

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, December 10, 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:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
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**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 26, 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.<sup>1</sup>**

There were no citizen comments.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project Update and Sewer Averaging.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the fabricator for Westech's filter vessels was working at the Tait water plant to modify the out of line flanges. Tomorrow, they should start work on the Spring plant's tanks.

Warschak stated the City will monitor customers' water usage from December 15 thru February 15 for sewer rates for the remainder of the year.

Gobert asked about the recent brown water being experienced in town. Warschak stated the cause is unknown, and the City is trying to figure out the reason for recent complaints. He stated, possibly, someone was taking water from a hydrant which would cause the system to become stirred up as if the City was flushing. Gobert asked when the next system flushing would occur. She also asked if it should be done before the new filter system is up and running. Warschak stated, typically, flushing would happen in March.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve a Bid for a Forklift.**

After review of the bids, Warschak stated the bid from ASCO would be his recommendation. Although a little more expensive, the ASCO equipment can be serviced locally. Councilwoman Frnka asked if the forklift was in the budget. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated \$30,000 was in the garbage department equipment budget. Councilman Rankin stated the City should look at leasing the piece of equipment. The maintenance would all be done by the leasing company, and at the end of the lease, the City could get a new piece of equipment. Councilman Cummings concurred with Rankin. Councilman Ridlen asked how often the forklift was used. Warschak stated it is mainly used in the recycle center when it is open, but it is occasionally used for other tasks at the maintenance yard. There was discussion regarding the reasons for a lease versus purchase.

This item was tabled with no action.

**7. Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Changes to Chapter 14 Zoning, Article 14.02 Zoning Ordinance, Division 3 District Regulations, Part VI District B Business or Commercial District, Section 14.02.632 Use Regulations, of the Municipal Code of the City of Columbus, Texas.**

Mayor Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:40 p.m.

Schneider stated a report and recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission was in the Council packet. Gobert stated P&Z voted to recommend the expanded use regulations. There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 5:42 p.m. by Gobert.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 214-18, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 14 Zoning, Article 14.02 Zoning Ordinance, Division 3 District Regulations, Part VI District B Business or Commercial District, Section 14.02.632 Use Regulations, of the Municipal Code of the City of Columbus, Texas.**

Schneider stated the use item number 20 was added to the ordinance and the other uses were then renumbered in order to maintain alphabetical order.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance 214-18. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Changes to Chapter 14 Zoning, Article 14.02 Zoning Ordinance, Division 3 District Regulations, Part IX District MH Manufactured Housing District, Section 14.02.748 Mobile Home and HUD-Code Manufactured Homes Prohibited, of the Municipal Code of the City of Columbus, Texas.**

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:43 p.m.

Schneider stated the change to this section was the addition of paragraph four. Gobert read the new paragraph. There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 5:44 p.m. by the Mayor.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 215-18, and Ordinance Amending Chapter 14 Zoning, Article 14.02 Zoning Ordinance, Division 3 District Regulations, Part IX District MH Manufactured Housing District, Section 14.02.748 Mobile Home and HUD-Code Manufactured Homes Prohibited, of the Municipal Code of the City of Columbus, Texas.**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve ordinance 215-18. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November Golf Association Report.**

Council reviewed the report since there was no one present from CMGA.

Gobert asked when the last draw was made. Schneider stated in November they drew \$8,000 for property tax and some course maintenance.

Gobert asked Council if they felt this report needed to be given on a monthly basis, or if it could be presented quarterly. Councilman Cummings said, though they have done a good job, he would not want them to get lazy with their reporting. Rankin stated he felt since it was a significant amount of funding the City provided, the report should be monthly. The other Councilmembers concurred.

No action was required.

**12. Consideration and Action Regarding a Request for an Increase in the Number of City Holidays.**

Gobert stated Bana had forwarded the employee email request for two additional City holidays. The employees are asking for Christmas Eve and President's Day. Schneider stated she thought the request was going to be specifically to have this Christmas Eve off because of the day of the week it fell on.

Schneider said when she returned from an election law seminar, she saw the email that was sent asking for additional holidays.

Frnka asked if the office was usually closed at noon on Christmas Eve. Warschak stated the last couple of years the City did close at noon. Schneider stated her first year working for the City; they were open until 3:00 p.m. Frnka stated she hated to see additions this year because of the budget. She had no issue with the office closing at noon on Christmas Eve.

Schneider explained the cost impact on the budget for the additional holidays. There was a discussion regarding the budget, and how holiday pay works in the police department.

Frnka stated if the City was closed on Christmas Eve, the office would be closed for four days in a row. There may be some people who need to take care of business with the City, and Christmas Eve may be the only day they could come in. Cummings stated he thought it would be nice for the employees to have the four days off.

Gobert stated this request is to change the official holidays, but it seems the consensus is to take no action at this time. She also stated closing on Christmas Eve could be contingent upon the weather. Cummings stated there would be employees on call in case of bad weather. There was discussion concerning on call and emergency procedures.

Ridlen asked if this request was from a vocal few or from the majority of the employees. Warschak said there is a silent majority.

Gobert highlighted the information included from the surrounding cities and counties. Swindle stated it should be taken up during the budget. Rankin stated he was not in favor of additional holidays. Cummings stated he thought the addition of Christmas Eve this year would be nice because of it being on a Monday. Gobert asked Warschak about his thoughts on the matter. Warschak stated he felt Christmas Eve should be considered on a year to year basis depending on which day of the week it falls on. For this year, since Christmas Eve is on a Monday, he suggested having Christmas

Eve off. As far as President's Day goes, Warschak stated he did not feel it needed to be added to the holiday calendar.

The Council concurred an increase in the number of City Holidays should be addressed during the budget process, and the working hours on Christmas Eve should be determined by the City Manager on a yearly basis.

No action was taken.

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

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – The Mayor stated she and Donald had met with the Library Expansion Board regarding the library remodel and new build. She stated the price tag was a shocking \$5 million.

**14. Announcements.**

A reminder was given about the annual Christmas Party at Los Cabos on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Schneider reminded Council the next meeting would be at noon on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> with a brisket lunch to follow.

**15. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:07 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 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.