

**CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

December 07, 2009

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas, met November December 07, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Marie Nepple presided. Council members present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Doug Hosier, David Morrison, John Paradee, Dewey Smith, Gary Smith, Grant Spieth, Dana Wellmeier. Members absent: Steve Dunlap.

Councilmember Grant Spieth led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Marie Nepple called for additions or correction to the minutes of the November 16, 2009 council meeting. Burton moved to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2009 council meeting. Hosier seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, , Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith, Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #09-222**

Smith Gary moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance #09-222. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**City Administrator Evan Capron report:**

1. We have a new company looking at Columbus and interested in purchasing the building being occupied by Pittsburg, Illuminating, CDL Electric at 202 s. Minnesota Ave. The company would be interested in moving in the first of January, 2010. They expect to employ up to 9 people. Jim Dahmen will make a presentation regarding Spectra Composites.

**VISITORS**

Jim Dahmen – As Evan mentioned we have been working with a company called Spectra Composites of Kansas L.L.C. This is one of 14 companies an individual owns by the name of Kent Wooldridge. The company, along with their other 13, manufactures core materials that are utilized in the fiber glass industry. Namely gel coats, putties and fiber glass batting and the like. All the companies are vertically orientated as they are all owned by the same individual and incorporated separately. They determined that Columbus was a good location for a warehouse distribution facility. Their market for their product is Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. We have been in negotiation with the property owner for about 4 months now and they came to a definitive term today. They are asking the council to give them consideration for tax abatement. They are also asking the City to apply for a CDBG in the amount of \$298,000. The next round of CDBG has to be postmarked by January 4. We have been working with the SEK Regional Planning Commission and should have the needed paperwork to present to the council at the next meeting. Tonight I would like to ask the council to set December 21 as the hearing date on that application. I will get that application to you via the Regional Planning Commission as well as the economic impact analysis. I believe the procedure is for the council to turn it over to the Economic Development Committee for their consideration and bring back a report to the council. There are no costs to the City, the company is not asking for any municipal participation in any form other than you acting as a vehicle to obtain the CDBG loan. They anticipate creating 9 jobs

over a 2 year period. They would like to be in the building in the January, February time frame. The proceeds from the grant would be used for operating capital primarily inventory. There will be other financing in the project to acquire equipment and remodeling however that will be a financing application outside the City and will not require any City participation. So again I petition you to give consideration to setting a hearing for a CDBG application which after that hearing if there were no objections and a positive motion on behalf of the council you would be authorizing the Mayor to sign the CDBG application and get it in prior to January 4<sup>th</sup>. We would also ask favorable consideration at that time on the tax abatement request and in the interim we will provide the Economic impact analysis.

2. The property at 204 N. Highland has had a hole in the ground over the private sewer line going to the Cities main sewer line. The City Attorney sent a letter to the property owner; the property owner came in to see me and explained that she could not afford to fix the problem. It appears that the hole is over a break in the sewer because the Telephone Company has filled it in and the City has filled it in and evidently the dirt is disappearing into the sewer line. The reason the Telephone Company filled it in is because they have a fiber optic cable laying in the hole unprotected. Apparently this problem has been going on for a long time. I am looking for an efficient method of handling a situation like this as it has taken up several people's time and getting nowhere. The hole could be considered a danger to people stepping into it and the fact that an exposed Fiber Optics cable is laying there unprotected. Possibly the City can go in and fix the problem with written permission from the property owner, charge the owner and allow monthly payments, or put on the State Set Off program.

**City Superintendent Jim Burton report:**

1. East Town Sewer and the add on sewer is complete except for a little clean up and vacuum test on 3 or 4 manholes.
2. All the curb ramps are complete; Marbery has a few items on clean up to complete.
3. Talked with milling contractor and asphalt contractor and had them set up to come in today, but with the bad weather we decided Friday to delay the job. Both have stated that it doesn't look like that we will be able to get it done this year and we need to plan for early March 2010. The milling company won't take the liability of leaving the street open and it takes the asphalt company 3 or 4 days if not longer to get the oil heated up. There is also some issues with the streets that we have some concrete that is 4' to 6" above the new curb and the milling contractor can't mill that much concrete.
4. The pipe is bored on Country Road for the water line and we are finding where the line is on Florida Street is that we will be tapping into.
5. We have done the dirt work for Marbery to come in and pour that sidewalk and to install the handicap pavers on South High School. I talked to Jason Marbery and he is watching the weather and as soon as he gets 2 days above the freezing then he will get it poured. We have an issue from the shed on the property. The home owner has a 6" drain to the west and there is no way we can lower it to go under the sidewalk because it will be below the bottom of the ditch. He had an 11/2" line from the pool and we were able to lower that.
6. On 11/24/09 I attended a meeting of the solid waste committee for the county that I'm a member of. There were 2 individuals from Republic that stated that the land fill would close in May to July of 2010. Right now we pay about #13.89 a ton plus other fees to dump at the land fill. Once the land fill closes and if we choose to take our garbage to the transfer station in Galena it will be about \$24.00 a ton plus other fees at this time. The price goes up about 2-3% each year. At the end of the counties contract which end in

2018 the price will shoot up to the same fee that anyone else has to pay and right now that is about \$52.00 a ton. So you can see what that cost will be in about 8 years.

7. The 6" line is installed on W. Walnut and has been tested and samples sent to the KDHE and passed. We will be starting to hook individuals up after we get some of the other jobs wrapped up.

**PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION -1411 E. SYCAMORE**

Hosier moved to proceed with condemnation at 1411 E. Sycamore. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**PROCEED WITH CONDEMNATION -636 S. DELAWARE**

Spieth moved to proceed with condemnation at 636 S. Delaware. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**EMPLOYEE STEP INCREASE – JUDI ETTER**

Paradee moved to give annual step increase to Judi Etter to \$10.03 Range 7 Step G per Appendix A due November 5, 2009, with retro pay and payable on the December 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 payroll. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**FIRE TRUCK #22 REPAIR**

Spieth moved to pay \$9,881.86 for repairs on truck #22. Hosier seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

**CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT – BARBARA WRIGHT**

Burton moved to accept City Attorney Barbara Wright's contract effective January 1, 2010 through June 1, 2010. Wellmeier seconded the motion. Voting aye: Burton, Hosier, Paradee, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: Bennett, Morrison, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary. Motion carried: 5-4.

**Meetings:**

**Economic Development**

Thursday December 17, 2009 @ 6:30 pm

**Water & Sewer**

Thursday December 17, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

**Personnel**

Thursday December 17, 2009 @ 7:30 pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Burton seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth, Wellmeier. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

---

*Janice Blancett, City Clerk*