

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, October 22, 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
Fire Chief	-	Dusty Dittmar
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman

**1. Call to Order.**

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. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of the September 18, 2018 Special Meeting

Councilman Swindle 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.

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

Citizens spoke during specific agenda items.

**5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project, Hurricane Harvey Recovery Town Hall Meeting Update and GFOA Certificate of Achievement.**

Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated he would be meeting tomorrow with the filtration equipment supplier and the fabricator regarding the alignment issues. Mayor Gobert stated she would like a specific timeline for getting the repairs made. Councilwoman Frnka asked if the City needed legal representation at the meeting. Warschak stated that would not be necessary. Councilman Swindle stated an emphasis should be placed on the expediency of these repairs and the completion of the project.

Regarding the Hurricane Harvey Recovery Town Hall Meeting, Warschak stated the meeting was held at the library. It was an opportunity to introduce those people affected by Harvey to several organizations that could possibly offer some assistance to those who were displaced or had damage from the storm. Warschak stated it was well attended. Gobert stated 58 people were in attendance. Warschak stated it was a positive evening.

Warschak announced the City had received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He recognized Bana and the other staff for their hard work.

Swindle asked if the river rise had caused any more loss at the waste water treatment plant. Warschak stated at the moment, the water level is at 27 feet and just below the temporary pipe. The river is expected to crest at 29 feet on Wednesday or Thursday, and any new erosion will not be visible until then. Gobert spoke about her discussions with Judge Prause and Chuck Rogers concerning the expected release of water north of Columbus. Swindle asked if more damage at the riverbank was anticipated. Warschak spoke about the water level now and when the hurricane came through. Warschak stated he would be meeting with the Corps of Engineers on Thursday regarding the project. Councilman Ridlen asked what would happen if the plant was lost. Warschak stated in the case of the plant washing away, small package plants would have to be brought in on a temporary basis or sent to a neighboring plant. There was discussion regarding the proximity of the plant to the river bank and the options the Corps are studying.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 184-18, a Resolution to Select an Administrative Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Implementation for the CDBG-Disaster Recovery Funding through the General Land Office Community Development and Revitalization.**

Vince Leibowitz spoke to Council about coordinating with the county regarding buy back funding. He stated the county would not be pursuing those funds.

Warschak stated six requests for RFP's had been sent out, but the only proposal he received was from GrantWorks. He stated with the history we have working with GrantWorks, he would recommend using them again.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to select GrantWorks as the administrative service provider for the GLO grant. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 185-18, a Resolution Authorizing Designated Signators for Contractual Documents and for Requesting Funds Pertaining to the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program 2018 Texas Capital Fund Contract #7218090.**

Gobert stated the signators for contractual documents were the mayor, mayor pro tem and city manager. Cummings asked if this was done before. The GrantWorks representative, Shirleen Bonacci, stated this must be done for every grant project.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve Resolution 185-18. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 186-18, a Resolution Adopting Required Community Development Block Grant Civil Rights Policies.**

Bonacci stated this resolution was for nondiscriminatory practices that must be followed for the grant. She indicated these must be approved for every grant. Councilman Rankin asked if the policies were the same as those adopted before. Bonacci stated they were.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 186-18. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 187-18, a Resolution Proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Columbus.**

Bonacci stated as part of the civil rights policies you will promote affordable and fair housing for the community. This proclamation satisfies the state requirements.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve Resolution 187-18. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. **First Reading of Resolution 188-18, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Grant to Boys & Girls Club of Champion Valley to Assist in Providing Amateur Sports and Youth Athletics to the Columbus Community.**

Mayor Gobert read the resolution.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 189-18, a Resolution Adopting the City of Columbus Investment Policy.**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated there were no changes to the policy.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the City's investment policy. Councilman Rankin 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 Street Closures in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities on the Evening of October 31, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the Halloween street closures. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Gorman stated it had been a slow month for inspections. He has been busy with fire prevention activities. Both CES and St. Anthony students have visited the fire station, with the fifth grade students using the fire extinguisher training device. He and some other fire fighters traveled to all of the daycares to present programs as well. He also stated he brought back the fire prevention poster contest.

No action was required

**14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2018 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated the property at 716 Back Street is very close to coming off of the substandard housing list. He is seeking demolition quotes for the manufactured home located at 1509 Rampart. He is in process of reviewing the drawings for the expansion at Great Southern Wood and the remodel for First National Bank of Eagle Lake. He has issued the first permits for two small node towers. LaCourse explained small node towers.

No action was required.

**15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2018 Police Report.**

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman stated it had been a slow month. He spoke about department training and their participation in National Night Out and the CES Fall Ball.

No action was required.

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

Councilman Cummings – Thank the Mayor and City Manager for organizing the Hurricane Recovery meeting. He says this could make a large impact on the citizens. News of the available resources has spread by word of mouth, and reactions have been positive.

Councilman Ridlen – Asked about the status of the new fleet vehicles. Warschak and Schneider both stated it would be after the first of the year.

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – Asked for an updated zoning map and contact information for Council members.

**17. Announcements.**

Schneider reminded Council the next meeting will be on Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup>. Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> the City offices are closed in observation of Veterans Day.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.



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Mayor, Lori An Gobert

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 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.

