

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, July 27, 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
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert moved to item 4.

Councilman Swindle arrived at 5:32 p.m.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of the April 2020 Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. ¹

Chief Edman introduced new patrol officer, Jamy Adams, to Council.

Gobert went back to item 3.

5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project, Water Well Rehab Project, North River Drive Storm Sewer Outfall Project, 2020 Sewer Line Improvement Project, and the Nesbitt Library Roof Project Updates.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated WesTech was here last week, and they started the filter system at the Hill location. The utility superintendent is backwashing the tank, and will collect water samples tomorrow. If the samples come back free of bacteria, the system can go online. While WesTech was in town, we had them check the Tait system. The unit was experiencing difficulties during the backwash cycle.

WesTech found there is separation in the walls of the tank which is causing the backwash issues. They will be looking for solutions. Councilman Rankin asked if this could be a problem at the other sites. Warschak stated that is a possibility. Councilman Ridlen asked if that system was completely down. Warschak stated the filter system is down, but the Tait plant was operating on phosphates. Regarding the Water Well Rehab Project, Warschak stated after the new pumping equipment was replaced, output at the well was not what was expected. The equipment was pulled again, and an impeller on the motor was loose. It was tightened up and placed back in the well, but when we tried to start the well, there was an electrical issue in the control panel. The Tait well will be slated for rehab next.

Warschak stated the FEMA North River Drive Storm Sewer project was anticipated to require 60 feet of pipe replacement, but additional pipe replacement will be required. Hopefully by the end of the week, it will be dry enough for the contractor to get back on site.

We will have a preconstruction meeting with T Construction this week for the Sewer Line Improvement Project. We have received our permits from TxDOT to do the work on Highway 71 between Washington and Spring Streets. We chose that location first because of some of the issues we are having in the area.

Warschak stated contract documents had been received back from the contractor for the Nesbitt Library Roof Project. Once we receive the bond documentation, the Mayor can execute the contracts. Rankin asked how long the roof replacement would take. Most of the contractors stated it would take approximately 10 days.

6. Consideration and Action for Authorization to Advertise for Bids for the TX CDBG-DR GLO Mitigation Grant Project.

Warschak stated, typically, with grant projects the authorization for advertising comes through Council. He said this is for the GLO drainage project.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to authorize the advertising of bids for the project. Councilman Rankin 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 Change Order No. 1 for the TxCDBG Waterline Grant Project.

Warschak stated this is to reflect the as-built quantities that were actually installed. There was a discussion regarding the original project amount. Rankin asked if these were original taps. Warschak stated they were, but the surveyor must have missed them. There was a discussion regarding the funding for the project. Rankin stated it seems strange we did not know the taps were there, but the amount is not that significant for the amount of the original contract. Gobert asked what happens if we do not approve. Warschak stated the work has already been done.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the change order. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 209-20, a Resolution to Select an Administrative Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Implementation for the CDBG-Downtown Revitalization Program.

Warschak stated we are working on an application for the Downtown Revitalization program in the hopes of implementing some of the ideas from the A&M study. The applications are due September 1, 2020. We only received one response for the administrative services, and that was from Langford.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Resolution 209-20 appointing Langford. Councilman Ridlen 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 Resolution 210-20, a Resolution to Select an Engineering Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Related Engineering for the CDBG-Downtown Revitalization Program.**

Warschak stated this was for the same project. We sent out requests for RFQs, and we received four proposals. He stated the Mayor, Bana, and himself scored them this afternoon. The scoring was really close between Befco and Weishuhn Engineering. Warschak stated he recommended going with Weishuhn. There was a discussion regarding their qualifications and the different projects they have done.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve Resolution 210-20 appointing Weishuhn Engineering. 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 to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 112 LT 8, 9 of Sunset Drive as Requested by Frederick Ashton.**

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the details of the application. He stated manufactured homes are allowed in the area, and all set-back requirements will be met. LaCourse stated the only thing he is waiting on is the survey and elevation certificate, but he feels the permit should be issued.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2020 Fire Marshal Report.**

LaCourse gave the Fire Marshal report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The report highlighted some mutual aide fires in Eagle Lake and Garwood. The Fire Marshal is also working on implementing the PS Trax system and the Knox system.

No action was required.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2020 Code Enforcement Report.

LaCourse gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He gave an overview of the permits issued for the month. He stated the high school softball fields were under construction. Warschak gave the status of the construction of the manhole to service the sewer system at the fields.

LaCourse said the breathing air compressor is installed and operational, and the department is working on additional items using the COVID-19 funding.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding June 2020 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman stated the officers had completed a lot of training during the month, and the department helped the Chamber at their 4th of July event.

No action was required.

13. Discussion of Budget Workshop – Property Tax

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, explained the changes regarding property tax after the last legislative session. She went over the amount of revenue from the different rates that are an option. There was a discussion regarding how the rates are figured.

There was a discussion regarding the comparison of taxable values from last year to this year, and the circumstances involved for an election to be called.

Schneider discussed the timeline for the property tax process.

15. Consideration and Action to Appoint a Taxing Unit Representative.

Schneider stated this is a new requirement for property tax. She stated the appraisal district will still do the tax calculations, but there are more requirements like posting information on our website. Ridlen asked as far as auditing the numbers from the appraisal district, if our financial auditors should need to look at those numbers. He wanted to make sure the City would not be liable if the information was wrong. Schneider stated she was comfortable with the numbers, because most of the information supplied to the appraisal district were taken from our CAFR.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to appoint the City Secretary as the Taxing Unit Representative. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – Wanted to say something positive to the police department. We appreciate what you do, not just local police but police across the country as well.

Mayor Gobert – None

17. Announcements.

Schneider stated she would have the budget schedule at the next meeting. Only one special meeting would be required.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:21 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.