

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 12:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Lori An Gobert
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Chuck Rankin (arrived at 12:06 p.m.)
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak (absent)
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman
Utility Superintendent	-	Jody Ripper
Parks/Public Works Superintendent	-	Michael Poncik

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**3. Consent Agenda:**

**a. Approval of Invoices**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, and Swindle; Councilwoman Frnka  
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. <sup>1</sup>**

There were no citizen comments.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax.**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave the report on sales tax since the City Manager was absent. Schneider stated the sales tax payment the City received in December was \$156,987.61. This payment was for collections during the month of October. There was a significant increase of \$48,646.27 over the same time period last year. Schneider stated the payment allocation detail showed over \$27,000 of audit collections. She also stated the County as a whole and the City of Weimar both saw increases over last year while the City of Eagle Lake saw a decrease.

Mayor Gobert stated the City Manager was not here, but she would like to speak about the Water Filtration Project. She gave a timeline of the water filtration project, and discussed the delay in its completion.

**Councilman Rankin arrived at 12:06 p.m.**

Bruce Tesch of B&D Services, the City's contractor on the project, gave a status update, and showed photographs of the alignment issues with the filter vessels. He feels the vessel should be taken back to the manufacturer to be fixed.

Pictures of the filter vessels were distributed for Council to view, and copies are attached to these minutes. The photos were explained by Tesch. There was discussion regarding the construction drawings, and who was responsible for the design.

There was a lengthy discussion of the problems with the vessels manufactured by Universal Tank, and what type of remedy that may be available. Council recommends the City Manager consult with the City Attorney on what type of legal remedy might be available to move the project to completion.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve a Bid for the Purchase or Lease of a Forklift.**

Schneider stated the lease would be more expensive than buying the forklift out right. She stated the leases to city governments are basically lease to own. Public Works Superintendent, Michael Poncik, confirmed the lease to own only option. Gobert asked Poncik which forklift he preferred. He stated the forklift from ASCO equipment; even though it is a little higher, the warranty is much better with ASCO than with the other company. Gobert stated the forklift had been approved in the budget.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the bid for the purchase of a forklift from ASCO Equipment. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Steve McCullough to the Planning & Zoning Commission.**

Gobert stated there had been a resignation from the board and Mr. McCullough was her recommendation. Schneider stated this appointment was to fill the position previously held by John Brown.

Cummings stated he was concerned since Mr. McCullough was involved with Habitat for Humanity. He stated he had heard Habitat wanted people on P&Z in order to change how the commission operated. Gobert stated Mr. McCullough had said he would abstain from any votes pertaining to Habitat for Humanity. Councilman Rankin stated Council makes the final decision for any item sent to Planning & Zoning.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the appointment of Steve McCullough to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

No: Councilman Cummings

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Betty Hajovsky as an Alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission.**

Gobert stated Ms. Hajovsky works at the hospital as well as being a realtor. She said she would like to fill the board with people who have an interest in improving zoning in order to protect our community. Rankin stated P&Z helps to improve property values.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the appointment of Betty Hajovsky as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

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

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Gorman stated he had conducted one new inspection and several reinspections during the month. He also spoke about an investigation of a structure fire in which our fire department responded. There was a discussion regarding the CVFD's coverage area, and the area in which they are primary responders. Councilman Ridlen asked if a copy of the response area could be provided to Council.

No action was required.

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

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He gave Council an overview of the planned changes to the Shell station in front of HEB. He also stated the repairs of the property at 1318 Travis were almost complete. He stated he had completed the TCEQ course for Customer Service Inspections. LaCourse stated he had the next three substandard structures in his radar to start processing in the New Year.

No action was required.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2018 Police Report.**

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman spoke about the recent burglaries in town. He said most of the stolen property had been recovered. He also stated the department had participated in the "Shop with a Cop" program, and they had taken 10 children to Walmart to shop for Christmas.

No action was required.

**12. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Cummings – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Councilman Ridlen – The same as Councilman Cummings

Councilman Swindle – Happy New Year

Councilwoman Frnka – Wished everyone a safe holiday season.

Councilman Rankin – Wished the same as Councilwoman Frnka

Mayor Gobert – Gave the statistics for the Hurricane Harvey recovery program with RIO Texas, a copy is attached to these minutes. Thanked all of the City employees for all of their hard work throughout the year.

**13. Announcements.**

Schneider stated the next City Council meeting would be on Monday January 14, 2019

**14. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.



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Mayor, Lori An Gobert

ATTEST:



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Bana Schneider, City Secretary

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.