

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, November 26, 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
Assistant City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
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 November 13, 2018 Regular Meeting

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, Ridlen, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹**

Debbie Damon spoke to Council regarding the AEP rate hearing. She distributed the Chapter 25 rules, and stated the deadline to file a rate case with the PUC is May 1, 2019. Damon also stated she is working on obtaining a list of all towns that are supplied by AEP.

5. **City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project Update, and FEMA, Corps of Engineers, and Grant Updates.**

Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the filter company had been in town doing some work at the Tait plant before Thanksgiving. After all of the adjustments are made at Tait, the filter company will be moving to the Spring plant.

Warschak stated total payments to date for Hurricane Harvey related projects were \$156,906.52. Warschak spoke about the projects which have received the FEMA reimbursement. Councilman Rankin asked if there was an approval process. Warschak stated some projects were submitted to the FEMA cost department. FEMA will estimate the cost of the project based on the damage

inventory report. They will give their estimate to the City for agreement for the cost. If the City agrees with FEMA's determination, then FEMA will send payment for their portion.

Warschak spoke about the CDBG grant project to replace waterlines in the northeast portion of the City. He stated funding had been approved, and we are waiting on the contract from the state. The grant is for \$350,000 and the City match is \$52,500. The other grant project is the CDBG-R for infrastructure repairs related to Harvey.

Regarding the Corps of Engineers feasibility study, Warschak stated the estimated cost was \$167,700. The Corps covered the first \$100,000, and the remainder was a 50/50 split with the City paying \$33,850. For the actual work on the riverbank, Warschak stated the total cost estimate was \$500,000. The Corps would pay 65% and the City would be responsible for 35%, approximately \$175,000.

Gobert asked about the grant with the other entities. Warschak stated the project engineer who helped put together the riverbank study for an early warning flood system indicated the project scored very well, and it should be approved for funding. Gobert thanked Warschak for putting the list together.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Gobert stated the Chamber's revised budget, and the agreement was included in the Council packet.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Publicity and Tourism agreement with the Chamber of Commerce. 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 Regarding the City's Bicentennial Celebration.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the date, and when and where the celebration should take place. Councilman Swindle stated it was interesting that there were 2 celebrations commemorating 1823 and 1836. Gobert posed the question of when it should be celebrated in 2023 or 2036. If 2023, a committee should be formed now, but if 2036, there is not a need at this time.

Councilman Ridlen stated he would like more concrete information upon which to base a decision. Gobert stated she would collect information and Vince Leibowitz from the *Citizen* stated he would gather some information to bring to Council. Gobert stated after more research, a decision about the celebration date could be made. She requested an item be added to the Council agenda sometime in January.

No action was taken.

8. 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 he had conducted seven inspections, two plan reviews, and one investigation during the month.

He also stated prizes had been awarded for first, second, and third places for the fire prevention poster contest. The first place winner also received a ride to school on a fire truck.

No action was required.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2018 Code Enforcement Report.

A copy of Code Enforcement Officer LaCourse's report is attached to these minutes. He was unable to attend the Council meeting because of his son's Eagle Scout board of review.

Swindle asked what AT&T nodes were. Warschak stated they are poles with small antennas to boost the cellular signal.

No action was required.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2018 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman spoke about officer training. Councilman Cummings asked if there had been an increase in car break-ins. Edman stated approximately 10 cars were burglarized in one night. They were all unlocked; wallets, keys, and firearms were stolen. He stated citizens need to be more vigilant and aware, and they should make sure to lock their vehicles because crooks are looking for easy work.

No action was required.

11. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – None

12. Announcements.

Warschak reminded everyone the Christmas party will be held on December 14th.

13. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:58 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.

