

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2018 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
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle (Absent)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff Present:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
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**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor, Dwain Dungen, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**3. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of November 2017 Financial Statements
- c. Approval of December 2017 Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Debbie Damon gave a report to Council concerning signage directing traffic to the downtown area. She shared photos of sign examples from Katy. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Filtration Project Update, Sewer Averaging, TX-DOT Bridge, McCormick River Bank, and Visitors Center Update.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax payment for the month was down approximately \$39,000 from the same time period last year. Eagle Lake and Weimar both had increases while the County as a whole decreased. Councilwoman Gobert asked if this was for November or December collections. Warschak stated December. Mayor Dungen stated this was a significant decrease. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, explained the breakdown from the sales tax payment report. She stated possibly a quarterly filer had missed a payment, or perhaps more Christmas shopping was done in November since the collection for that month had such an increase.

Regarding the Water Filtration Project, Warschak stated there would be a pre-bid meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, with the bid opening on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. He stated five companies were looking at bidding, and the bid results would be available at the next Council meeting.

The sewer averaging period will close on February 15<sup>th</sup> Warschak stated. The average residential customer water usage from December 15<sup>th</sup> thru February 15<sup>th</sup> will determine the sewer rate for the coming year.

Warschak stated the contractor has started the utility work for the North river bridge project, and construction will be starting soon. He said the East river bridge project will require a rebid due to the riverbank damage from Hurricane Harvey. That letting should take place sometime in 2018. Gobert asked if they were boring at the North river bridge location. Warschak confirmed there was boring being done to move AT&T communications lines.

Warschak commented he had heard from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the river bank at the McCormick WWTP. He stated the Corps had found the money to be able to start a feasibility study. There will be a kick-off meeting soon with them.

In conclusion, Warschak invited all of the Councilmembers to the ribbon cutting grand opening for the Visitors Center at noon on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Consideration and Action on Funding Support to the Columbus Garden Club for the Spring Trash Off Event.**

Garden Club representative, Marion Schonenburg, introduced to Council club president, Mary Jane Moore, and first vice-president, Debbie Friend. Schonenburg and Moore presented the plans for the 2018 Trash Off to Council; a copy is attached to these minutes.

The Mayor stated the City would provide the same things supplied in the past, and commended the club on the tremendous job they have done with this event.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve funding support to the Garden Club for the Trash Off. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve a the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Jackson Street to Walnut Street (Highway 90) and the Closure of Walnut Street from Milam Street to Legion Drive from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2018 for the Annual FFA Parade.**

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the street closures for the annual FFA parade. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Submit to Planning & Zoning a Replat of a 0.843 Acre Tract Located in Block T of the Smith and Jones Additions of the City of Columbus into Two (2) Lots (0.585 Acres (Lot A), and 0.258 Acres (Lot B)) as Requested by Kenneth Venghaus.**

Warschak told Council the property owner wanted to subdivide the large lot. The property is located on the corner of Forest and Robson Streets. There is an existing house and pool that is located on what will be Lot A.

The Mayor stated Council would merely be sending to P & Z for review and ruling.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the replat to Planning & Zoning. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve an Engagement Letter from Patillo, Brown and Hill for the September 2017 Financial Audit.**

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the engagement letter with Patillo, Brown and Hill. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Declare a 2006 Chevrolet Impala Police Patrol Unit, VIN 2G1WS551869378710, as Surplus Property.**

Chief Edman stated the vehicle was 12 years old.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to declare the 2006 Chevy Impala as surplus property. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January Golf Association Report.**

John Mangini gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated it had been a slow month due to the cold weather. Cart shed dues were collected in January, and they have been getting new members on a pro rated basis. He stated Monday and Tuesday of next week the course would be hosting the High School Golf Tournament. He also commented they may try to host tournaments in conjunction with Magnolia Days, and have the Crawfish tournament again. Mangini also discussed the sprinkler system and the repairs that needed to be made before the course would need water. Warschak stated all of the piping in the pump house needs to be rebuilt. He said the work can be done by City crews, but the ponds would have to be drained before that can happen. Mayor Dungen asked if that would be done this month or next, or later in the spring. Warschak stated there were some jobs City workers had to complete before they would be able to work on the golf course.

No action was required.

**12. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Swindle – Absent

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

**13. Announcements.**

The City Secretary stated the filing deadlines for a place on the ballot in the general and special elections. February 16<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the general election and March 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the special election.

**14. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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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.