

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 9, 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
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

**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 August 12, 2019 Regular Meeting~~
- ~~c. Approval of Minutes of the August 26, 2019 Regular Meeting~~

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the Invoices. 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.<sup>1</sup>**

Debbie Damon spoke to Council regarding a petrified wood documentary in which she will be participating. She also gave an update concerning AEP and the need for tree trimming on and near her property. Ms. Damon also spoke to Council regarding the monarch butterfly migration. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Bill Reeves of the Brandon House spoke to Council regarding the AEP delivery charges. He stated he pays over \$200 per month for \$14 worth of kilowatt hours. The Mayor Pro Tem stated no comments could be made, but suggested he speak with the City Manager regarding the status of the rate case with the PUC.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project, and the Gas Line Project Updates.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the painting contractors have started pressure washing the filtration vessels, and, if there is no rain, they will begin painting tomorrow. Once the two coats of paint have been applied, the vessels will be placed on the concrete supports. Today, 1300 bags of the filter media were received. The media is being staged at the warehouse, and the filter vessels will be filled with the

media once they are placed on the supports. Rankin asked when the project was going to be completed. Warschak stated he was pushing for October. The electrical has been done inside the buildings and some of the ground piping has been installed. Rankin asked for a list of items to be completed on the project at the next meeting.

Regarding the gas line project, Warschak stated installation was completed for the gas line on Walnut between Fairview and Oak Cluster, and it is currently operational. The line on FM 806 has been bored and pulled. The connections need to be made in order to finish the job.

**6. Consideration and Action for Authorization to Advertise for Bids for the CDBG Waterline Grant Project.**

Warschak stated this project was for waterline replacement in the northwest part of town, near the junior high and back towards Midtown Park. The plans are with TCEQ for review.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to authorize the advertisement for bids for the water line grant project. Councilman Cummings 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 Award the Bid for the Fencing and Gate at the City Maintenance Facility.**

Warschak stated a summary of the bids is in the Council packets. This project is to replace the fencing and gate at the maintenance yard that was lost during Harvey. The fence will be extended down toward the existing pipe gate with the mechanical gate being place there. Rankin asked if this was a budget item. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated it was in the new budget and approximately half of the project would be paid with FEMA funding. Rankin asked for the City Manager's recommendation. Warschak stated he recommended the bid be awarded to H&S Livestock & Fencing.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to award the bid to H&S. 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 to Send to Planning & Zoning a Rezoning Request for Lot W Half 1 & PT N Half 2 in Block 20, Consisting of .2145 Acres, from Residential to Commercial as Requested by Kevin Ray, DDS.**

Dr. Kevin Ray and his wife, Sandy, explained to Council their need to rezone a property on Milam Street. He was approached by the hospital in regards to selling his current office building. Ray stated he had looked at another property, but he lost the building to another buyer. He is looking at changing the style of his practice and wanted his office to be in more of a residential setting so he purchased this house on Milam. Warschak projected a map of the location for Council. Warschak and Council discussed the procedures involved with a zoning change.

The Rays spoke about the modifications needed on the inside of the house, and stated they expected no changes to the outside of the building beyond a sign.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to send the rezoning request to Planning & Zoning. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020.**

Mayor Pro Tem Rankin opened the public hearing at 5:58 p.m.

Rankin stated the tax rate is slated to stay the same as last year at \$0.285 per \$100 of valuation.

Rankin closed the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Columbus Community Industrial Development Corporation's 2019-2020 Budget.**

Rankin asked the City Manager about the budget for the park infrastructure. Warschak stated there are a few items that need to be done at the park. Rankin asked why the budget was the same as last year when there was 120,000 in the estimate for the current year. Warschak stated the concrete work was supposed to be done, but it will not be started until after the new budget year. Schneider stated the estimate for this year should be \$0.

Rankin stated he believes the Mayor is in favor of approving the budget.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the CCIDC 2019/2020 Budget. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August Golf Association Report.**

John Mangini gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mangini stated the Lion's Club golf tournament would be held at the course on September 21<sup>st</sup>. He also said they are still waiting to hear from Wells Fargo regarding the green's mower that was destroyed by a fire. They have received a check from the insurance company. Mangini also mentioned the play had been slow because of the high temperatures.

No action was required.

**12. Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

Schneider stated everyone should have received the new budget pages and budget assumptions. She said after conferring with the Mayor, she revisited the estimates of the projected sales tax for the current and next fiscal year. Schneider increased the two year projections by a total of \$100,000. She also said she looked at all revenues again in order to make sure the projections made earlier in the budget cycle were still on track. Schneider stated Mayor Gobert wanted to make sure the fund balance would remain at approximately \$750,000, and she wanted the bucket truck included in this year's budget. Schneider stated with the increase projections in sales tax and a \$10,000 decrease to the Fire Equipment fund, she was able to maintain the fund balance and include the bucket truck. Schneider also said the mayor stipulated the \$10,000 to the Fire Equipment Fund would have to be made up in the subsequent year.

There was discussion regarding the bucket truck. Councilman Ridlen suggested looking at a used truck before ordering a new one.

Rankin also asked for updates on capital and major maintenance items as they are completed.

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

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – Thanked the City Manager for the carcass disposal.

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – Absent

**14. Announcements.**

Schneider stated there will be a special meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

**15. Adjournment.**

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Lori An Gobert

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.