

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Tuesday, November 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	-	Lori An Gobert
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Chuck Rankin (Absent)
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff Present:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

**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 October 22, 2018 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2018

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Debbie Damon, owner of Bedazzled, made a presentation to Council regarding the AEP rate case hearing set for May 21, 2019. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Vince Leibowitz of the *Colorado County Citizen* spoke to Council regarding the City's Bicentennial which will be coming up in five years. He gave a history of other major celebrations the City has held, and encouraged Council to place an item on the agenda to begin the planning process.

Mayor Gobert read and signed an Arbor Day Proclamation as requested by the Columbus Garden Club.

Gobert read and signed a Small Business Saturday Proclamation as requested by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Mayor took photos with those in attendance for each proclamation.

5. **City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, and Water Filtration Project Update.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the recent sales tax payment the City received was approximately \$11,000 higher than the same time last year. Eagle Lake and the County also saw increases, and Weimar saw a decrease over the same time period.

Regarding the Water Filtration Project, Warschak stated he had met yesterday and today with the filter company. He presented Council with a schedule for the work on the filter vessels. Work to fix the alignment issues will start tomorrow at the Tait plant. Councilman Swindle asked if the project would sit idle until all of the vessels had been repaired. Warschak stated once the filter vessel was repaired at the Tait plant, then the remaining work would commence at that site. There will be several weeks of work to address all of the issues, with work set for completion in the middle of December. The entire project will not be finished until March.

6. **Second 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.**

The Mayor read the Resolution.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve 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.**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Resolution 188-18. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Virgil Thompson to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Advisory Board for a Term Ending April 2022.**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated Mr. Thompson had previously served on the board.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the appointment of Virgil Thompson to the Nesbitt Memorial Advisory Board. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Send to Planning & Zoning a Rezoning Request for a 2.627 Acre Tract in the WB Dewees Survey, Abstract 18, from partial Commercial and partial Multi-Family to entirely Commercial as Requested by Mary Frances Montier, Maridel Dungen, and Don Montier.**

Warschak gave a history of the property and pointed out its location on the zoning map. He stated the northern portion of the tract is zoned commercial and the southern half is multi-family. Councilwoman Frnka asked if there were houses on this property. Warschak stated behind that tract, facing Kind Drive, are houses. Councilman Cummings asked if it was an empty lot. Warschak confirmed it was vacant. Gobert asked Les Strech, attorney for the property owners, who was in attendance, if he had anything to add. He stated the City Manager had given a good explanation, and he had no further comments. Councilman Ridlen asked if this action was just to send the request to Planning & Zoning. Warschak confirmed, stating P&Z would hold a public hearing and then make a recommendation to Council. Council will have the final ruling on the request.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to send the rezoning request to Planning & Zoning. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October Golf Association Report.**

John Mangini of the CMGA gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated with the recent rains and cold weather they have been slow at the course. He said the course has been made ready for the winter with fertilizer, and modified mowing height. He also stated the club had donated free rounds of golf and carts for an auction to help the fallen Fayette County Sheriff's Deputy from LaGrange.

No action was required.

**11. Public Hearing Regarding City Curfew Hours for Minors.**

Mayor Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:55 p.m.

Cummings asked the curfew hours during the week. Chief Edman gave the hours from the ordinance which is attached to these minutes. Swindle asked Chief Edman how often the curfew hours had to be enforced. Edman stated quite often. During the summer months, they have 5 to 10 incidences per week with minors out after curfew. Ridlen asked if he was happy with the times set out in the ordinance. Edman stated the curfew rules are very effective.

Mayor Gobert closed the public hearing at 5:58 p.m.

**12. Consideration and Action Regarding City Curfew Hours for Minors.**

Schneider stated Council must vote to modify, continue, or abolish the curfew ordinance.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to continue the curfew ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Reschedule the Second City Council Meeting in December.**

Schneider stated the second meeting date would fall on Christmas Eve, and it would probably be better to not have a meeting between Christmas and the New Year.

Gobert stated typically a noon meeting is held sometime the week before Christmas in order to pay invoices. As a bonus, she stated Donald normally cooks a brisket and we have lunch afterwards.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to set the second City Council meeting in December for noon on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – Absent

Mayor Gobert – The Mayor gave a summary of several meetings she had attended. At the State of the LCRA meeting, she learned about their plans for Beason's Park, and the possibility of a new hydrometer at the north river bridge. She highlighted the recent HGAC meeting she attended. She also spoke about a program with Texas A&M students offering help to Cities. A copy of the ideas to prepare for the TAMU conference is attached to these minutes. Gobert stated the items needed to be placed on future agendas are the AEP meeting, Bicentennial Celebration and any outstanding grants.

**21. Announcements.**

**15.**

Schneider stated the annual Christmas Party will be held at Los Cabos on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Warschak stated there would be a football playoff game at Memorial Stadium on Friday night, and he and Skip felt that the streets should be blocked off like they were during regular games. Edman stated next year when the closure was voted on, playoff games should be added.

**22. Adjournment.**

**16.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.



Mayor, Lori An Gobert

ATTEST:

  
Dinah Jacobs, Assistant 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 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.

