

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 11, 2019 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 (Absent)
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 Pro Tem, Chuck Rankin, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Rankin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of the February 25, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

Frank Howell of Howell Canoe Livery addressed Council regarding their recent action on the river access point near the Front Street Lift Station. He is opposed to the addition of signage and barriers for motor vehicles. He asked Council to look at the issue again. His presentation is attached to these minutes.

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding "Saturdays on the Square", and about the upcoming sidewalk sale by shops on or near the square. Damon also asked about the announcement she placed on the marquee sign at the Visitors Center and why it only scrolled one time. Billy Kahn from the Chamber stated someone unfamiliar with the sign program entered the information incorrectly so it was only viewed once.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water Filtration Project Update, Sewer Averaging, and Water System Flushing.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax the City received in March was up slightly from the same time last

year. The City received \$110,453 this year as opposed to \$109,462 last year. The County, Eagle Lake and Weimar all saw increases as well.

Regarding the water filtration project, Warschak stated he had supplied WesTech with a list of flange and piping materials needed to install the piping at the Spring and Hill Water Plants. B&D Services has started installing the horizontal piping at the Tait Water Plant. Councilman Rankin asked if there was one unit that was complete. Warschak stated B&D had to finish installing the piping on the modified flanges at the Tait plant in order to see if the alignment issues were resolved. Councilman Cummings asked if there was a deadline for completion. Warschak stated there is no hard deadline, but he has had email communication regularly. Councilman Ridlen asked if all of the units had to be completed before starting the system. Warschak stated they could come online one by one, but it would be better to have more than one unit operating at a time because of the regulation of the phosphates in the distribution system.

Warschak stated City crews were still flushing the water lines. They lost a couple of days due to the near freezing temperatures. Crews have flushed everything south of Spring Street and East of Fannin. They will come back to downtown and work towards the Junior High.

Cummings stated he had heard there was a shortage of gas this week. Warschak told Council about the issue the City experienced with the gas service during the cold snap. Pressure was drawn down because of the cold so the City had to divert gas from KWI to the City. The pressure was down on the supply side said Warschak. He stated they had the same issue back in 2009. Warschak said he will meet with the supplier to find out what is going on.

6. Consideration and Action on Funding Support to the Columbus Garden Club for the Spring Trash Off Event.

Marion Schonenberg of the Columbus Garden Club made the appeal to Council. She stated the annual event would kickoff at St. Paul's Church on Saturday, April 6th. Schonenberg highlighted the needs for the Garden Club in order to participate in this "Keep Texas Beautiful" campaign. A copy of the club's appeal is attached to these minutes.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to provide support to the Garden Club for the annual Trash Off Event. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February Golf Association Report.

John Mangini gave the report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Mangini stated the sunshine has brought a few people out to the course. He said Texas Aces Softball will be having a fundraiser on March 23rd, and the Columbus/Weimar tournament will be the 30th and 31st.

Mangini also spoke about the application of fertilizer on the greens and tee boxes, and the aeration of the greens. He also mentioned the irrigation system is slated to be repaired in April.

Ridlen asked who did the chemical applications for the course. Mangini stated they have a hand spreader and a spray unit for liquid.

No action was required.

8. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Asked Warschak when the Safe Route to School projects would be announced. Warschak stated the process is in the preliminary stage, and no announcement would be made until late summer.

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – Absent

9. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

10. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 5:57 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 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.

