

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 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
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
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 March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of November 2018 Financial Statements

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

There were no public comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project, Water System Flushing, and Front Street River Access Point.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated WesTech has ordered the flanges and piping spools to repair the alignment issues at the Spring and Hill water plants. Warschak also stated B&D Services was in the process of hanging the horizontal piping at the Spring plant. Gobert asked if the horizontal piping being installed was on the second unit, she also asked if there was an estimated time of arrival for the modified flanges. Warschak explained the repairs that have taken place to date, and he stated he would check on the order for delivery dates.

Regarding the water system flushing, Warschak said there were only five remaining hydrants to complete the flushing protocol, and those should be completed tomorrow.

Warschak stated the City Attorney was reviewing the legal issues regarding the Front Street river access point. Councilwoman Frnka asked who owned the property. She stated she had been to the appraisal district, and they stated the City, LCRA or the state owns the property. She also spoke about her experience going down to the river. She said there is a lot of activity in this location, and she is worried about the stability of the bank. She believes there is a great risk of injury. Councilman Cummings stated he has concerns as well, and he is eager to hear the City Attorney's report.

Councilman Rankin stated ownership must be established before any decision can be made. Councilman Ridlen echoed Rankin's thoughts. Warschak stated the City Attorney would be looking at the danger and risk aspect. He will ask for a search of the ownership. Councilman Swindle stated ownership needs to be established before any action can be taken.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Rolling Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) at Various Locations on Thursday May 2, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the 2019 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Police Chief, Skip Edman, stated this request had come from Laura Weido. Her late husband, Paul, was very involved with Special Olympics, and they wanted to bring the run to Columbus in honor of him. Edman explained the route, stating the rolling closures would be for a very limited time. At the start and finish of the run, they will be going down Milam for a couple of blocks. During the middle of the run, they will cross Milam at Spring Street so there will be a short closure there.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the rolling closures as requested. Councilman Rankin 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 Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates.

The City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated every year the line rates can be readjusted, per the PUC, for inflation. She said in the past, Council has chosen not to increase the rates. Schneider stated she had provided Council with information regarding the amounts collected from these fees. Rankin asked if the budget was based on the current rate. Schneider stated it was. There was discussion regarding the September opportunity for rate change. Rankin stated we should look at it during the budget cycle. Swindle suggested taking no action this evening since they had just received the information. He would like to see it brought back at the next meeting.

No action was taken.

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

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated Fire Marshal Gorman had been in negotiations with the new owners of Baymont Inn, and they had agreed to install a standpipe in the hotel. LaCourse stated they were also working on having the fire hydrants at Great Southern Wood looped. With the expansion at the facility, they are going to require the hydrants be looped for better water pressure.

No action was required.

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

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated he would like to see the City adopt the 2018 building codes. If the 2012 code is replaced, the City's ISO rating will remain the same. LaCourse spoke about the rebuilding of the Shell station. He also said he has had a flurry of requests from flood victims regarding the damage they sustained during Hurricane Harvey. LaCourse stated a board of adjustments meeting has been set for April 4th regarding set-backs for a manufactured home. The home is for a flood victim, and it will be the first GLO home replacement in the City.

Ridlen asked why the Shell station was being rebuilt. LaCourse stated there are new owners, and they wanted to expand the size of the store and number of pumps. Ridlen also asked if there was a report regarding the underground storage tanks. LaCourse stated the test data shows that the tanks were fine; they are the newer fiberglass tanks.

Frnka asked about the entrance and the egress. LaCourse stated those would remain the same as the old station.

No action was required.

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

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman spoke about recent training, and the opportunity to join the First Net network for first responders. This network gives service priority to first responders in case of an emergency.

Mayor Gobert asked about the information he had shared regarding juvenile curfews. Edman stated there has been a law proposed this legislative session that would take power away from municipalities to set juvenile curfew hours.

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 – The ownership search for the Front Street property needs to be expanded; asked for the access line rate be on the next agenda; asked for Council's opinion about which City Seal should be used for display on the wall behind Council.

12. Announcements.

Schneider stated if anyone would like to participate in the MASA program to please submit the forms to her as soon as possible.

13. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:00 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.