

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

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 May 28, 2019 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of March 2019 Financial Statements

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Cummings 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>**

Citizens spoke during specific agenda items.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project Update, Front Street River Access Point, Texas A&M Corridor Study, and the June 6<sup>th</sup> Severe Thunderstorm.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated B&D Services was busy on a job out of town, but they will hopefully start the pipe assembly next week.

Warschak stated Frank Surveying should be out this week to do the surveying and placing stakes at the lift station. They have found some discrepancies with the original markers, and they will have to expand their survey area. There was discussion regarding surveying in older cities.

Warschak stated he, the Mayor and Barbara Peterman went to College Station and met with student advisors participating in the corridor study. He stated they were targeting the main corridors through the City. He added there are costs associated with the study, but they are looking at trying for CCIDC grant funding to help cover the expenditure.

Warschak stated the thunderstorm that rolled through Columbus on June 6<sup>th</sup> left an abundance of limbs on the ground. Office personnel will be coordinating with citizens to have limbs stacked at the

street so they can be picked up by City crews. Councilman Ridlen asked if the City had any damage. Warschak stated some streets were blocked by downed limbs, but there was no infrastructure damage.

**6. Consideration and Action on the Mayor's Appointment of Five Members to the Board of Adjustments.**

Gobert stated she is still working on the alternates, but would like to get the board in place in case a request is made for a hearing. She stated there is no stagger of terms on this board so all of the seats are up for appointment. She would like to reappoint three current members, Modina Mangini, Patti Hill, and Michelle Gorman; and one current alternate, Mike Craddock, to member. Gobert stated she would also like to appoint Ann Butler to the board. Ms. Butler's application is attached to these minutes. Councilman Rankin asked what her approach to zoning variances would be. Gobert said her real interest is in Planning & Zoning, but that committee was already full. Her application states she would like to maintain the charm of the city. Gobert said she has read the Code of Ordinances. Rankin stated it is important.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of five members to the Board of Adjustments. 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 Resolution 193-19, a Resolution Requesting the Governor Veto House Bill 2439.**

Gobert stated this bill was moved very quickly through the legislature. It basically states that cities can put no restrictions on building materials used for commercial and residential buildings unless they are located in an historic or architectural district. Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, stated we would not be able to specify the ratio of building materials as stated in the corridor overlay, and it will mean buildings and homes made from sheet metal can be built next to brick or stone with no exceptions. There was a discussion of the corridor overlay, and the impact this bill will have. Rankin asked how we found out about it. Gobert stated she had been contacted by another mayor. Rankin asked if the City Attorney had looked at the bill and resolution, and if he said our zoning would be null and void with the passage of this bill. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated both items had been forwarded to Mr. Bovey. He was out of town so his associate called and stated it would not hurt to submit the resolution because our code would be impacted. Ridlen asked about the "national model code", Gobert stated, her understanding, was any legal building materials are included in this code.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 193-19. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May Golf Association Report.**

John Mangini apologized for not being in attendance last month. He stated the Junior High golf tournament was taking place, and he was at the course helping out.

Mangini gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He spoke about the recent Fire Department tournament, and he stated they were back in talks with the Lion's Club to host their tournament. He also stated they were in negotiations with another organization regarding a tournament. Mangini highlighted the work on the course including the storm clean-up and volunteers mowing at the course. He stated they had purchased weed killer and fertilizer, but they are unable to do the application because they have no water. Warschak stated the contractor would be at the course in the morning to finish the piping in the main pump house. Mangini stated they need it completed as soon as possible. With the heat and wind, the greens get really dried out, and they would hate to lose them considering all of the work they have put in to them. There was discussion of the number of memberships. Mangini stated they are down a couple of members from last year. Rankin stated he would like a year to year comparison of the number of rounds played. Schneider stated she could get that together.

No action was required.

**9. Discussion Regarding Days and Times of City Council Meetings.**

Gobert stated there were some reasons we might consider for moving the meeting dates. The fire department meets on the same nights as Council at 6:00 p.m., and the finance department stated many of the invoices now approved are prepaid because of meeting timing. She stated the newspaper has also asked for a change. She said we may look at moving to the first and third Mondays of the month. Cummings stated Monday is the best day for him. Vince Leibowitz of the *Colorado County Citizen* stated Council should consider the move so there is no conflict with another major taxing entity, the school district. He also asked why City Council met twice a month since some times the meetings are rather short. Gobert stated invoice approval for one, and requests for street closures and noise ordinance variance requests which require posting and publication time. After some discussion, the Council's consensus was to leave the meetings on their present schedule.

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

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – Dr. Morris had stated the school was potentially interested in purchasing the field, and would be getting something in writing to the City.

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – The D-day coverage had been spectacular, and if you have the opportunity, the memorial in France should be visited.

Mayor Gobert – None

**11. Announcements.**

Schneider stated she had received a request for a HOT funds grant for an upcoming event. A budget amendment would be required if Council considered the grant. Gobert stated the one HOT grant, which consisted of the entire estimated HOT receipts, was to the Chamber. She stated anyone wanting a grant would need to apply with the Chamber.

**12. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:03 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.