

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, June 25, 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
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman

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 of the June 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwomen Gobert and Frnka

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no citizen comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project Update 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 contractor set the reinforcement for the base foundation today, and they will pour the concrete tomorrow. In a few days they will form up the walls that the filter will sit on. July 10th is the shipping and off-loading date for the vessels. Coordination between the crane and the shipping company is ongoing.

Warschak stated the water system flushing was continuing. City crews were working in the Irwin addition and at the fire hydrants near Dr. Vasser's office today. They will continue at the Junior High and will be moving west. Mayor Dungen asked if the City crews ever went back to the flushing starting point to check the status after the entire City had been flushed. Warschak stated they do not.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 202-18, an Ordinance Re-Establishing the Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Tax Abatement in the City of Columbus, Texas.**

Mayor Dungen stated this was the same ordinance previously passed, but it must be reviewed every few years. He stated it follows the County guidelines.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 202-18. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwomen Gobert and Frnka

The motion passed.

7. **Public Hearing on Designation of a 3.335 Acre Tract in the E Tumlinson Survey, Abstract No. 44 (aka 4617 I-10 North) as a Reinvestment Zone.**

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Dungen stated the location of the property, and the development that would take place there.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:36 p.m.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 203-18 Designating a Reinvestment Zone No. 2.**

Dungen stated this is a precursor to abatement.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve Ordinance 203-18 designation Reinvestment Zone No. 2. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwomen Gobert and Frnka

The motion passed.

9. **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 stated he went live with the ESO inspection program. This system allows inspection reports to be generated in real time. Dungen asked if he used an I-Pad for the system. Gorman stated he did.

The Fire Marshal spoke about the accidental fire at Columbus Inn. He stated at the last inspection of the property, violations were found. Dungen asked if any of the violations came in to play in regards to the fire. Gorman stated there were some violations, like inoperable smoke detectors in some of the rooms. As a result of the fire, the property will now have to make improvements to bring everything into compliance.

Gorman also informed Council about the Fire Extinguisher training class that was held for the employees of Columbus State Bank.

The Mayor asked of the 55 inspections he has done, if any of them resulted in no violations. Gorman stated TLC was perfect with 100% compliance.

No action was required

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2018 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

LaCourse stated no permits had been pulled for the property at 1032 MLK because of contractor issues.

He also stated letters were sent for weeded lots, and he was working on the next three substandard properties. LaCourse also stated it took him two hours to remove signs that had been placed around town over the weekend. He called the number on the signs, and told them they could not be placed in the City.

Councilwoman Frnka asked if 716 Back Street was the other property in which Council gave a 90-day extension. LaCourse stated it was, and the property has since been secured.

Councilman Cummings showed Council pictures of a property on Bonham Street. LaCourse stated he would be contacting the owners about clean-up. There was discussion regarding the property and what needed to be done.

Councilwoman Gobert stated the property on Travis Street had a lot of raccoon activity. LaCourse stated that property was on his list for a letter.

No action was required.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2018 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Edman highlighted force training, and working with the schools on fire hose door stops. He spoke to Council regarding the Attorney General ruling regarding mental health transport. Edman stated in the past, the Sherriff's department transported all mental health cases to different facilities outside of the County, but an AG ruling stated this was a police service. Edman stated this would be a very expensive endeavor for the City since we have a hospital and the Texana facility within the City limits. He stated he had reached an agreement with the Sherriff and his counterparts in Weimar and Eagle Lake where the transporting agency would be the agency where the patient lived, not the agency where the facility the patient sought treatment from was located. Dungen stated we are part of the County.

There was discussion regarding the number of transports a year. Edman stated much of the time, the transports could be covered during normal shifts, but he would rather not put officers on call. He wanted to offer the transports as an "extra job" at \$30 an hour with a four-hour minimum. Edman also stated his current overtime budget should cover those costs, but there might need to be an increase in funding. The typical number of mental health transports made during the year was discussed.

No action was required.

13. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – She had spoken with Billy Kahn from the Chamber, and they are ready for another successful 4th of July celebration.

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

14. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

15. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



Traci Edman, Assistant 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.