

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, November 25, 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
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

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 November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Debbie Damon asked Council to consider limiting parking in the first parking slot at the corner of Milam and Walnut by First State Bank to either only compact vehicles or no parking at all. She also asked Council about the exit signs for Columbus along Interstate 10. She stated they are confusing and should be marked to indicate the historic downtown area. Gobert stated requests have been made to TxDOT.

5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project, and Library Closure.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Regarding the filtration project, Warschak stated WesTech had been out last week, and the Tait filtration unit is basically ready to go online. Disinfection samples are being pulled, and when the results are received, the system will be ready to be put into service after Thanksgiving. At the Spring location, electrical work is being finished, and WesTech will begin their process next week. At the

Hill plant, the vessel has been placed on the foundation walls. The remaining yard piping and media will now be able to be installed.

Regarding the library, Warschak stated with the installation of the new archival shelving, the library will be closed beginning December 11th and will reopen on December 26th. Library staff will be working during this time. The archival material will be removed from the old shelving and stored in the main part of the library. The meeting rooms will remain accessible during this time for scheduled events. Gobert stated a notice would need to go up at the library. She feels it could be a busy time with the holiday coming. Gobert also stated a Facebook notification would be helpful.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Myra Jane Drive on Friday, December 13, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 14, 2019 for an Outdoor Concert and Toy Drive a Blake Street.**

Blake Schulte stated the original concert by Pat Green did not end very well. Green made some disparaging remarks about Columbus and he showed up to the concert intoxicated. Green has since apologized, and he would like to give a free concert to show his remorse. Schulte stated he would like to do something good for the community so he would like to help the Boys & Girls Club of Champion Valley with a toy drive. Instead of an entry fee, he will be asking for a donation of a new unwrapped toy. Schulte also stated he was unsure what type of barricades would be used at the first concert, but since they were moved easily, he would not need the closure until approximately 10:00 a.m., and he would be able to remove the barricades around midnight. Schulte also brought pizza for those attending the council meeting. Councilman Ridlen asked Chief Edman if they had any problems at the first event. Edman stated they had received a few noise complaints. He was in the Wal-mart parking lot during the event, and he stated it was extremely loud. He suggested Schulte have the band turn it down a notch. Even though they have a noise variance, if complaints continue, it will be harder for him to receive the variance in the future. Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, stated there were no issues regarding fire lanes and accessibility. There was a discussion regarding the likelihood of the same behavior from Green happening during this concert.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the street closure as requested. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 198-19, a Resolution Authorizing Application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Local Park Grant Program.**

The Mayor stated they would be applying for a grant to fund a splashpad at Midtown Park.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to authorize the application for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Local Park Grant Program. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **First Reading of Resolution 199-19, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to the City of Columbus to Assist in a Study and Development of a Plan to Improve the Gateway Corridors Within the City of Columbus.**

Mayor Gobert read the resolution.

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

Richard LaCourse, gave the Fire Marshal report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated there had been a couple of investigations for suspicious fires, mainly in the Glidden area. He also stated there had been a fire in a cell at the County jail. There was a discussion regarding the jail fire.

No action was required.

10. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2019 Code Enforcement Report.**

LaCourse gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated the 8 ordinances for adoption of the new building and fire codes would be on the agenda for the next council meeting. He also stated the house at 318 Milam had been demolished. LaCourse also stated there will be a new house built by the GLO near Fannin and Crockett Streets.

No action was required.

11. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2019 Police Report.**

Chief Skip Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman stated the department had participated in many hours of training during the month. They will be leading a parade of sorts for the football team on Friday morning at 7:15 a.m. to send the team off for their playoff game. He also spoke about the department's participation in the "Shop with a Cop" program. This year it is in honor of Paul Weido. They are waiting on the funding for the program. Councilman Cummings asked if there was any way the City could donate \$1,000 to the program. Schneider stated the City could probably provide \$500 to the program.

No action was required.

12. **Items from Councilmembers.**²

Councilman Cummings – Wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – Stated Councilman Swindle was in need of a new chair. Schneider stated new chairs would be ordered in January.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – Congratulated Schneider and her staff for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the GFOA.

13. **Announcements.**

Schneider stated Council had received an information packet from Tristram regarding utility and franchise fee audits. She stated approval of an agreement for their services would be on the next agenda.

Schneider also stated they had received a pricing overview from TDS, and the contract will be on the next agenda.

14. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:04 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.