

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

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

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes from the March 12, 2018 Regular Council Meeting

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Hernandez 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

Debbie Damon gave a presentation regarding butterfly awareness and education month. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Councilwoman Gobert asked where the butterfly waystations were located in Columbus. Damon stated one is located at Midtown Park, and the other is located at her residence.

Mayor Dungen signed a proclamation declaring April Butterfly Education and Awareness Month.

5. City Manager's Report Including Filtration Project, and Army Corps of Engineers River Bank Updates.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the contractor for the water filtration project has mobilized equipment to one of the construction sites. They will soon start working on the sub grade for the foundations.

Regarding the river bank, Warschak stated there have been biweekly teleconference meetings with the Corps. Individual tasks have been assigned, and the different disciplines are gathering data.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding the Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates.

Warschak stated the ROW access line rates are reviewed yearly, and the City can adjust the rate up to the amount allowed by the PUC.

The Mayor stated in the past, Council has chosen not to increase the rate since it is a pass through to the customers.

The City Secretary stated last year, if Council had chosen to go with the higher rate, an increase of approximately \$3,400 would have been realized, and this year's increase would be an additional 1%.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to maintain the 2017 rates for the municipal right-of-way access line rates. 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 a 2017-2018 Budget Amendment for Library Grants and Associated Expenditures.

Dungen stated when the budget is prepared every year, grants like this one are not included. When the Library Director receives these types of funds, then the expenditure accounts are increased.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Library. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2017-2018 Budget Amendment for a Water Department Truck.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the funding for the truck was in last year's budget and we thought we were going to receive it within the first two weeks of this fiscal year. Warschak stated the dealer has blamed the hurricane, stating Ford had discontinued production of this model for awhile. Then the dealer stated the specialty truck bed that was ordered came in damaged.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the water department truck. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Fire Marshal Report.

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, gave his report; a copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Dungen asked how Bealls department store was doing with their repairs. Gorman stated they were actually doing pretty well.

Gobert asked which pharmacy was referenced in the report. Gorman stated the pharmacy located on Shult Drive.

No action was required

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2018 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the carwash at 810 Walnut now has a sump pump in place, and they are waiting for the concrete work to be done so they will no longer have water run-off.

Dungen asked what the CCIDC inspection was at Windshield Express. LaCourse stated it was for a new garage door. The company had received a grant from CCIDC and one of the requirements was an inspection had to be done. Gobert stated it was the exterior improvement matching fund grant Windshield Express received. There was discussion regarding other grant recipients.

Gobert asked for the updated spreadsheet for non-compliant properties within the City. LaCourse stated he was planning on working on it again. Rankin asked what his methodology would be. LaCourse stated he would begin with locating all of the non-compliant manufactured homes, and then would go to commercial enterprises operating in residential neighborhoods.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2018 Police Report.

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

Edman highlighted the training the department participated in during the month. He spoke about a walk through of the CISD campuses during spring break, with a scenario based discussion after the walk through. He stated it went well, and deputies from the Sherriff's department also participated. Edman also stated the department went through a recent DPS Criminal Justice Information Systems audit. They passed all of the monitoring and network security tests.

Councilman Cummings asked Edman his opinion of arming students with rocks in case of a shooting. He stated he was not in favor of arming students with rocks, but anything that can be picked up in the classroom could help disrupt an active shooter. Edman stated the protocol is to hide, flee, and lastly, fight.

Rankin asked how comfortable he was with training that has been done with local schools. Edman stated any training is better than no training. There was discussion of the recent school shootings. There was also discussion regarding St. Anthony's school, and their lack of response to requests for a walk through.

No action was required.

14. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

15. Announcements.

Dungen reminded everyone that Trash-off would be next Saturday starting at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Schneider stated Council had received MASA applications in case they wanted to sign up or renew their coverage.

16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:58 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.