

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, June 24, 2019, at 5:31 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen (Absent)
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman
Fire/Code Assistant	-	Duane Naiser

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of the June 10, Regular Meeting

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 and Swindle; Councilwoman Frnka
Absent: Councilmen Ridlen and Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Debbie Damon gave a report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Ms. Damon stated several properties were affected by the storm on June 6th. She highlighted the properties and the lack of response from AEP regarding limbs in the power lines on her property and others. She stated she wanted Council to be aware of the situation.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water Filtration Project, the Front Street River Access Point, TxDOT Safe Route to School Project.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak said the sales tax payment of \$138,951.99 the City received for the month of June was up approximately \$30,000 over the same time period as last year. He also said the County, Eagle Lake, and Weimar all saw increases as well.

Warschak stated B&D Services had completed the installation of the face piping on the Tait Water Plant filter unit, and they began work at the Spring Water Plant today. Councilman Swindle asked about the time line for the filtration and the water line projects. Warschak stated it will be a couple of

months before the vessels are ready to be placed on the pedestals, and then they have to be painted. There was a discussion concerning the process for painting the vessels. Warschak said the waterline project would go out for bids later in the summer. Councilman Cummings asked if it will take 6 to 8 months to complete everything. Warschak stated 3 months for the filtration project and 6 months for the waterline.

Regarding the Front Street river access point, Warschak said Frank Surveying had staked the area after their research and surveying. He said he had put a call in to FSC to get more information about the staking. Gobert stated she wanted to know who owns the land behind the lift station. Councilwoman Frnka stated if we put the signs and bollards there, we would be covered. Swindle stated he would not want to impede access to the river. Gobert said since funding for repairs for Beason's Park would not come through until spring of next year, she would really like signage to go up near the lift station. She also stated she does not want to diminish the Howell's business, but we have to think about the liability. There was discussion concerning the clearing on the railroad property. Frnka stated we need to protect ourselves.

Warschak stated the City has been invited to submit a final application for the TxDOT Safe Route to School Program. The application deadline will be August 15th, and he added we may be required to hold a public hearing to receive input from the community.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Capstone Project Agreement with Texas A&M.

Gobert stated the steering committee has met several times discussing the project, and she, Warschak, and Barbara Peterman attended a meeting in College Station with the student advisors of the program. Warschak stated the agreement is for the study of the main corridors, HWY 71 and Walnut Street, in order to come up with ideas for beautification along those corridors. There may be suggested improvements in the TxDOT rights of way, and for local businesses. The City would partner with the businesses to put the plans in place, and the businesses could then apply for CCIDC funding to help implement the improvements. Gobert stated the A&M study will help improve the visual impact of the corridors.

The City Attorney has reviewed the agreement, and he suggested some minor changes.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Capstone Project Agreement with Texas A&M. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Brent Gorman gave the Fire Marshal report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Gorman highlighted the inspections he performed throughout the month. He stated he had issued a fireworks permit to the Chamber for the 4th of July celebration.

Gorman is working on the occupant load and inspections of all of the schools. He also informed Council he would be participating in some training to become a fire investigator.

No action was required.

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2019 Code Enforcement Report.

Duane Naiser presented the Code Enforcement report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Naiser stated Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, has submitted the ordinance changes for the building and electrical codes to the City Attorney, and LaCourse had also completed CSI certification. Naiser told Council 23 letters had been mailed to various residences regarding weeded lots, and trash and debris in yards. He also indicated the construction of the new Best Western Plus

Hotel would commence sometime in July. There was a discussion about a property that has been cleaned up, and if the house was going to be demolished.

No action was required.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2019 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman stated the department had participated in over 100 hours of training. He also stated the Liz Cook Trail Ride would be taking place soon, and Council might want to restrict the hours of the loud music.

No action was required.

10. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – Absent

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – Asked about the mess on Montezuma Street. Warschak stated they are sanding and rocking the road until the oil cures. Gobert asked if it was being checked every day. Warschak stated he did not know Michael's schedule, but they did check it regularly.

Councilman Rankin – Absent

Mayor Gobert – None

11. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

12. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.



Mayor, Lori An Gobert

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.