

**CITY OF COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

January 19, 2010

ATTENDANCE

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas, met January 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Marie Nepple presided. Council members present: Connie Bennett, Jerri Burton, Steve Dunlap, Doug Hosier, David Morrison, John Paradee, Dewey Smith, Gary Smith, Grant Spieth. Members absent: Dana Wellmeier.

Ervin Dill led the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF CONDEMNATION HEARING

Mayor Marie Nepple called for additions or corrections to the Condemnation Hearing minutes of the January 04, 2010 meeting. Burton moved to accept the minutes of the January 04, 2010 Condemnation Hearing meeting. Hosier seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Morrison. Motion carried: 8-0 1-A.

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Marie Nepple called for additions or corrections to the January 04, 2010 council meeting minutes. Hosier move to accept the minutes of the January 04, 2010 council meeting. Spieth seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Morrison. Motion carried: 8-0 1-A.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #09-226

Smith Gary moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance #09-226. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #10-227

Burton moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance #10-227. Spieth seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

VISITORS

Jean Pritchett – Jean came before the council to ask their help and to please attend the Commissioners meeting on Monday January 25 at 10:00 am to stop them from raising the transient guest tax to 8%. With the county guest tax at 8% and the city guest tax at 4% that would raise the transient guest tax to 12%. We would loose a lot of business as area hotels and motels in the surrounding area are way below that. Jean went to the County Court house with her budget and to sign a contract with them but was told they were not signing contract at this time. County transient guest tax was 2% and City was 4% but raising it to 12% would double. Columbus depends on it's tourism but if people don't stay in Columbus we will loose a lot of tax dollars as they will not be shopping here. Jean told the council that she has talked to area hotel/motel owners and they told her they would have to close their doors if this went in. Jean said she works on a very limited budget and some of that money has already been allocated towards advertising and such. Jean thanked the council for their time and again asked for their help in this situation.

City Administrator Evan Capron report:

1. Delbert Rowden, 219 West Pine would like to install some moveable roof systems on the West side of his building as he is planning on converting part of the building into some apartments. The roof systems would be on city easement but are moveable if need to be.
2. In your packet is a letter and contract form Diehl, Banwart, Bolton for auditing the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009. The audit fee has an increase of 3% from the prior year fee. The gross fee to audit this year including expenses should not exceed \$9,565 plus travel and out-of-pocket expenses.

AUDIT CONTRACT

Burton moved to accept contract with Diehl, Banwart, Bolton for the auditing services for the year ended December 31, 2009 in the amount not to exceed \$9,565 plus travel and out-of-pocket expenses. Paradee seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: Morrison. Motion carried: 8-1.

3. On February 10, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm at the Columbus High School Auditorium will be a Weather Spotters Class hosted by Cherokee County Emergency Management.
4. On the Gazebo, we were working with FEMA under mitigation which means they would build it back to withstand more severe wind storms than we had on May 8, 2009. That way they would not have to replace it again in the future. It was determined that the original construction cost is \$30,058. The new construction would cost \$4,303 for engineering and \$16,808 for construction, for a total of \$21,111. The reason it is less than the original is because there is \$12,000 of electrical which is undamaged and reusable. I signed off on the FEMA paperwork on 11/23/09. We received a letter from the project manager on December 15, 2009 stating that FEMA had determined the damage on the Gazebo to be ineligible. FEMA expects that our insurance company is expected to be covering the \$16,808 and the \$4,303 is not eligible. Our insurance company only paid \$325. We have contacted our insurance company to have them re evaluate their findings.

Meetings:

Water & Sewer

Thursday January 28, 2010 @ 6:15 pm

Personnel

Thursday January 28, 2010 @ 6:30 pm

Streets/Alleys/Bridges - Work Session

Thursday January 28, 2010 @ 7:30 pm

Streets/Alleys/Bridges

Thursday January 28, 2010 @ 8:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. Morrison seconded the motion. Voting aye: Bennett, Burton, Dunlap, Hosier, Morrison, Paradee, Smith Dewey, Smith Gary, Spieth. Voting nay: None. Motion carried: 9-0.

Janice Blancett, City Clerk

