

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, July 12, 2021, 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	-	Ronny Daley
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider
Asst City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman, Jr.

**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 July 8, 2021 Special Meeting

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

Toni Carter addressed Council requesting that Habitat be asked to mow their lot. She stated she had asked for a police presence in her neighborhood, but they came and were stationed in front of her home, not where the illegal activity was happening. She stated she had just witnessed a drug transaction occur at 5:00 p.m. this afternoon. She went on to say drainage is still an issue and they are finally trying to get the neighborhood cleaned up, and now there are going to be trailer houses allowed in. Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse, stated there have been no applications submitted at this time. Gobert stated it was private property and nothing can be done until they apply.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the Water Filtration Project Update, and CodeRED.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the July payment for sales tax was up \$154,059 vs. \$141,620 compared to the same time period last year. The past couple of months the payments have been increasing. This month's payment did

include an audit collection, which could indicate the payment was really flat. The County and City of Weimar both saw increases, while the City of Eagle Lake saw a decrease.

Regarding the Water Filtration Project Update, Warschak stated the Hill Plan was now in operation, making all three plants in operation.

Regarding CodeRED, Warschak reminded citizens to sign up. There was notification on the back of the utility bills that went out.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Use of the Mansfield Building by the Colorado County Elections Administrator as a Polling Place if an Emergency Need Arises During the November 2021 General Election.**

Elections Administrator, Rebekah LaCourse, addressed Council and the request. She stated Precinct 305 did not have a lot of public buildings with access. The Mansfield building is rough, but it would be adaptable in an emergency situation.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Mansfield Building as an emergency polling place. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Declare a 1986 Pierce Fire Truck, VIN 1P9CA01J7GA040278, as Surplus Property.**

Assistant Fire Chief and Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse, stated this is the truck being replaced by the tower. All identifying marks will be removed and it will be readied for auction. Gobert asked the difference between a tower and a ladder. LaCourse responded, it is the bucket at the end of the ladder.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to declare the 1986 Pierce Fire Truck as surplus. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2021 Golf Association Report.**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave the golf report. They seem to be holding their own. They had called in locates to do sprinkler system work around the clubhouse and landscaping. Rankin stated paid rounds continue to increase, which is positive. Gobert stated it also looks promising they won't use all of their budgeted funds this fiscal year.

9. **Discussion of Budget Workshop – HOT Fund, General and Utility Funds.**

Billy Kahn from the Chamber gave their budget proposal. Kahn highlighted items and events that occurred throughout the year. He stated Magnolia Days was a big highlight and success this year. Their proposed budget request was \$213,120 less a \$31,000 carryover of unused funds from 2020-2021, leaving their request at \$182,120. The Trolley cover will depend on HOT funds and material costs. Rankin stated as funds come in, that will be what you get. You guys are doing a good job, but the funding has to come in. There was discussion regarding the Country Market line item. It is a good event, but it is not putting heads in beds to generate more HOT funds in relation to the proposed expenditure. It is more of a local draw. The Chamber was asked to watch their amount of spending on that line item in particular. Gobert asked when they plan to start using the Trolley. Kahn stated a lot of

the Trolley is purely cosmetic repairs, but they want to wait until the cover is completed. It also needs other repairs. It has been to two repair shops for the air conditioner with no luck in repairs, and they have also found out the wiper blade motor needs repair.

Other topics discussed were Workflow Software, fire station roof, pool maintenance, carpet for the library, salaries, police vehicles, drainage, a public works backhoe, street repairs, library wages, and the golf course. Items were discussed based on needs, along with where budget items could be trimmed.

**10. Items from Council members.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Cummings – none

Councilman Swindle – none

Councilwoman Frnka – none

Councilman Rankin – none

Mayor Gobert - none

**11. Announcements.**

There will be another budget workshop on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. Gobert stated the ARP is being managed by TDEM. As far as timelines, we may get a payment in the next fiscal year. They are giving 50% up front, and the remaining over the next four years.

There is economic study being done with Wharton and Matagorda.

A grant administrator will need to be selected. They will advise TDEM we want our grant allocations.

**12. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:53 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.