

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 2020, 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 (Absent)
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

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 March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated there was one correction to the minutes Council received in their packets. Item 13 was corrected to say the Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments.** ¹

Schneider asked if the caller attending the meeting would like to make a comment. There was no response.

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

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the sales tax payment the City received for the month of March was \$126,136. The payment for this time last year was \$110,453. Eagle Lake and the County both saw increases as well, and the City of Weimar saw a decrease.

Regarding the filtration project, Warschak stated both the Tait and Spring Water Plant filter systems are in service. The electrical contractor is finishing the remaining electrical wiring at the Hill Plant. Warschak also said they would be scheduling the final startup with WesTech.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

LaCourse gave the Fire Marshal report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the Fire Marshal had been applying for grants for the fire department. He is hoping they will be able to get some thermal imaging equipment from one grant, and swift water rescue equipment and training from another. LaCourse stated the department had received a donation of oxygen masks for pets. Finally, he stated, over the weekend, he and the fire marshal had worked with the hospital to come up with a way to fill the hospital's breathing air bottles from the fire department's compressor. He explained the process to Council.

No action was required.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2020 Code Enforcement Report.

LaCourse gave the Code Enforcement report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He gave an overview of the permits issued for the month, including two building permits for a bus barn at St. Anthony's school and a residential remodel. LaCourse informed Council the hotel that was supposed to be built next to the Holiday Inn has been cancelled. The property owner has sold the land to the hospital. Frnka asked about the construction going on at the apartments on Montezuma Street. LaCourse stated the Park Place Apartments had been undergoing a rehab using a GLO grant and the driveways needed to be replaced. They have done one drive and when that is completed, they will begin on the other. He stated the Magnolia Place Apartments remodel under the same grant would be beginning soon.

No action was required.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding February 2020 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted department training and community outreach efforts. He thanked the Mayor for all of her hard work with COVID-19.

No action was required.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – Asked about the slow down on the East river bridge construction. Warschak stated there was too much camber in the steel and they were examining options to correct the issue.

Councilman Swindle – Absent

Councilwoman Frnka – Ask for any information on the coronavirus in Colorado County. Gobert stated she would address that during her comments.

Councilman Rankin – None