increase our educational attainment giving our children a better chance as adults in our community. What I came here today for is to ask you for is not any money but the support of the City to develop a business plan. This would be a business plan to help the Center maintain itself once in operation and also help in the grant writing process to seek the funding to put this plan into place. We have been talking to the Cherokee County Ambulance Association about locating this Center out at there facility. We have the support of Cherokee County, SEK-CAP, the school district and the support of the Ambulance Association. We would like to have the support of the City which would open up some valuable resources for us between the Columbus Economic Development Committee and City Administrator for some grant writing. It would also give the Center access to funds that are only available to Municipalities. Thank you for your consideration.

Mayor McDaniel asked if there were currently grants available for this area. Ms. Wary said she couldn't say they are waiting there for us but there are a lot of different avenues we could explore with the involvement of those different entities. One would be the involvement of the Community Development Block Grant through the City or the County. There are some grants or programs coming up through the educational system that would be funded down through the school district into community based settings. There are also some private based foundations. There are a lot of activities like this all across the state. There are also private foundations involved in grants for centers. If you can create a center of a certain magnitude it can be self supporting. In order to put it into place it can't have much overhead and the capital funding has to come from donations or grants. I feel with the support of all the entities I mentioned we can attracted that kind of funding for our community. Mayor McDaniel asked if there are any places in Kansas that have a center like this and was told one is in Pittsburg KS, Pittsburg Family Resource Center. Has it been a success? Yes, it operates on a non profit level. It is self supporting but is a collaborative effort also. The district cooperates with some maintenance of the building and they lease the building for \$1 a year which I believe is the old Lincoln Elementary School building.

Mayor McDaniel did say that he knows she has put a lot of work into this plan and it sounds good but right now this City is strapped pretty hard with the December 9th storm, which you are well aware of, and I don't want to commit myself or the City of Columbus to anything that might hinder our recovery from this storm. You say this is a non profit so are you going for a non profit status such as a 501C3? Yes, it will be a creation of a new entity, Columbus Community Children Center said Ms. Wary. All I am asking for is the support of the City in trying to create this. It is still a work in progress. Mayor asked in what capacity are you asking for the City Administrator and was told she heard he could write grants. City Administrator asked Ms. Wary what was the time frame on all of this. Ms. Wary said the school district loses its funding for the after school program in 2010 and we would like to be operation by then with the school district supporting it by relocating the after school program out to the community based setting. We would like to situate ourselves by being able to receive grant funding in the year 2009. Mayor

McDaniel said he would like to take this under advisement and refer this to the Economic Development Committee. Mayor McDaniel wanted to thank Ms. Wary for coming here and especially not asking for money. He wished her the best in her endeavor. If it ever came to the point that it needed to be subsidized I think it needs to be done at a County level not the City level because the people of Columbus pay taxes. They pay City taxes and they pay County taxes and if it was at a point where it would be taxed then the people in the City of Columbus would get taxed twice. Ms. Wary said she did not see it coming to that point not with what we have been working on so far. Mayor McDaniel said maybe the school district could levy a tax for it. Ms. Wary said that is not where she wants to go with it, the people in this community would be paying for services through that center out of pocket anyway. I would not want to see it go that direction with taxes. Jim Dahmen had some ideas on funding so I will let him expense on that.

Jim Dahmen – Mayor and council we have investigated some avenues on funding, grant resources as well as low interest loans. I think the next step would be to take it to the Economic Development , next I would like to see the Economic Development Committee go to Pittsburg and do a little investigation on how that one is run and get a little back ground. Maybe the committee could get a better feel as to what this is about. I think you can ask some questions of the City Attorney in her other life about social aspects of the problems that we have with our young people as well as you Chief of Police. Those are the problems Brett was trying to address and to put those young people on the right road. I think the vision is good for her and the community but I think it is one step at a time. We can take 3, 4 or 5 months to look at this and still have time to tempt Mr. Capron and his fine grant writing capabilities and do the research. Mayor McDaniel told them Thank You and he would refer it to the Economic Development Committee and they could research this then report back to the council.

City Administrator Evan Capron report:

1. I attended a training workshop and picked up the contract for the Kansas Commerce \$400,000 CDBG contract for East Town Sewer Project in Salina on February 4th. The contract has been executed by the mayor and sent back to Kansas Commerce. According to the officials it will probably be up to 8 months before actual work on the sewer project can begin.
2. I received a letter from KDOT on February 11th, stating that we were not selected to receive economic development grant monies. They only selected 2 projects this year and the total is \$1.2 million, last year they were able to grant \$12 million.
3. As of February 18th, the total debris hauled from the City has been over 23,000 cubic feet. The City Superintendent and I have met with Bob Snider, FEMA debris specialist. We have provided some of the expenses incurred during the ice storm for their inspection. FEMS said that they will be touring the City with the Superintendent and myself within the next 2 weeks counting trees with hanger branches larger than 2” in diameter. They will pay \$40 per tree regardless if it has 1 hanger or 50 hangers in it. We may be able to treat the parks separate from the rest of the City. I ask him to look at the parks this week if possible, as we will need them soon and we have volunteers who would like to elp. He said they would look at them this week.
4. I will be attending the SE Kansas Day on the Hill Wednesday evening and Thursday this week representing the City of Columbus with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.
5. I need a 10 minute executive session on personnel matters of non-elected personnel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Burton moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes from 7:03 pm to 7:13 pm with Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Superintendent and City Clerk in

attendance. Allison seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION 7:13 PM

6. I need another 10 executive session on matters relating to security measures.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Allison moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes from 7:15 pm to 7:25 pm with Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Superintendent, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, City Treasurer, Jason Daniels and City Clerk in attendance. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION 7:25 PM

City Superintendent Jim Burton report:

1. We have one more street to do then we will have been through town at least once picking up debris and that is not counting the alleys. We have been down 2 or 3 streets twice which was for esthetic purposes. The County did a couple of them this week for the wrestling tournament.
2. We will probably start on the alleys and if the County will still help us we'll have them picking up off the streets.
3. We worked week before last with overtime. Mayor wanted to know just how much brush they hauled in just the overtime hours. Jim said they hauled about 15 loads an evening from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Some of the piles were not little. Going down Lee Street it took us 2 nights to do that. City Administrator said it was about 180 cubic yards. Jim said that did not count Saturday as we did about 50 loads in the full 8 hours. Mayor wanted to know if we needed to make an announcement when we are going to do it the second time around as some people need to re pile that brush and we need to impress that it is much easier to pick up when it is parallel with the curb. Jim said yes and it is hard to put a time line as to when they will be around because like last week the County didn't work any and then he got a call at 6:00 am that they were going to work on Saturday. Mayor said that's all right but the citizens can still begin re piling the brush. Jim said there will still be a few little ones not picked up but when they go around the final time they will use the chipper and get those as long as they have them where it is suppose to be. Another problem we have is all the houses that have done nothing. Some of them are foreclosures, some are rental houses and some the branches are too long. The alleys are going to be real slow anyway as you don't have enough room to work in there.
4. In your packet was a City water loss report. I thought you needed to be aware of this. This is for the last 3 years 2005, 2006 and 2007. The first column is the water that the City wells pump, 2nd is what we purchased from Bone Creek, 3rd is bulk sales that we sell out of the plant, 4th is residential sales which also includes the businesses, 5th is free water which the city uses that we give to the County and what we use to flush the filter systems with. The 6th and final column is our water loss. We right now are at about 26% loss and I have no idea why. Councilmember Spieth wanted to know what the swimming pool was under and was told free water. Some of that is our water towers that hold a combined total of about 360,000 gallons.
5. In the scope of 1700 meters we have probably put in about 100 to 200 meters, new ones, where some were not reading anything. I'm trying to get a hold of Rural Water to have a couple of our big meters to Conagra and Tamko tested. These are meters that you can't

just go out and buy like residential meters. Spieth wanted to know the percentage of the ones we replaced were not reading nothing and Jim said most of them.

CITY CLERK TO WICHITA FOR SPRING CONFERENCE

Burton moved to allow City Clerk Janice Blancett to attend annual City Clerk Spring Conference in Wichita March 12-14. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Paradee. Motion carried: 8-0 1-A.

Chief of Police Charles E. Sharp report:

1. Tomorrow night at the High School gym at 6:30 pm the Emergency Management and the US Weather Bureau is sponsoring a weather alert class. It is very informative if you have never been to one and I would like to invite each and everyone of you to attend. It lasts for about 1 hour to 1 1/2 hours and it give you a lot of insight of what to look for on approaching storm system. It is free and they do give away door prizes.

EMPLOYEE ANNUAL STEP INCREASE – ANNE SHARP

Dunlap moved to give Anne Sharp annual step increase to \$12.63 Range 11 Step D due February 21, 2008 and payable on the February 29, 2008 payroll. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dunlap moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes from 7:47 pm to 7:52 pm on personnel matters of non-elected personnel with Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and Fire Chief Don Kirk in attendance. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION 7:50 PM

EMPLOYEE HIRE – KYLE KEELY- FIRE DEPARTMENT LEAD MAN

Dunlap moved to hire Kyle Keely as Fire Department Lead Man at \$10.54 Range 9 Step C. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: Burton. Motion carried: 8-1.

City Attorney Barbara Wright report:

1. There are 2 ordinances in your packet that reflect on the actions taken at the last council meeting that just needs numbers. First one which notes the amendment of Section 8-403 of the code book on the Administrative Fees from \$25.00 to \$35.00 on the weed notices and that number would be Ordinance #1235.
2. The other ordinance you passed the last time is on the deleting the double time Section IV-10 subsection A.3 of the Personnel Regulations and you have a copy of the stick out version which shows you exactly what was taken out and then you also have a clean version. That would be Ordinance #1236.
3. I need an executive session on Attorney Client for 10 minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dunlap moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes from 7:59 pm to 8:09 pm on consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship with Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk in

attendance. Spieth seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

REGULAR SESSION 8:09 PM

ORDINANCE # 1237

Dunlap moved to approve Ordinance #1237 – *An Ordinance Amending Ordinance # 1182, Exempting Certain Property in the City of Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas, From Ad Valorem Taxation for Economic Development Purposes (Amending Ordinance #1182 to reflect the correct ten year period exemption for Prestige Cabinets, Inc. and it parent company, RSI Holding Corporation)*. Smith Gary seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Allison. Motion carried: 8-0 1-A.

Meetings:

Fire

Tuesday February 26, 2008 @ 5:45 pm

Cemetery

Tuesday February 26, 2008 @ 6:00 pm

Streets/Alleys/Bridges

Tuesday February 26, 2008 @ 6:30 pm

Budget & Finance

Tuesday February 26, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Burton Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

Janice Blancett, City Clerk