

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 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 October 28, 2019 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of August 2019 Financial Statements

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Rankin 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>**

Mayor Gobert read a proclamation in support of "Small Business Saturday". She took a photo with Chamber Executive Director, Billy Kahn.

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

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax the City received for the month of November was \$155,383. This was an increase from last year for the same time period which was \$147,985. Eagle Lake and Weimar both saw increases in their sales tax, and the County saw a decrease. Regarding the water filtration project, Warschak stated B&D Services has completed filling the filter vessel with media and the internal piping. They have also installed the blower and its piping. The electrical contractor has started installing the electrical controls and wiring at Spring. WesTech was at the Tait plant yesterday inspecting the installation, and the programmer will be here next week to begin the start-up. The Spring plant should be ready for WesTech to inspect while they are here. The painting has begun at the Hill plant. Councilman Rankin asked if the units would be operational before the end of the year. Warschak stated the Tait unit could go online before the end of the year.

Gobert asked if that was feasible with the holidays coming up. Warschak stated it could possibly go online after Thanksgiving.

6. **Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance for November 16, 2019 at Blake Street, 2101 Milam Street, for a Performance by Pat Green from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. as Requested by Blake Schulte.**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the noise variance request. 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 Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.**

The Mayor asked if there were any changes to the contract. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the only change was the amount given to the Chamber. The duties and requirements were the same as last year. Rankin asked if the amount to be paid was what had been approved in the budget. Schneider confirmed it was.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Publicity and Tourism agreement. Councilwoman Frnka 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 Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 111 Lot PT S-4, 5, 7 of Preston Street as Requested by Larry Lee Hargrove.**

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave an overview of the proposed manufactured home and lot. He stated the lot had never been addressed so the new address will be on Preston Street. All components of the application are in order. The lot is deep, at 132 feet, and is located in the MH District.

Mr. Larry Hargrove told Council he was born and raised in Columbus, and he was happy to be moving back to his hometown.

Rankin asked about the gap between Mr. Hargrove's property and the adjacent property. LaCourse stated it was of unknown ownership. Councilman Ridlen asked if the set-backs were still met even with the irregular lot shape. LaCourse confirmed they were met.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street from Bowie Street to Prairie Street, the Closure of Prairie Street from Wallace Street to Spring Street, the Closure of Spring Street from Prairie Street to Bowie Street, and the Closure of Bowie Street from**

**Spring Street to Wallace Street Beginning at 4:00 p.m. for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parade on Thursday, December 12, 2019 as Requested by Grupo Guadalupano.**

Councilwoman Frnka explained the route, and stated it was chosen so the impact on the school and day care would be minor if any at all. She emphasized the importance of beginning the parade at 4:00 p.m. She gave a history of the Blessed Mother. Frnka spoke about the parade entrants and highlighted those who will participate. She stated she hopes the parade is successful and will continue in future years. She also thanked Chief Edman and Officer Lara for attending the meeting with Grupo Guadalupano. Gobert thanked Frnka for working with the group to achieve a feasible parade route.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the street closures as requested. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed

**10. Consideration and Action to Have the City Manager Negotiate with Texas Disposal Systems Regarding a Solid Waste Disposal Contract.**

Warschak stated we would like to work with TDS and have them prepare some number before we jump off into the RFP process.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion for the City Manager to negotiate with TDS regarding a solid waste disposal contract. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action to Have the Mayor and City Manager Enter into Discussions with Alleyton Regarding Consolidation with the City.**

Gobert stated she had given everyone a letter from Mr. Roger Wade regarding the consolidation. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes. Wade stated Alleyton would need to incorporate as a city and then could seek consolidation with the City of Columbus. A map of the proposed area of Alleyton incorporation was projected for everyone to see. There were discussions regarding the need for consolidation rather than annexation, and the process of annexation used for the industrial park. Wade explained the City would need to pass a resolution allowing Alleyton to incorporate part of the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction. Ridlen asked where the extra-territorial jurisdiction extended. Warschak stated the ETJ extends approximately one-half mile from the City limits. Gobert explained some of the legal caveats of the process regarding incorporation and consolidation versus annexation. She stated the prospect of I-10 business sales tax is attractive, and the possibility of being able to bring in low to moderate housing would be helpful. She spoke about the current utility and trash services in the Alleyton area. Rankin asked how the proposed borders for an incorporated Alleyton were determined. Wade stated most of it was based on the service area of the current water and sewer provider, Corix Utilities. Gobert stated the two county commissioners from the area and the county judge are supportive of the idea. There was discussion of the population requirements for incorporation, and the estimate of the current population in the area. The estimate techniques were also discussed. Wade spoke about the impetus behind the desire to incorporate and then consolidate. Rankin stated, so far, this all sounds positive. He inquired about the downside. Gobert stated the downside is cost. She stated there would be a need for an additional employee in Public Works and more police officers. She also spoke about the requirement to equalize utility

billing differences between the City residences and Alleyton. There was a discussion regarding the existing infrastructure owned by Corix. Warschak stated the gas system, owned by a different company than Corix, had been upgraded in the past few years. Rankin stated we are only approving continued negotiations. Gobert stated Council would be approving continued discussions. She detailed the election processes required for incorporation and then consolidation. Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, stated he was concerned with the water system and fire hydrants. Police Chief, Skip Edman, stated he would recommend removing Interstate 10 from the incorporation border. There was discussion regarding the size of the area to be consolidated, and the rules regarding the size of the area that can be incorporated.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to have the Mayor and City Manager begin discussion with Alleyton regarding consolidation. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Rhonda Schneider to the Colorado County Appraisal District Board of Directors for a Two-Year Term.**

The City Secretary stated Mrs. Schneider was the current CCCAD representative the City shares with the school district. Gobert stated she had spoken with her back in May, and Rhonda was willing to continue her service.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the appointment of Rhonda Schneider to the CCCAD Board of Directors. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October Golf Association Report.**

Schneider stated the Council had the received the financial statements. She indicated the greens fees collected were up over the same time last year. There was a discussion regarding the actual versus budget data. Rankin asked to have a simple year-end profit and loss statement for the next report.

No action was taken.

**14. Consideration and Action to Declare Police Department and Utility Department Vehicles as Surplus Property:**

**2008 Ford Explorer VIN 1FMEU63EX8UB28900**  
**1993 Ford F150 VIN 1FTEF5NXPLA73156**

There was discussion regarding the police vehicle. Warschak stated this was the only Explore the department had; now the P.D. uses the Tahoe platform. Edman stated Captain Alley was so happy to receive the new Tahoe. He said this was the first brand new vehicle she had ever received during her career.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to declare listed vehicles as surplus property. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**15. Consideration and Action to Reschedule the Second City Council Meeting in December.**

Schneider stated the meeting was scheduled for the evening before Christmas Eve. There was discussion regarding who could make Friday the 20th at noon and who could make noon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to reschedule the second Council meeting to noon on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – He will not be present for the November 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Mayor Gobert – Congratulated Donald on his son receiving his Texas A&M class ring.

**17. Announcements.**

The City Secretary stated the annual City Christmas party will be held on Friday December 13, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**18. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:29 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.