

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Lori An Gobert (Absent)
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen (Arrived 5:48 p.m.)
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff Present:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Code/Fire Assistant	-	Duane Naiser

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Rankin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Rankin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of the February 24, 2020 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, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka
Absent: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.

Director of the County EMS, Michael Furrh, spoke to Council regarding the emergency and transport services provided by his agency in the City and County. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. He stated the number of calls the EMS performed last year was 3,469. He added, the service revenues increased \$376,551 during that same time period. Furrh spoke about plans for improvements that will provide better services to the residents, and he discussed the total cost to man and operate an ambulance unit for a year.

5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project and the CDBG Waterline Grant Project Updates.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the water filtration systems at the Tait and Spring plants were both operational. At the Hill plant, the contractor has installed the underground piping connected to the filter as well as

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave a history of the lot, and his warning to the property owner when they started work on the lot to increase the size of their back yard which is adjacent to this lot. They informed him they would only be using the house as rental property and would not be selling it, but he recommended they keep the fence at least 25 feet from the back of the back of the house. LaCourse said he told them if they owned both lots then they could do what they wanted. He stated the Schindlers were approached by an individual to purchase the house that was supposed to only be a rental. With the replat as shown, the lot would not meet the code by dimension or square footage. LaCourse stated the code calls for lots to be 50 feet across the front, which this lot meets at a little over 66 feet, and 100 feet deep. They are proposing only 67.50 feet deep. Also this will make the rear set-back only 14 feet, and code calls for a 25 foot set-back. Frnka asked what the depth of the original lot was. LaCourse stated it was 110 feet deep. Rankin stated there is a discrepancy between the plat and CAD information. There was a discussion regarding the sizes of adjacent lots. Rankin stated he was concerned that Council would be condoning a lot that would never be buildable in the future if this request was sent to Planning & Zoning. Councilman Ridlen stated he was afraid we would be opening a can of worms. Councilman Swindle stated we have too many odd sized lots in the City as it is. Councilman Cummings asked if this was sent to P&Z could they deny it. Rankin stated yes, but they could grant it. Ridlen asked if it came back to Council for final approval. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated P&Z's ruling would be final. She also stated if the replat was approved, then all variances attached to the property would also be approved. Ridlen asked if a replat like this has ever been approved. There was a discussion regarding different replat scenarios that had occurred in the City. There was also a discussion regarding different options the property owners could take in order to make the request more compliant. LaCourse stated he would recommend the property owners extend the back property line 10 feet in order to bring the square footage up to just over 5,000 square feet. Rankin stated he recommended not approving, but asking the property owners to revise the replat.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to not send the replat to Planning & Zoning. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street Between Walnut Street and Spring Street from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the Last Saturday of Every Month from March 28, 2020 through November 28, 2020 for the Columbus Country Market.

Billy Kahn of the Chamber stated the request was made to ensure a safe crossing between the Courthouse drive and the Visitors Center.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the street closures as requested. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February Golf Association Report.

Schneider stated the financials indicate they have received a few more cart shed rentals, and the stipend from the high school. She also stated they had over \$2000 in liability insurance premiums which contributed to the loss for the month. There was a discussion regarding green fees collected for the year.