

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, August 27, 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	-	Lori An Gobert
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
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.

Acting Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Administer the Oath of Office for the Newly Appointed Mayor for an Appointed Term Ending in May 2019.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, administered the oath of office to Lori An Gobert.

4. Consideration and Action to Fill the Vacant City Council Position #2 by Appointment as Provided by Section 22.010 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Mayor Gobert recommended Michael Ridlen fill vacant Council position #2.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to appoint Michael Ridlen to Council Position #2 for an appointed term ending in May 2019. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

5. Administer the Oath of Office to the Newly Appointed Official to Council Position #2 for an Appointed Term Ending in May 2019.

Mayor Gobert administered the oath to Councilman Ridlen.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of the August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.

Mayor Gobert read a proclamation declaring September 3-9 as Colorado County Fair Week. A photograph was taken of the City Council and Fair Board members.

Gobert read a proclamation declaring Thursday, August 30, 2018, as "Columbus Lions Club 75th Anniversary Celebration Day" in Columbus. A photograph was taken of the Mayor and several Lions Club members.

8. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project, Hill Water Well, and Street Seal Coat Project Updates.

Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Regarding the water filtration project, Warschak stated B&D Services started assembling the piping last week, but there have been some alignment issues on the face piping. Manufacturing representatives will be coming tomorrow to take a look and see if it will be a big concern. Councilman Rankin asked about the timeline for the project. Warschak stated the system should come online sometime in October. Once the face piping has been assembled, the vessel will have to be lifted and placed on the concrete support walls. Then the remaining piping and the electrical will have to be hooked up. Councilman Swindle asked if all filters would come on-line at one time or if they will come online individually. Warschak stated the filters would come online one at a time. Warschak continued by reporting on the Hill water well. He stated J&S has the pumping equipment in hand. They will be out on Wednesday to reassemble the well so it can be placed back online. In regards to the upcoming street seal coating, Warschak stated City crews were working hard in the project areas leveling and filling pot holes in anticipation of the seal coat which will be done by H&C Construction.

Swindle asked about the status of the water line replacement. Warschak stated Frank surveying had been doing the survey work. He said he would find out if all of the field work had been completed, and when they would start the office work.

9. Consideration and Action Regarding the use of the City Swimming Pool by the High School Swim Team.

Karen Magera appealed to Council regarding the swim team's use of the pool. She stated this would be the 5th year for the high school swim team, and the use of the City pool for practice is greatly appreciated.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to allow the high school swim team to use the City swimming pool for practice. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action Regarding the Property Located at 716 Back Street, Block 104, Lot S-16 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, stated currently, all of the siding is off of the home. It has been reframed and one of the doors has been removed. There is dust proofing sheathing on the home. Councilman Rankin asked LaCourse where we were with the progress of the house. LaCourse figures the structure is approximately 40% completed. The homeowner, Mr. Lara, discussed all of the items they have completed. He asked for another 90 days to get the house water tight. Councilman Cummings asked LaCourse how far along the homeowners should be after the first 90 day extension. LaCourse stated he had hoped they would have the siding on, but the homeowners said they do what they can when the funds are available. Mr. Lara said they would work on getting the siding up over the next two weekends. Councilwoman Frnka asked if they had the funds to get the work done within the next 3 months. The homeowners said they will have the funds. Mayor Gobert asked if it would be above substandard in 90 days. LaCourse stated he believed they would make it in 90 days. Rankin stated he wanted them to be successful. Councilman Ridlen asked for the timeline of the project. LaCourse explained the process. Ridlen asked if there were pictures of day zero. LaCourse stated he did have photographs, but not with him. He explained the condition of the house at the beginning of the process.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to grant a 90 day extension to bring the house above substandard. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Regarding the Property Located at 1032 Martin Luther King Street, Block 102, Lot S-10 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.

LaCourse stated a lot of hard work has been put into this property. It has been leveled. A new floor, supports, and windows have been installed. He stated it was safe, secure and water tight. The home owner, Mr. Waddle, also stated electrical work was in progress. Gobert stated wonderful job. Frnka stated she had been keeping an eye on the project.

LaCourse stated the property has progressed so far that no report would be needed to Council, and the house would be livable in the next 90 days. Rankin asked if the property would be taken off the substandard list. LaCourse stated it should be because he has met all of the requirements to make the property safe.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to release the property located at 1032 Martin Luther King Street from the substandard property list. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 109, Lot W/2 4 of Dewees Street as requested by Vanessa Stovall.

LaCourse stated this would be replacing a small home that has met its life span. LaCourse discussed the site plan, which is attached to these minutes. He confirmed manufactured homes are permitted in block 109. The home owner actually has 2 lots, and the MH will be centered on the primary lot. There is plenty of room to allow for all of the set back requirements. Frnka asked if the house flooded during Harvey. Mrs. Stovall stated it did, but they had never flooded before. LaCourse stated the house will be set at least 24 to 34 inches above grade.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit as requested. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Submit to Planning & Zoning a Proposed Replat of a 1.50 Acre Tract Situated in the WB Dewees Survey A-18 of the ETJ of the City of Columbus, into Two (2) Lots (0.535 Acres (Lot 1) and 0.965 Acres (Lot 2)) as Requested by Raymond and Donna Bubak.

Warschak stated the property was located in the ETJ at Shirley Oaks and Schulenburg Lane. The property owners are planning on selling the smaller lot. Ridlen asked if there was a residence on Lot 2. Warschak stated there was.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to send the replat to P&Z. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action Regarding the Request for Stop Signs to be Placed on Jackson Street at the Intersection of Austin Street as Requested by Cheryl Deleon.

Friend, Rollen Yost, spoke on behalf of Ms. Deleon who could not be present. She stated it is very dangerous to pull out of Ms. Deleon's driveway. Her neighbor's vehicles block her view when backing out.

Police Chief, Skip Edman, stated since 2005 there have been two auto accidents at that intersection. He said he could have a traffic study done for flow that would cost \$1,200 or a study for flow and speed for \$1,500. Edman explained the traffic patterns in that part of the City.

Yost stated it is impossible to see backing out of the driveway because of the neighbors. There was discussion regarding the issues with the property located at the intersection. Edman stated cars coming out of the driveway would still have to yield to oncoming traffic. Gobert asked if the cars were parked legally. Edman stated they were not in the street, just in the right of way.

Cummings stated he has driven by there many times, and he understands the frustration, but they have no other place to park. Gobert asked if Edman had any recommendations. Edman stated, in theory, it seems like a good idea, but a stop sign will not accomplish what Ms. Deleon is hoping.

He stated because of the stop sign on Austin Street, they cannot park on that side of their house. There was a discussion regarding traffic, and the stop sign pattern in the area.

Edman discussed the letter he received from Ms. Deleon, and his request for her neighbors to submit letters as well. He stated he received a letter with multiple signatures and addresses requesting the stop sign, but many of the signatures were from people who do not live in the area.

Rankin stated he would like to see the area. Edman showed Council a photograph. Gobert stated she thought this item should be tabled until everyone had a chance to drive by.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to table this item until Council had an opportunity to see the intersection for themselves. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action Regarding the Mayor's Appointment of Dwain Dungen to the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Board.

Gobert stated she tendered her resignation to the board after she accepted the appointment as Mayor. She felt since Dwain has experience on the Board, and is current with all of the Board's activities; he would make a great addition.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the appointment of Dwain Dungen to the CCIDC Board. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

16. Consideration and Action to Appoint Assistant City Secretary, Dinah Jacobs, as the Deputy Municipal Court Clerk as Provided in Section 29.010 of the Texas Government Code.

Gobert stated this position had been filled by former Assistant City Secretary, Traci Edman, and with her resignation the position was vacated.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to appoint the Assistant City Secretary, Dinah Jacobs, as the Deputy Municipal Court Clerk. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

17. Consideration and Action to Appoint a Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to appoint Councilman Rankin as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Ridlen, and Swindle; Councilwoman Frnka
Abstain: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

18. Consideration and Action Regarding Naming at the Columbus Visitors Center.

Gobert asked for Council's thoughts regarding the naming. She gave a history of the naming committee, and that no progress had been made. Since the building's completion, she stated it has been called the "Columbus Visitors Center" which works. She stated since the Visitors Center was former Mayor Dungen's baby, she would like to see the pavilion in back be named the "Dungen Pavilion."

Cummings asked if it was the entire building or just the pavilion. Gobert stated only the pavilion where events could be held. Rankin stated there was probably a long list of those deserving of name recognition. Swindle stated he thought this could cause some controversy. Frnka asked if they could have time to think about it.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to table the naming at the Visitors Center. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

19. Consideration and Action to Approve and Ratify an Agreement with Colorado County Central Appraisal District for Assessment, and Collection Services for the year 2018/2019.

Schneider stated this is the same agreement we have always had with CCCAD. There was discussion regarding the position of Chief Appraiser.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the contract with CCCAD for assessment and collection services. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

20. 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 had been approached by the student council regarding a bonfire after the Homecoming Parade. He met with the principal and maintenance personnel to discuss the possibility of the bonfire. He stated there would be certain criteria that would have to be met in order for him to grant a permit. They will have to have a site plan, a pit would have to be dug, and there would be restrictions on the height and width of the bonfire. Ridlen asked if it could happen if a burn ban was in effect. Rankin stated with a burn ban in effect in the county, if it would be advisable to grant the permit. There was discussion regarding the burn ban, and if the permit should be granted. Gorman stated technically, the burn ban applies to the unincorporated areas of the county. He said the bonfire will be lit and monitored by the fire department. LaCourse stated there would be two separate fire department crews that evening, one for the bonfire and one to respond to emergencies. Frnka raised concerns about the dryness of the adjacent vegetation. Ridlen stated he thought it was a great idea. If it is supervised by the fire department and done in a safe environment, Gobert stated she thought it would be a good thing.

No action was required

21. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2018 Code Enforcement Report.

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

LaCourse discussed the status of several properties that need repairs or demolition.

He also informed Council about the illegal signs being posted around the City, and his attempts at catching the perpetrator.

LaCourse stated he had 8 of the 12 hours of recertification done.

Cummings stated 1117 Bonham had been cleaned up a couple of months ago, but now it is full of trash again. He asked LaCourse if he thought it might be an illegal dumping site. LaCourse stated he had never seen anyone dumping, but he is unsure where the trash is coming from. Frnka stated the owners of the property are working to get everything cleared out.

No action was required.

22. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2018 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman spoke about the active shooter training in which the department participated. He stated the last couple of weeks they have been busy with school traffic issues.

No action was required.

23. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

There was a presentation of a fleet replacement lease program by Enterprise Fleet Management. There was an in depth discussion regarding the lease program and the advantages and disadvantages of the program for the City. The Chamber of Commerce presented their budget request for the upcoming year. There was discussion regarding the requested amount, and the expected Hotel Occupancy Tax collections. Library Director, Susan Chandler, spoke about her departmental budget requests. There was also discussion on the progress of the Library expansion. Schneider stated Council's intention with the tax rate needs to be considered.

24. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Congratulated Mayor Gobert, and welcomed Councilman Ridlen

Councilman Ridlen – Looking forward to serving on Council

Councilman Swindle – Congratulations.

Councilwoman Frnka – Welcome Mrs. Mayor and Councilman Ridlen

Councilman Rankin – Welcome to Mike, and appreciate his willingness to serve, and congratulations to the new Mayor.

Mayor Gobert – Thanked Mike for serving.

25. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

26. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:49 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 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.