

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 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 (Absent)
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
Fire/Code Assistant	-	Duane Naiser
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman

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 September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of July 2019 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, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka
Absent: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. ¹

Harry Carter of Harry's Computers read a report to Council highlighting his involvement in the community. He stated there was a petition circulating through the City asking for the removal of the painted sign on his business. He asked Council to put a stop to the petition. Gobert stated she was unaware of any petition. Councilman Swindle stated the City would have no influence on a petition, and we could not force you to take the sign down. City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated nothing had been presented to the City, and the City could take no action on it. Councilman Rankin stated since this item is not on the agenda, we, technically, cannot have any action on it. He also told Mr. Carter he should inquire with code enforcement for any sign requirements.

Blake Schulte of Blake Street addressed Council regarding his requested street closure for an upcoming concert. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated she had placed the request in the October agenda folder so it was not on the current agenda. Schulte stated he had spoken to the

retailers who would be affected by the closure, but he received no complaints. Schulte asked Council to schedule a special meeting before tickets for the concert go on sale on October 1, 2019. Rankin stated the Mayor is the only person who can call a special meeting.

Debbie Damon spoke to Council regarding the removal of the milkweed at the Visitors Center. She stated she has given Schneider the requirements for becoming a Monarch Butterfly Way Station. Gobert stated the Garden Club was maintaining the plantings at the Visitors Center, and they were cutting back some of the perennials because everything was so overgrown.

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

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax payment the City received was up over \$18,000 from the same time period last year. He also said the County and the City of Eagle Lake both saw increases in their collections while the City of Weimar saw a decrease. Regarding the filtration project, Warschak stated the painting contractor has been working on the filter vessels, and the crane would be coming tomorrow to put the vessels on the concrete walls. Next week, the electrical and the underground piping contractors will be onsite to work on the vessels. Also, B&D Services has secured a man lift so they can start loading the filter media. Warschak stated the gas lines had all been installed, but because of the rain, the welders had been called off. The line should be completed next week.

6. **Consideration and Action to Ratify the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the 2019-2020 Budget.**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to ratify the budgeted property tax rate. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 220-19 to Establish the Property Tax Rate of \$0.28500.**

Councilman Cummings made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.28500, which is effectively a 6.13 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Councilmen Rankin - Aye
Councilwoman Frnka - Aye
Councilman Swindle - Aye
Councilman Cummings - Aye
Absent: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve a 2018-2019 Budget Amendment for Library Memorials and Donations and Associated Expenditures.**

Schneider stated these revenues are not included in the budget so at the end of the year they are given to the library to use where needed.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the budget amendment as requested. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with Family Crisis Center, Inc.**

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to authorize the contract with Family Crisis Center. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with Combined Community Action, Inc.**

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to authorize the contract with Combined Community Action. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with CASA for Kids of South Central Texas.**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to authorize the contract with CASA for Kids of South Central Texas. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. **Consideration and Action to Appoint the 2020 Representative and Alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly and Board of Directors.**

Gobert stated, currently, she is the Representative and Councilman Rankin is the Alternative.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to appoint Mayor Gobert as the Representative and Mayor Pro Tem Rankin as the Alternate to the HGAC General Assembly. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Brent Gorman gave the Fire Marshal report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Gorman highlighted the inspections for the month, and the requirement for a sprinkler system in the Daley building since the use has changed to Assembly-2. He spoke about the upcoming Fire Prevention Month activities, and training planned with the hospital and sheriff's office. Gorman also stated the high school bonfire would be on Wednesday. There was a discussion regarding training requirements for his position.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2019 Code Enforcement Report.

Richard LaCourse gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated 83 of the permits issued this month were for Parkside Apartments. He also stated the redlined ordinance changes for the adoption of the new building and electrical codes has been received from the attorney. ISO must receive a signed resolution by December 19, 2019

No action was required.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2019 Police Report.

Chief Skip Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He highlighted training with the FBI and BAU, and a high school program for interaction with the police. He also spoke about the National Night Out on Tuesday, October 1st. Edman also advised Council if they grant the street closure for Blake Street, the fire hydrants would need to remain accessible.

No action was required.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – Absent

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – Asked to schedule a special meeting. Monday at noon.

17. Announcements.

Warschak stated utility crews would be working on Walnut Street near the Daley Building.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:08 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.