

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 23, 2018 at 5:30 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
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Minutes from the April 9, 2018 Regular Council Meeting
- c. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2018

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

There were no public comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Filtration Project Update, the 2018 TX CDBG Grant Program, and Water System Flushing.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax payment this month was approximately \$500 less than the payment for the same time period last year. The County, Weimar, and Eagle Lake all saw increases.

Warschak stated the foundation for the new filter tanks has been formed up at the Spring Street plant, and the concrete will be poured tomorrow. Some piping work has been started at the Tait location. There has been a schedule shift of about 30 days. Warschak said required shut downs of the water system during construction can cause low water pressure and clarity issues.

Regarding the 2018 TX CDBG Grant Program, Warschak stated Grantworks indicated, after the score review, the City should receive funding from the program possibly in the fall. Warschak went on to say those expected funds would be used to tackle water line replacement near the Junior High campus. He also said the filtration project is expected to be less than originally budgeted for, so there could be up to \$600,000 of bond money that can be used for water line replacement.

Warschak concluded his report with water line flushing. He stated the City crews would begin flushing on May 7th. Orange notification postcards will be sent to all water customers. The flushing is expected to take 8 weeks.

Councilman Swindle proposed the additional funds available from the bond money should be earmarked for replacement of water lines along Milam and Travis Streets. He stated we needed to show the community we are addressing the water problems. He also stated we should examine our present means of communicating with residents. Councilman Rankin stated he was not in disagreement regarding the replacement of those lines, but he would like to see the City Manager's analysis of lines to be replaced. Warschak stated he would bring a five year plan with detailed cost estimates to see how much line can be replaced with the funds available to the next meeting.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street from Milam Street to Travis Street from 7:00 a.m., Friday May 18, 2018 until 1:00 a.m., Sunday May 20, 2018, and the Closures of Spring Street from Travis Street to Front Street and Travis Street from Walnut to Washington Street Friday May 18, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. until Midnight, and Spring Street from Travis Street to Front Street and Travis Street from Walnut to Washington Street from 8:00 a.m. May 19, 2018 until 1:00 a.m. Sunday, May 20, 2018 for the Magnolia Days Festival.**

Chamber Executive Director, Billy Kahn, stated they originally wanted to close the Spring and Travis intersection all day, but early voting will be taking place so they will not be able to close that area until 5:00 p.m.

There was discussion of a letter received from Gates, Stein, Gillespie & Trefny objecting to the closure of Spring Street in front of their office until after 3:00 p.m. Kahn stated he was unaware of their concerns. The Chamber had spoken to the administrative assistant at the law firm, and she had indicated they would probably just close on that day.

Council asked Kahn what was planned for the area in front of the office. Kahn stated the stage would be going in next to the tree in front of the law office.

The Mayor suggested closing Spring Street from Milam Street up to the law office at 7:00 a.m., and then proceed with the closure from the law office to Travis Street at 3:00 p.m. Dungen stated this would allow for parking on both sides of Spring Street in front of the law firm for client parking.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to grant the street closures as modified. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the TX Cap Fund Gas Grant.**

Warschak stated a letter had been received from the state regarding the KWI gas line grant project. The state determined the City would have to reimburse \$100,259.59 of the grant funds received for the project since only 77 eligible jobs were created. The City had taken grant funds with the expectation of just over 87 eligible jobs. The City had received a determination letter from the state in regards to contract workers not considered as part of the eligible jobs number. Dungen stated the state has to follow the federal guidelines as far as job creation goes or they cannot receive funding. This repayment amount is the best we can hope for.

Councilman Rankin stated the CCIDC had budgeted for repayment of part of the grant funding. The Mayor confirmed, and stated the City would make the payment, and seek reimbursement from the CCIDC.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to pay the state the grant reimbursement. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Fire Marshal Report.

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, gave his report; a copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Gorman gave an update on the stand pipe at LaQuinta. He also gave an overview of the first 6 months in his position as fire marshal. Gobert asked Gorman how many commercial inspections still needed to be done. Gorman stated approximately 200.

No action was required

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2018 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated a letter had been sent to 819 Jackson Street regarding the "junk" around the property, and there has been some progress made on the clean up. LaCourse stated the water run-off issue at the car wash was almost rectified, and the tires at Riverside Terrace would be removed soon. He also spoke about several other properties that have issues.

No action was required.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2018 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted the training the department participated in during the month. He also told Council of a prescription drug drop-off event at the sheriff's department on April 28th, and a Youth and Family Services lunch at Midtown Park to be held on the same day. The lunch, which is open to everyone, is to raise awareness of child abuse. Dungen asked about the increase in the number of citations issued. Edman stated there are an increased number of vehicles coming through the City between Easter and hunting season, and many of those drivers operate their vehicles as if they were still on the interstate.

No action was required.

11. Discussion of Library Expansion Workshop.

Jim Kearney of the Nesbitt Memorial Library Foundation introduced Ryan Yeadon, architect with Lake/Flato and Travis Wegenhoft, Jr. representing Drymalla Construction. Yeadon gave an overview of two options for the library expansion and improvements to the existing building. There was an in depth discussion regarding parking and traffic patterns around the library. Mayor Dungen asked Kearney if they had figured out what the building would be called, specifically if it would be considered a civic center. Kearney stated the foundation's vision was for a multi use venue in the City where everyone is welcome. Kearney also stated the foundation welcomes the City's input, but they also needed the City's commitment for funding the additional staff position.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – CCIDC would need a project request from the City for the reimbursement.

Councilman Swindle – We need to figure out the best way to let citizens know what the City is doing.

Councilman Hernandez – It has been an honor and privilege to serve on City Council. He will miss coming to meetings, and thanks for allowing him to serve the public.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – It has been an honor to serve with Eddie. We appreciate all you have done for the City of Columbus.

13. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

14. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:34 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 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.