

City of Columbus  
Council Proceedings  
June 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Columbus City Council was called to order by Mayor JoAnn Lunstad at 7:00 pm on June 8, 2020 at the Columbus Community Center.

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

Council members absent: Amber Nygard

Employees present: Christine Aasheim and Raymond MacBeth

Guests Present: Valerie Post, Darla Westerness, Roger Helseth, Brooke Watterud, and Chris Hageman with Ackerman Estvold

**Motion by Kihle, second by Ronning to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Ronning, second by Kihle to approve the May 4, 2020 minutes as read. Motion carried.**

Old Business:

- Ackerman Estvold – Chris Hageman presented the Council with an “application for planning assistance reimbursement”. The application will not be completed as the City is nowhere close to preliminary planning for a water or wastewater project.
- Playground Update – Brooke Watterud reported on the progress on the playground. She stated that she is within \$1200 of the required fund to complete the project. The City committed to paying the remaining balance. The Columbus High School memorial fund indicated they may end up with additional funds and be able to cover the difference as well. **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Kihle to sign the contract to begin construction and to place the playground on the south end of the Columbus High School property. Motion Carried.**
- Sheriff Contract – **Motion by Ronning, second by Lautenschlager to sign a new Sheriff Contract with the Burke County Sheriff Department. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Lautenschlager; nays: Kihle. Motion carried.**
- Paving Update – MacBeth is waiting to hear from the paving company to determine if they have enough material to do the paving requested by the City.
- Nuisance Properties – A list was presented to the City Council and reviewed. Letters will be sent to those in violation of Columbus City Ordinances.

New Business:

- Monument – **Motion by Kihle, second by Ronning to accept the building permit, including placement at the center of the lot, submitted by Roger Helseth representing the Columbus High School Monument. Motion carried.**
- Chickens in Town – **Motion by Lautenschlager, second by Ronning to allow exception to the Columbus Animal Ordinance to allow up to 6 chickens (hens only, no roosters) per household as long as they are kept in a fully enclosed structure. The exception will be withdrawn should the City receive complaints. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Lautenschlager; nays: Kihle. Motion carried.**

- Lots – Westernness – **Motion by Kihle, second by Ronning to Quit Claim deed two lots situated between Westernness’ current property and the City park to Marvin and Darla Westernness based on the facts reviewed by the City Attorney. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Lautenschlager, Kihle; nays: none. Motion carried.**
- Use of Community Center – The Community Center will be used to distribute pizzas on Tuesday June 15, 2020
- Building Permits – **Motion by Ronning, second by Lautenschlager to accept the building permit submitted by Jay Blankenship to add a bathroom to his house on Flower St. Motion carried.**
- Sale of Properties - Tabled

Maintenance Report – MacBeth discussed mowing and needed sewer repairs.

**Auditor’s Report:**

- Bills to Pay – Bills were reviewed.
- Financial Reports – May 2020 financial reports were presented.
- Delinquent accounts were discussed – Payment plans can be arranged upon request for customers who indicates a hardship due to COVID-19. Late fees were waived for March-May, they will resume for June

**Motion by Kihle, second by Lautenschlager to pay bills and approve May 2020 financial reports as presented. Mayor Lunstad called for a vote: ayes: Ronning, Kihle, Lautenschlager; nays: none. Motion carried.**

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

Meeting adjourned.

**Announcements:**

Organization meeting will be held June 23, 2020, 7:00pm Columbus Community Center  
 Next regular meeting will be held July 6, 2020, 7:00pm Columbus Community Center

Bills to pay: NCC 143.43, Verizon Wireless 244.22, Circle Sanitation 1,569.50, First District Health Unit 25.00, Gooseneck Equipment 104.18, Gustafson Septic Service 8,407.50, Jerry’s Transfer Service 74.00, Lignite Oil 392.13, Neff Eiken & Neff PC 370.00, One Call Concepts 3.60, NWRW 2,463.76, Visa-Auditor 496.87 (Intuit, USPS), Visa-Maintenance 138.82 (Ebay, Amazon), MDU 589.99 (street lights), MDU 56.32 (community center), MDU 51.67 (shop), MDU 54.09 (lift station), MDU 99.93 (city hall), MDU 69.10 (water depot), Aasheim 2,996.68, MacBeth 3,273.43, EFTPS 1,180.46, Amber Nygard 634.90, Chris Kihle 692.62, Cindy Lautenschlager 692.62, David Ronning 692.62, JoAnn Lunstad 1,385.25.

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Christine Aasheim  
 City Auditor

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JoAnn Lunstad  
 Mayor