

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 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 (Arrived at 5:36 p.m.)
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak (Absent)
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 March 25, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Lorene Callison from Family Crisis Center was in attendance as Mayor Gobert read and signed a proclamation of support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding AEP rates on customer bills for 2017 and 2018. She also shared information regarding Butterfly Education Month. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

Councilman Swindle arrived at 5:36 p.m.

5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project Update, Municipal Court Award, County Road 2104, Front Street River Access Point, and the Safe Route to School Application.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Gobert read the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Regarding the Water Filtration Project, City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated a shipment of replacement parts was received today.

Municipal Court Clerk, Kaylee Brune, made a presentation regarding the traffic safety award the Columbus Municipal Court received. She spoke about the activities she sponsored to bring awareness of traffic safety to the youth of Columbus.

Gobert stated the original agreement documentation regarding County Road 2104 would need to be found and examined. Councilman Cummings asked why the County was making the request. Councilwoman Frnka stated probably because of the budget. There was discussion of where the road is located.

The Front Street river access point spurred a discussion about the ownership of the property. Gobert stated records were being searched.

The application process for the Safe Route to School program was discussed. Gobert stated the initial plans put the project at well over \$500,000, and the City Manager was scaling it back in order to stay in the \$300,000 range. The section selected for sidewalks was the area former Councilman Axel wanted them placed.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 135 Lot S-7, of Fannin Street as Requested by Linda Cunningham.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, explained to Council where the manufactured home would be placed, and he explained the ownership of the property. LaCourse said Ms. Cunningham had lost her manufactured home during Harvey, and this new home would be placed on family property. He also said this would be the first home brought into the City by the GLO. He stated the Board of Adjustments had approved a variance on the set-back requirements.

Councilman Rankin asked who had made the request for the variance to the Board of Adjustments. There was a discussion about the property ownership.

Rankin stated the ordinance regarding the Board of Adjustments does not say the property owner needs to be the person making a variance request, and Council might want to look at that provision.

There was a discussion regarding comments from adjacent property owners.

Councilman Ridlen asked exactly where the property was located. LaCourse explained the location.

There was also discussion whether or not adverse possession could come in to play since the manufactured home owner is not the listed owner of the land.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit. 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 to Approve the Closure of Spring Street to Travis Street from 7:00 a.m. Friday, May 17, 2019 until 1:00 a.m. Sunday, May 19, 2019; Spring Street from Travis Street up to Front Street from 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 17, 2019 to 12:00 a.m. Saturday, May 18, 2019; Travis Street from Walnut to Washington Street from 5:00 p.m. Friday May 17, 2019 to 12:00 a.m. Saturday, May 18, 2018; Spring Street from Travis to Front from 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 18, 2019 to 1:00 a.m. Sunday, May 19, 2019; Travis Street from Walnut to Washington Street from 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 18, 2019 to 1:00 a.m. Sunday, May 19, 2019 for the 2019 Magnolia Days Festival.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Billy Kahn, made the request to Council with a slight change. He stated the Spring Street closing on Friday morning would be from Milam to the oak tree in front of the law office until they close for the day. With the approval from the Commissioners, the Travis closure from Walnut to Spring Street would start at 7:00 a.m. on Friday.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the street closures as amended. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates.

Schneider stated she had spoken with Stephen Mendoza with the PUC regarding the September date for changing the rates. He said that statement was a little misleading. In September, the rates cannot be increased; the current rate charge can be reallocated between the different types of access lines. Gobert stated we need to decide if the rates should be increased. There was a discussion about the revenue received from the line charges.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to leave the access line charges at the current rates. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March Golf Association Report.

John Mangini gave the report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mangini stated with the good weather there was a lot of play on the course. He said the greens had been punched and sanded on April 2nd, and they would be having a member work day at the course. Mangini also spoke about the upcoming events at the course. Gobert asked when membership dues came in. Mangini stated they would be coming in starting in April. Rankin stated he would like to see a two-year comparison of the membership statistics. Mangini stated they also need to increase the number of green fees purchased. Gobert commented about the increase of activities at the course. Frnka stated the course looked nice.

No action was required.

10. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – Asked about the letter Council received concerning a property at Smith and Forest Streets.

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – Board of Adjustment ordinance, and look at access line rates during the budgetary process.

Mayor Gobert – None

11. Announcements.

Schneider stated the 2018 CAFR was handed out for Council's review, and someone from the auditor's office would attend the May 13th meeting for any questions Council may have.

12. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:21 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.