

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, July 15, 2021, 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	-	Ronny Daley
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider
Asst City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Water Dept Supervisor	-	Kevin Faichtinger

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.

3. **Consent Agenda:**

a. Approval of Invoices

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

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

None

5. **Consideration and Action to Award the Bid for the 2021 Street Seal Coat Project.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated H & C Construction was the low bidder, as well as the only bidder. He stated his recommendation was to go with H & C Construction.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to award the street seal coat project to H & C Construction. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

6. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Routing Change of the LCRA Easement.**

Warschak stated this item really was not necessary now. They are going to go with what was originally presented.

No action was necessary.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Washington Street from Milam Street to the Family Life Center on Saturday, July 17, 2021 From 9:00 a.m. to Noon for the Colorado County Bicycle Rodeo and Back to School Bash as Requested by the Colorado County Agriculture Extension Office.**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the street closure. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

8. **Discussion of Budget Workshop – General and Utility Funds.**

Newly updated budget pages with budget revisions were discussed. The new pages reflected a .29 tax rate, as well as only a 1.5% wage increase. Gobert and Warschak attended a TDEM meeting on Tuesday. They were notified that TDEM wants to disperse ARP funding very quickly. There is 60 days for notification and acceptance of funds. There was discussion on what the ARP funds could be spent on. Gobert stated Warschak and Assistant City Secretary, Dinah Jacobs, had gone to Brenham to look at a utility software that could fall under the ARP funding. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated these ARP funds could be used for revenue recovery, but the procedure is very cumbersome to prove. Gobert stated if we don't accept the funds, they will take them back. Gobert stated these funds could help the City get back on track with the 10 year plan. There was discussion of SCADA upgrades. Schneider stated bond money needs to be used. The bond money could be used for waterline improvements. There was discussion on the distribution between water, sewer, and gas for those funds. Gobert stated she did not want to get behind on scheduled projects, because if something happens, it will only be worse. Currently all three water wells are up and functioning as they should be, but a new well and the cost was discussed. There was discussion on the Fire truck that is scheduled for replacement in 2023. Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse, stated the Fire Department is looking for another grass truck and boat, but the Fire Department will be replacing them with their own funding. Schneider discussed debt service. Councilman Rankin stated this is a budget, but spending has to be in relation to the income. Gobert stated the additional ARP funds the City will be receiving will offset some of the negativity. Rankin stated Council has been approving what has already been spent. We need to be looking at the expenses more closely. Swindle requested the budget be placed into a PowerPoint presentation to be able to more closely follow along. There were also utility rate discussions with proposed increases. There has not been a rate increase since 2017. Rankin and Swindle thought there had been a rate increase last year, but Schneider confirmed there had been no increase.

9. **Items from Council members.**<sup>2</sup>

Councilman Cummings – none

Councilman Swindle – none

Councilwoman Frnka – none

Councilman Rankin – none

Mayor Gobert – I know this is a colossal job for Bana and Dinah. Rankin added the Mayor was doing an excellent job staying on top of all of this.

10. **Announcements.**

There was a request to get informational feedback on CodeRED.

11. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



Mayor Lori An Gobert

ATTEST:



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 council members 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.