

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 03, 2008

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas, met March 03, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Harley McDaniel presided. Council members present: Dana Allison, Connie Bennett, Steve Dunlap, Doug Hosier, Marie Nepple, John Paradee, Dewey Smith, Gary Smith, Grant Spieth. Members absent: Jerri Burton.

Grant Spieth led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Harley McDaniel called for additions or correction to the minutes of the February 19, 2008 council meeting. Hosier moved to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2008 council meeting. Bennett seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Nepple. Motion carried: 8-0 1-A.

**APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #07-175**

Spieth moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 07-175. Smith Dewey seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #08-176**

Smith Gary moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 08-176. Nepple seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**City Administrator Evan Capron report:**

1. FEMA gave the City the go ahead on February 26<sup>th</sup> to clean up the City Park. FEMA counted 22 trees with hangers and 8 requiring removal. FEMA does not pay for the stump removal. City Superintendent Jim Burton is working on getting bids and will talk about that later. Mark Winters is coordinating the volunteer groups with the park clean up. Some of the groups are the FFA, Wood Tech, Chamber, Lions Club and some others. Some of the volunteers worked on Friday last week. They did not work on Saturday as it was such a short notice to get groups organized. Groups are planning on working in the park on Friday and Saturday this week. While the volunteers are moving the debris over the wall, the City will be removing the debris from the premises to the burn site.
2. The City Superintendent, City Clerk and I attended a Workers Compensation Training meeting last week in Independence, Kansas to learn more about workers comp and the ins and outs.

Mayor McDaniel said so that everybody is clear on this it is his understanding that these volunteers who volunteer down here at the Park we need to have their names, number of hours that they work. City Administrator Evan Capron told the Council he has created a sign in sheet and Jim Burton will be keeping track of that making sure it gets to the volunteers working there. The sign in sheet lists the address of the City Park. There is a place for people to put their name, the time they checked in and the time they checked out and the description of what they actually

did. Like someone ran a chain saw or someone carried brush. Mayor McDaniel then said this helps off set out 15 %. Evan said the more volunteers we can get the better. This is a big help to the community and the city.

**City Superintendent Jim Burton report:**

1. There are 22 trees with hangers and 8 trees that have to be cut down at the City Park. FEMA was through last Friday and I walked through the park with them and they have the 8 trees marked that have to come out. I contacted an individual on this but it is my understanding FEMA does not remove the stumps and if you have to take down a tree that is considered hazardous to the community the stump had to come out. I contacted the individual and told him we needed it bid another way. I have another individual coming in tomorrow to give us another estimate. Basically what they are going to do is come through and drop all the hangers and cut down the trees then the City and the volunteers will clean it up. As wet as it is now one contractor said he could take care of the trees around the outside from the street side of the park and the ones in the middle will have to be done when it is dryer. Any hangers in a tree have to be 2 1/2 inches or bigger and it has to be up in the tree. We had 2 or 3 Bradford Pears that was actually down on the sidewalk but they don't count them.
2. I, Evan and Eric attended a meeting with Public Wholesale Water Dist. #11 on January 24, 2008. Because of the stage 2 disinfectant/disinfection by product rule, Bone Creek, which is Public Wholesale Water Dist. # 11, is going to have to start adding ammonia to their chlorine and in doing that the City will have to start adding ammonia to their chlorine also. The ammonia helps the chlorine make it all the way to the end of the system. So they are asking us to approve that we are going along with this. They are paying for the engineering services to determine what each system needs. My understanding is they are putting in 2 pumps and the City will be responsible for half of that, which right now is between \$1,500 and \$2,000. When they go to this the City has to go to it as well as anybody else who is buying water off of them. So I need a motion from the council that we go along with adding ammonia to our chlorine. City Administrator asked Jim that the reason for 2 pumps is that to his understanding one is a back up pump. City Administrator said this is how critical this is as to the fact why you always need a back up pump. Councilmember Nepple then asked if that would basically be the only expense that this regulations changes. Jim told her we would have the expense of the ammonia which right now I don't think is significant. In the long run we will be able to reduce the amount of chlorine we use. It will go into one of our existing buildings so there is no addition there. WE will have to go down and find out where our chlorine is being fed into right now and we may have to put a manhole or something in there with a sump pump eventually. Spieth asked about the future maintenance on these pumps. Councilmember Gary Smith told him these pumps are pretty long life pumps and periodically all you would have to do is put a little kit in them The ammonia sulfate that we will be using is a liquid and not really that expensive. Jim also noted there would be a cost also for sampling the water. Gary said this all ties into the stage 2 D/DBPR. EPA sends this down and the City of Columbus is going to have to start meeting all these rules too. So you will have to start taking samples in your system the same that we are taking samples for. Spieth asked if the water we receive from Bone Creek will already be treated with ammonia and Gary said yes. Right now you only receive it with chlorine. There are other entities that receive water from us that are going to have to do the same thing as the city. Spieth asked Gary if this would have an effect on our sulfur smell and Gary said it would effect it in no way. Jim informed the council that there is a monitoring plan that has to be developed and submitted to the EPA by April 1, 2008. I was to go to Chanute about a week or two ago and that is when it snowed. I received a letter today and Eric and

I will be going to that on the 13<sup>th</sup> and they will help us write up that plan and pick our sites.

### **COMPLY WITH EPA REGULATIONS TO WATER TREATMENT PROCESS**

Spieth moved to comply with the EPA ruling that we apply ammonia to our water. Nepple seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Smith Gary. Motion carried: 8-0 1-A.

3. I also need to let you be aware that with the highway construction project, as to where the old car wash sat, we have a water line that goes directly to the west side of it between it and the Crossland house that they have changed into a conference room. That line goes from the other side of the street down to the old LNU Pipe place. The state was aware of this line but they keep moving their drive and approach through there. We got a hold of them about 3 weeks ago. They were about 6 inches from tearing that line out. So that line is going to have to be moved. I've talked to Bruce Remsburg. I've talked to KDOT and was told I need to get an engineer study on it as to where we potentially want to move it and how we want to move it and they will get back with us. Basically they are going to pay from the south side of the road to the back of the property, which would be on the property they bought. Right now I am in consultation with Bruce and the people in Topeka with KDOT to see how much of the engineering study they are going to pay for before we okay the engineer. When they give me that figure or what they may or may not do I will take that to the Water Committee to proceed with the engineering.
4. I need about 15 minutes executive session on consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney client relationship.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Nepple moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes from 6:52 pm to 7:07 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, City Superintendent and Lieutenant Roger Johnston in attendance. Allison seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

### **REGULAR SESSION 7:07 PM**

5. We have been through the town once. We are starting the in the second ward. We have been through the first ward and the alleys. Both Saturday and today we went back out on the streets and alleys and picked up brush there. County contacted me today and they are going to continue helping us sometime this week. Their biggest problem now is with the loader they have is the teeth are not made to come closed all the way so as the piles get smaller they will not be able to work with us to pick it up so I told them that whatever we had all over town we would get the biggest piles and we would discuss it after that.

Mayor McDaniel wanted to say one thing about these trees we are taking out of the park we need to get into some type of program to do some tree planning. Jim said he told Evan that he was going to get a hold of Jacob Weber probably within the next week or two and sit down with him and get his ideas of the trees that we need planted or would be a good solution to plant in place of the ones we are taking out.

Gary Smith asked Jim about getting a back hoe and dump truck to start cleaning out the culvert because of the excess water. Jim said it would be nice for just one day to have a full crew. Jim said he would look into that.

## **PURCHASE BOAT & EQUIPMENT IN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Smith Dewey moved to allow Fire Department to spend \$3,500 out of the money allocated to the Smoky Fund for help on purchasing a boat and equipment for water rescue. Smith Gary seconded the motion. . Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

## **CEMETERY CONTRACT – RICHARD UMPHENOUR**

*Richard Umphenour* \$45,000

*Dream Lawn Care* \$41,500

Bennett moved to accept the cemetery mowing contract from Richard Umphenour in the amount of \$45,000 due to his experience and the quality of his work. Nepple seconded the motion. .

Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

## **LAWN MOWING CONTRACT- 4 STATE LAWN & GARDEN**

*4 State Lawn & Garden* \$28.00 an hour (with 1 hour minimum)

*Dream Lawn Care* \$30.00 an hour

Paradee moved to accept weed mowing contract with 4 State Lawn & Garden at \$28.00 an hour with a 1 hour minimum. Dunlap seconded the motion. . Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

## **CREDIT CARD FOR CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Spieth moved to allow City Administrator Evan Capron to have a city credit card with a \$4,000 limit, as this is his spending limit. Smith Dewey seconded the motion. . Voting aye: Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Allison. Motion carried: 8-0 1-A.

## **CREDIT CARD FOR CHIEF OF POLICE**

Spieth moved to allow Chief of Police Charles E. Sharp to have a city credit card with a \$2,000 limit, as this is his spending limit. Nepple seconded the motion. . Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

## **CREDIT CARD FOR CITY SUPERINTENDENT**

Spieth moved to allow City Superintendent Jim Burton to have a city credit card with a \$2,000 limit, as this is his spending limit. Smith Gary seconded the motion. . Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

Spieth noted that City Clerk Janice Blancett already has a credit card with a set limit of \$2,500 which we will leave there as she has had for the last 4 years. She still has her \$2,000 spending limit the same as the others. If they wish to change it then we would need a motion. No motion was made.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Allison moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes from 7:27 pm to 7:37 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, City Superintendent,

Lieutenant Roger Johnston and City Clerk in attendance. Paradee seconded the motion. . Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

## **REGULAR SESSION 7:37 PM**

### **Mayor Harley McDaniel report:**

1. I received today a proclamation from the Governor. I'll read you just a part of it; Governor Kathleen Sebelius joined with the Kansas Coalition on Problem Gambling to proclaim March 9-16, 2008, National Problem Gambling Awareness Week and to announce local initiatives in support of the effort to increase public awareness of the availability and benefits of problem gambling treatment. This effort will help educate the public health care providers about problem gambling warning signs, and where to call for help.
2. I would like to appoint to a vacancy on the Hospital Board Bob Kobush has resigned since he has moved out of the area. I would like to fill his unexpired term with Janet Lindsey. I think most of you know who she is and she does a lot of volunteerism.

### **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT TO HOSPITAL BOARD – JANET LINDSEY**

Spieth moved to accept the Mayor's appointment of Janet Lindsey to the Hospital Board replacing the unexpired term of Bob Kobush. Smith Dewey seconded the motion. . Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

### **Meetings:**

#### **Streets/Alleys/Bridges**

Tuesday March 04, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

#### **Personnel**

Tuesday March 04, 2008 @ 7:30 pm

#### **City Property**

Wednesday March 05, 2008 @ 6:00 pm

#### **Water & Sewer**

March 05, 2008 @ 6:30 pm

#### **Budget & Finance**

Wednesday March 05, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Dunlap moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm. Nepple seconded the motion. Voting aye: Allison, Bennett, Dunlap, Hosier, Nepple, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

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*Janice Blancett, City Clerk*