

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 22, 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 (Absent)
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 5:32 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 December 2018 Financial Statements
- c. Approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2019

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

There were no public comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water Filtration Project, the Front Street River Access Point, and the Safe Route to School Application.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax the City received for April, reflecting the February collections, was up approximately \$20,000 over the same time last year. The County and Eagle Lake also saw increases while Weimar saw a decrease.

Warschak stated the specialty flanges for the filtration project had been received, but we are still waiting for the pipe spools. They are supposed to ship on May 1st. Gobert asked what the turn around time would be once the piping was received. Warschak stated all of the steps required in order to finish the project. Gobert asked if it would take a couple of months to be online or a couple of months just for assembly. Gobert clarified her question by asking how long it would take for WesTech to complete their portion of the work. Warschak stated they should be able to get their

required work done within two months. There was discussion about the original completion date of the project.

Regarding the Front Street river access point, Warschak stated Frank Surveying was going to survey the right-of-way in order to determine the eastern property line.

Warschak stated the preliminary application for the Safe Route to School program had been submitted. Sometime this summer, we should hear from TXDOT if the project is approved for the next level, and then a more detailed application will be submitted. TXDOT recommended smaller projects so he wants to keep the project between \$200,000 and \$300,000. The project would include improvements on the north side of the streets in the selected area near the Junior High on MLK east to Prairie Street, which was included in previous project submissions. Councilman Cummings asked if sidewalks would be placed only on one side of the street. Warschak confirmed that would be the case. Warschak discussed the different grant projects which may incorporate some sidewalks along Rampart Street.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding County Road 2104.

Gobert gave the history of the original closing of the railroad crossing and the county road which prompted the County to approach the City about gaining access and maintaining the road so county residents could access their properties. Warschak stated he had been approached informally and then with a letter from Commissioner Kubesch. Councilman Rankin asked if there was a written request. Warschak read the letter to Council which stated the County does not maintain roads located within any City limit. Rankin stated there should be documentation that the County does not maintain roads in the City limits; however, in this situation, there is a specific agreement for them to do so. After reviewing the original documents pertaining to the maintenance agreement, Councilman Ridlen stated a copy should be sent to Commissioner Kubesch. Rankin concurred with Councilman Ridlen. The discussion continued regarding the length of the road and the drainage issues at the industrial park along with the cost to remedy those issues.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to send copies of the original agreement to the commissioner and let him know the City wishes to keep the agreement intact. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Bid for the Purchase of a Generator for the McCormick Street Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Warschak stated the original generator was lost during Harvey. The bid is through the HGAC-Buy Program. He stated FEMA is finalizing the project details, and the generator cost would be reimbursable. Warschak stated the project would include mitigation to raise the generator about four feet above grade.

There was discussion of the FEMA project and the budget.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the bid to purchase the generator. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance Request for Saturday, April 27, 2019, at 1920 South River Drive, for a Birthday Party with Live Music from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. as Requested by Maria G. Solorio.**

Gobert asked if the variance request was published in the paper, and if any comments were received. Schneider stated it had been published and no comments were received. Police Chief, Skip Edman, stated the variance request is for a birthday party in a residential neighborhood. The music is supposed to go from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. If the music goes beyond the stated time, then any complaint would result in the event being shut down. Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, stated he thought it was only amplified instruments, not large speakers. Ridlen asked where South River Drive was located in the City. Warschak explained the location.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the noise ordinance variance as requested. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance for Friday, May 3 2019, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 4, 2019, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Colorado County Fairgrounds for a Truck, Tractor, and Mini-Rod Pull as Requested by Thunder on the Colorado, Inc.**

Edman stated the event is very loud, but it is a great family event that draws a lot of people to the fairgrounds. Councilwoman Frnka stated they are very loud, and she inquired why they were allowed to go until 11:30 at night. Edman said the request was submitted for that time. Ridlen stated he thought the event usually ran longer than 11:30 p.m., and asked if Council could modify the request. Ridlen stated since the event was on Friday and Saturday night, he would hate to restrict them.

Rankin stated since the request was published for 11:30 p.m., it should not be changed. Frnka asked just how much revenue comes to the City from this event. Ridlen said he does not know how much money this event brings to the City, but the tractor pull is one of the few non-fair events at the fairgrounds, and the funding the fair board receives from it really helps them in paying the land off. Rankin stated activity at the fairgrounds should be encouraged. Gobert stated it does have an economic impact on the City. Ridlen asked to lengthen the time until 12:30 p.m. Frnka and Rankin stated it should stay at the time requested.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the variance request as submitted. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. **Consideration and Action Regarding the City of Columbus Citizen Participation Plan for the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.**

Schneider stated the procedures for citizen complaints required Council approval. Rankin asked if the City had previously approved this. Schneider stated probably for other grant programs.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Citizen Participation Plan for the CDBG-DR Program. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

No report was presented to Council.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2019 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse gave an overview of the recent permits. He added the permit for Becica originally was for a remodel, but it will be demolished instead. LaCourse stated he had been working on the updates for the building and electrical codes. He also stated the property at Smith and Forest Streets had been cleaned up and the RV had been removed.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2019 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman spoke about recent training with the intent for officers to receive higher certifications. Edman spoke about the game warden outreach program for elementary students at the E&P Ranch the department recently participated in. He said the department received 22 units of Narcan through a state grant, but they would be waiting for training before it could be administered by the officers. Gobert asked how many situations there have been where Narcan would be helpful. The Chief stated he had witnessed a few instances when the drug had been administered, but the overdose would be too far gone if there is no pulse. He stated many times multiple doses have to be used. Frnka asked how Narcan was administered. Edman said these are nasal sprays. Edman closed his report with the prescription drug turn in program at the Sherriff's office. Unused prescription drugs can be turned in to be safely destroyed.

No action was required.

14. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – Thanked Donald for his help at the Little League barbeque. He also thanked Chief Edman and the Sheriff's office for their help on opening day.

Councilman Swindle – Absent

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – None

15. Announcements.

There were no announcements

16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:19 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.