

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| Mayor | - | Dwain Dungen (Absent) |
| Mayor Pro Tem | - | Lori An Gobert |
| Councilman | - | Keith Cummings |
| Councilman | - | Gary Swindle |
| Councilman | - | Eddie Hernandez |
| Councilman | - | Chuck Rankin |
| City Manager | - | Donald Warschak |
| City Secretary | - | Bana Schneider |

Other City Staff Present:

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| Police Chief | - | Bill Lattimore |
| Library Director | - | Susan Chandler |

1. Call to Order.

The Mayor Pro Tem, Lori An Gobert, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices

Gobert commented there seemed to be a great number of invoices for fuel. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the fueling station was not operational after the flooding, so the vehicles had to be taken individually to be filled up.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Debbie Damon gave an update on AEP delivery charges, and her phone conversation with attorney, Jake Dyer. She stated he would like a copy of the comparison of charges, and he has concerns regarding the delivery charges to churches. Ms. Damon also spoke about Hurricane Harvey, and the need to make sure monetary donations are being allocated to those in need. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Dale Alexander gave a report on the storm recovery progress. Mr. Alexander stated 90% of the homes that saw flooding were located in low income neighborhoods, with many homes receiving 3-5 feet of flood waters inside. He stated there had been approximately 330 volunteers from all over, and all but approximately 4-6 homes had not been cleaned. UMCOR brought in 400 flood buckets and an additional 300 were supplied by the Red Cross. The excess was sent to neighboring cities. Alexander also informed Council that the Brides House had been turned into a relief center, and they have been receiving donations of food, clothing, and other relief goods. The center has served

approximately 800 people for help with their daily needs. He stated approximately 1,250 people had been fed at the Community Outreach Center, adding the Mentz church served a couple of days and a church from Stephenville brought 400 pounds of barbeque.

Alexander explained monetary donations have been going to the Ministerial Alliance. The Alliance has given \$7,500 to local pastors to disburse to those in need, and there will be an additional \$8,000 to give out this week. There has been a call for furniture donations since many people have lost everything.

In conclusion, Alexander stated the Brides House is in the process of closing for business, but he and his wife plan on forming a 501(c)(3) organization called God's Corner Store. They want to see the proceeds from this organization remain in the community.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, GFOA Certificate of Achievement, and Hurricane Harvey Update.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax the City received in September was up over the same time period last year. Weimar, Eagle Lake, and the County as a whole also saw increases.

Regarding Harvey, Warschak stated Dale had given a good update. He thanked all of the volunteers who came out and helped remove debris. He also stated FEMA has opened a Disaster Recovery Center at the EOC, and citizens can register there for disaster relief.

Warschak announced the City had received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2016. He congratulated City Secretary, Bana Schneider, and staff for the accomplishment.

6. Consideration and Action to Reschedule the Second Public Hearing for the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 to September 21, 2017.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to reschedule the public hearing as stated. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to reschedule the Budget Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2017-2018 Operating Budget to September 21, 2017.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to reschedule the public hearing and adoption of the operating budget as stated. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

8. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018.

Mayor Pro Tem, Lori An Gobert, opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Gobert closed the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, regarding the August 2017 Golf Association Report.

John Mangini of the CMGA gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the course is back in business after missing 12 days due to the flooding. He stated they had a fundraiser for a hurricane victim on Sunday.

He stated there is a problem with power in the pump house.

Councilman Swindle asked if there is a list of who is actually playing the course. Mangini asked if Swindle wanted members and nonmembers separated on the list.

10. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

Schneider stated Council had received the changes with the increases for storm recovery. There was discussion concerning the total for storm recovery and what the fund balance would be if that total was spent.

There was discussion regarding a FEMA claim.

Councilman Rankin asked if economic development funds could be used for low-income housing. Gobert stated they would be speaking to CCIDC's attorney about the use of that funding.

There was discussion regarding a prospective computer backup system for the police department.

15. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – Absent

16. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

17. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

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 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.