

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Dwain Dungen
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Lieutenant	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no citizen comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Hurricane Harvey and FEMA Updates.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the City was still picking up storm debris, but the amount has been steadily declining. He added, to date 57 forty-yard roll-offs filled with debris had been collected. He stated it looked like City crews should be able to get the remaining debris picked up in the next couple of weeks.

The process of submitting paperwork to the state and FEMA regarding damages has been started. Warschak stated he and the City Secretary had attended a state emergency management meeting in Rosenberg last Friday. The City is waiting to hear from FEMA regarding available public assistance.

Mayor Dungen stated October 6th will be six weeks since the storm, and we need to get the debris collection done by then. After that date, residents will go back to the normal large item pickup with TDS.

Councilman Cummings asked about the section of Preston Street that was washed out by the flooding. Warschak stated the street superintendent had been out of the office last week. When he returns they will go out and set a plan of action. Warschak stated he knew some culverts were going to need to be reset, and debris needed to be cleared. The discussion continued about how extensive the repair may be. Dungen stated since the road was so old, the repairs may have to extend beyond washed out area. Cummings asked if this can be done by the City or if a contractor will need to be hired. Warschak stated the City could do this job. The City Manager added there was a section of Front Street that must also be repaired.

Councilman Swindle asked where the storm debris was being taken. Warschak stated the debris goes to TDS's landfill near Austin. He said the roll-offs go to the transfer station in Weimar for compaction before being transported to the landfill. Swindle asked if it was being processed in any way before entering the landfill. Dungen stated it was probably treated however the City's regular garbage is processed. There was further discussion of landfills and the impact of the storm on their design.

Dungen asked if there was any information on the "car lot" outside of town. Warschak stated he only knew that storm damaged vehicles were being brought in for processing.

6. Consideration and Action to Ratify Budgeted Property Tax Increase Reflected in 2017-2018 Budget.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to ratify the property tax increase. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 195-17 to Establish the Property Tax Rate of \$0.28000.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.28000, which is effectively a 5.06 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Councilman Rankin	-	Aye
Councilman Hernandez	-	Aye
Councilman Swindle	-	Aye
Councilwoman Gobert	-	Aye
Councilman Cummings	-	Aye

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approved a Manufactured Home Permit for Lot S-10, Block 80 of Preston Street as Requested by Melinda Sewell.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard La Course, stated the home on this lot had sustained substantial flood damage on top of the existing termite damage. Ms. Sewell was adamant about getting a home that would fit on the lot and still be able to face Preston Street. LaCourse

went over the documentation included with the permit, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

9. **Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation of 0.705 Acres of Land in the E. Tumlinson Survey, Abstract No. 44, Colorado County Texas.**

Mayor Dungen opened the hearing at 6:46 p.m.

Warschak gave a brief description and the location of the lot.

The hearing was closed at 6:48 p.m.

10. **Consideration and Action to Approve a 2016-2017 Budget Amendment for Library Memorials and Donations and Associated Expenses.**

Dungen remarked on the different accounts in which the funds would be used.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

11. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with Family Crisis Center, Inc.**

Dungen stated the City had contracted with them for as long as he can remember.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the contract with Family Crisis Center. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

12. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with Combined Community Action, Inc.**

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the contract with Combined Community Action. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action on the Mayor's Appointment of Fire Marshal.

Dungen stated, on the recommendation of the CVFD, he would like to appoint Brent Allen Gorman, Jr. as Fire Marshal for the City of Columbus. Councilwoman Gobert questioned the need for the appointment if he was going to be an employee. Schneider stated that position is required to be appointed.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve Gorman as Fire Marshal. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2017 Code Enforcement Report.

LaCourse gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

He stated because of the hurricane flooding, he is expecting probably at least two more manufactured home permits.

Councilman Hernandez asked if a permit was issued for the chain link fence behind Whataburger. LaCourse stated he issued a curb and gutter type permit for tracking purposes. LaCourse explained why the fence was put in place.

Councilman Rankin asked about storm damaged homes that were already on the substandard list. LaCourse stated he was waiting on FEMA assessments for condemnations.

Councilman Swindle asked about the substandard housing list. LaCourse responded that it is on the back burner for now.

There was discussion regarding how the Fire Marshal would report to Council. The number of commercial properties that need to be inspected was also discussed.

No action was required.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2017 Police Report.

Lieutenant Skip Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman stated he and Chief Lattimore participated in the Lunch & Learn program with the Chamber of Commerce on September 13th.

He informed Council about the \$5,980 the department received in Chapter 59 seizure funds. The officers received 3 hours of training, and the admin assistant received 4 hours of training during the month.

No action was required.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None.

Councilman Swindle - None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – Last week he spent several hours with the other mayors from the county, Judge Prause, and state senator Kolkhorst. She viewed the areas of town damaged by the flooding, including the waste water treatment plant. She will try to help as much as she can.

21. Announcements.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 10th since Monday the 9th the City offices will be closed in observance of Columbus Day.

22. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, City Secretary

¹During this agenda item, citizens may comment for the record on items, which are not on the agenda. However, the Council may not participate in discussion or deliberation on any item that is not on the agenda. Citizens may request that a topic be added to a future agenda.

²Limited to statements. Issues raised by councilmembers under this item cannot be deliberated by Council. The Open Meetings Act does not allow Council to deliberate items that don't appear on the agenda.

