

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, August 13, 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:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Chief	-	Dusty Dittmar
2 nd Asst. Fire Chief	-	Sidney Chollett

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 July 23, 2018 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of June 2018 Financial Statements

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

Debbie Damon spoke to Council regarding signage for the City. She showed a picture of a sign outside of Katy. Damon stated a request would have to come from the City for TxDOT to install a similar sign for Columbus.

Ms. Damon also made a presentation regarding AEP. Damon stated there will be a rate case hearing for the ratchet rates sometime in 2019. The current ratchet rate for businesses is 10. A coalition must be formed in order to address a rate change. There will not be another hearing for 5 years.

Copies of Damon's presentations are attached to these minutes.

5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project Update, Hill Well Update, Street Seal Coat Update, and Water System Flushing.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax payment the City received was up approximately \$2,000 over the

same time period last year. The cities of Eagle Lake and Weimar, and the County as a whole all saw a decline in their sales tax.

Regarding the filtration project, Warschak stated the contractor is in the process of bolting all of the face piping on the vessels.

At the Hill water well, the contractor is anticipating the arrival, sometime this week, of the new pump and equipment that will be lowered into the well.

Warschak stated City crews are patching and leveling the streets in the areas where the seal coat will be applied.

Councilman Swindle asked when the filtration system would be going online. Warschak stated sometime in October.

6. Consideration and Action for Authorization for Management to Solicit Proposals for Depository Bids.

Dungen stated it is time to go out for bids since we had already used the extension allowed in the contract. This will give management the authorization to send out bid packets and advertise.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to authorize management to solicit proposals for depository bids. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Columbus Community Industrial Development Corporation's 2018-2019 Budget.

Councilwoman Gobert stated the budget was pretty straightforward. The budget is based on the same projections the City Secretary makes for the City. They set the Community Development Grant at the maximum level of 10%, and they have increased the amount for advertising. They are looking at installing a billboard near the water tower to advertise the park.

Dungen asked if there was specific infrastructure work in mind. Warschak stated there was some specific drainage work they want to do around the back and near Great Southern Wood. Dungen stated not to give up on this project being a cooperative deal with the County and the railroad. Gobert stated they would not.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the CCIDC 2018/2019 budget. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Colorado County Central Appraisal District 2019 Operating Budget.

Dungen stated this was an annual responsibility of all the taxing entities, and he assumes the County has approved it today. The City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated she did not know what the County decided, but if any taxing entity does not approve the budget, then the appraisal district cannot adopt it. Dungen stated he would not want that to happen because it would be too much to deal with.

There was discussion regarding the Chief Appraiser position.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the CCCAD 2019 Operating Budget. 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 to Approve Partial Closure of Crossroads Blvd. from 10:00 a.m. Friday September 7, 2018 through Saturday, September 8, 2018 for the Colorado County Fair.

The Mayor stated this closure has been in place the last few years to ease traffic congestion.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the closure of Crossroads Blvd. as requested. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) Beginning in Front of the Elementary School and Ending at Walnut Street (Highway 90), and Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Veteran's Memorial Center from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Colorado County Fair Parade on Saturday, September 8, 2018.

Gobert asked if there would be hard closures of the intersections. Chief Edman stated there would be.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the parade street closures as requested. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) Beginning in Front of the Elementary School and Ending at Walnut Street (Highway 90), and Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Memorial Stadium from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade on Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

Hard closures for this parade were confirmed as well.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the street closures for the homecoming parade. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Legion Drive Between the Large Memorial Stadium Entrance Gate and Legion Circle During all Home Football Games as Requested by CISD.

Dungen stated the street used to always be closed during home games, and it is a safety issue. Chief Edman stated the school district usually hires four officers for security during home football games.

Warschak stated they would first use barrels to barricade until the right area to be blocked off can be determined. Then the school district can look at some permanent swing gates like the elementary school uses.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the partial closure of Legion Drive during home football games. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Malleck (a.k.a. MLK) Street to Through Traffic from Business Highway 71 as Described in the Request from TxDOT for the Duration of the Bridge Construction.

Warschak stated the school needs to be notified. There was discussion of where exactly the street would be closed and the traffic pattern for that area. Warschak also stated some signs would need to be put at Austin Street with a notification the road ahead was closed to thru traffic.

There was discussion regarding the access to the apartment complex on Malleck Street.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the closure as requested by TxDOT. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July Golf Association Report.

John Mangini of the CMGA gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mangini thanked Donald for getting the short in the water well building taken care of so quickly. He also stated all of the clubhouse repairs have been completed. He added they had bought a used greens mower since the one they had was in such poor condition.

Gobert stated she thought they were doing a great job at the course.

Not action was required.

15. Discussion of Budget Workshop – Tax Rate.

Schneider discussed the loss of taxable value for the 2018 tax year. She gave the Council a breakdown of the tax rate options and the revenue that would be received for those options. She also discussed the effective tax rate and the requirements associated with setting the rate between the current and effective rates.

Fire Chief, Dusty Dittmar, and 2nd Assistant Chief, Sidney Chollett, presented their budget requests for Council, including an increase in the firefighter stipend, and a command vehicle. Membership numbers in the fire department were also discussed.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the 2018 Tax Year and 2019 Fiscal Year Proposed Tax Rate not to Exceed \$0.28660 per \$100 Value.

Dungen stated the rate did not have to be decided tonight. Schneider stated the specific rate did not need to be set, but the maximum would need to be decided. Dungen stated the notice states "not to exceed". Gobert suggested a rate of .2850

Councilman Rankin made a motion to set a tax rate not to exceed \$0.28660 per \$100 value. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on a Tax Increase for Tax Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 with the Rate not to Exceed \$0.30695 per \$100 Value.

This item was not needed.

18. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, to Schedule Two Public Hearings on the Tax Rate.

This item was not needed.

19. Consideration and Action to Accept the Resignation of Mayor Dungen.

Mayor Dungen stated state election laws require office holders to be residents of the jurisdiction they serve. The new house he and his wife built is outside the City limits. Dungen stated he has very mixed feelings about leaving office. He will miss it terribly. He is very proud of the people of the City, and good things are in the works, especially the water system improvements. He recommended, for continuity, Council should consider Mayor Pro Tem, Lori An Gobert, as Mayor. Warschak presented Dungen with a gift from the City, and thanked him for all of his hard work. Former CMGA treasurer, Mike Craddock thanked Dungen on his support and help for the municipal golf course. Hopefully, the growth will continue.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to accept the resignation of Mayor Dungen. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

20. Consideration and Action Regarding Vacant Position of Mayor.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem, Gobert, as Mayor. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

Abstain: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

19. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Thanked Dungen for all of his service to the community.

Councilwoman Gobert – Thanked Council for allowing her to serve as Mayor.

Councilman Swindle – Thanked Dwain for all he has done, and welcomed Lori An as the new Mayor

Councilwoman Frnka – Reiterated Councilman Swindle's words.

Councilman Rankin – Thanked Lori An for taking on the office of Mayor.

20. Announcements.

Warschak stated it has been a pleasure working with Dwain.

20. Adjournment.

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.



Mayor, Lori An Gobert

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.