

City of Columbus
Council Proceedings
February 3, 2020

The regular meeting of the Columbus City Council was called to order by Mayor JoAnn Lunstad at 7:00 pm on February 3, 2020 at the Columbus Community Center.

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

Employees present: Christine Aasheim and Raymond MacBeth

Guests Present: Chris Hageman with Akerman Estvold

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

Motion by Nygard, second by Kihle to approve the December 9, 2019 minutes as read. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Ackerman Estvold – Nothing to update on SRF Loans, informed the City that the Air Force base has used, but operable, lift pumps available for sale. More information will be gathered.
- Playground – Brooke Watterud is working hard and has been very successful in obtaining grants for the playground project with current awards totaling \$24,500.00. The City is very proud and thankful for her accomplishments on this project.
- Candidates Election Petitions – handed out to Nygard and Lautenschlager with hopes that they will run for re-election. Petitions must be received by the City Auditor by 4pm on April 6, 2020.
- Streetlights – Maintenance will look at the possibility of solar streetlights to fill in voids from regular streetlights. Regular streetlight outages can be reported to 1-800-638-3278.
- Christmas lights – Cindy Lautenschlager purchased tinsel and lights that she will donate to the City to maintain the Seasons Greeting sign. She will continue searching for parts for the sign.

New Business:

- Health Insurance Renewal – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Kihle to renew health insurance contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota at City contribution rate of \$600.00 per month, per employee. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Nygard, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.** Due to the large increase in premiums, the employees have the option of declining renewal and receiving the \$600.00 per month in their gross pay to purchase their own health insurance policy. Their decision must be agreed upon by both employees and decided by Friday, February 28, 2020.
- Street Signs – Mayor Lunstad discussed the need for additional yield signs. Maintenance will order additional signs and install where needed.
- Discrepancy in tree removal charges – **Motion by Ronning, second by Lautenschlager to reduce the tree removal charge for Chris Kihle to one tree at \$300 plus dirt of \$50, rather than the incorrectly billed amount of two trees at \$700 plus \$100 dirt. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Nygard, Lautenschlager; nays: none; abstained: Kihle. Motion carried.**

- Beer signs – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Kihle to donate two beer signs owned by the City to two local bars. Motion carried.**
- Tool Storage – due to the theft of City tools, a camera system will be investigated to assist in monitoring the entrances to City buildings.
- NSF Checks/Past Due Account Procedures – The City Auditor asked for the Council’s direction regarding a chronically delinquent account that resulted in a \$538.93 NSF check to the City. The City was not made aware of the NSF until the bank had already run the check through on four separate occasions. The customer contacted the City to make payment arrangements, despite being upset about the Auditors expectation of immediate payment, a money order was received to correct the NSF. Direction by the Council is to continue the strict enforcement of City Ordinances and policies related to delinquent accounts and collections. To avoid future conflict, enforcement will be in writing only, either via text or written communication. During the discussion, Councilperson Nygard identified herself to the Council as the customer discussed.

Maintenance Report – Raymond discussed maintenance issues and activities over the last month.

Auditor’s Report:

- Bills to Pay – Bills were reviewed.
- Financial Reports – January financial reports were presented.
- Delinquent accounts were discussed – accounts 60+ days past due will be issued shut off notices.

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

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

Meeting adjourned.

Announcements: Next regular meeting will be held March 9, 2020, 7:00pm at the Columbus Community Center.

Bills to pay: Burke County 84.00, NCC 116.14, MDU 534.33, Aasheim 2,113.91, MacBeth 2,256.45, Visa 451.67, BCBS 2,102.80, EFTPS 919.36, NCC 143.64, NWRW 2,133.01, Office of State Tax Commissioner 60.00, Verizon 244.37, Al’s Electric 174.41, Burke County Tribune 93.60, Circle Sanitation 1,569.50, Ferguson Waterworks 1,029.18, First District Health Unit 25.00, MDU 107.66, ND Sewage Pump and Lift Station 1,708.50, On the Spot Truck Repair 493.74, Visa 120.78, MDU 584.60, Lignite Oil 1,315.75

Christine Aasheim
City Auditor

JoAnn Lunstad
Mayor