

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, May 26, 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
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
Assistant City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Allen 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

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Ridlen 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. ¹

There were no citizen comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Updates for the Water Filtration Project Update, the Water Well Rehab Projects, the 2020 Sewer Line Improvements, and the Library Roof Project.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Regarding the filtration project, Warschak stated Wes-Tech has scheduled startup for June 1. The Tait water plant is currently offline due to a technical issue with a valve on the filter.

Regarding the Water Well Rehabilitation Project, Warschak stated the contractor is waiting on delivery of the new pumping equipment in order to complete the rehab project.

Regarding the 2020 Sewer Line Improvements, Warschak stated the project is out for bids. The deadline has been pushed back until next week due to required TxDOT verification.

Regarding the Nesbit Memorial Library Roof Project, Warschak stated the project is being advertised for bids. The bid deadline will be in time to be awarded at the second meeting in June.

Gobert asked if the contractor would be checking out the valve issue when they are here. Warschak stated yes, they will be checking it out.

6. Consideration and Action regarding Amending, Revising, or Repealing Ordinance #232-20, the Public Health & Safety Ordinance Regarding COVID-19.

Mayor Gobert state we were going into Phase II and it looks promising for Governor Abbott to open water parks and other recreational facilities. With these openings, she asked that Warschak get with the City Attorney regarding legal signage for the playgrounds because they would not be able to meet the governor's cleaning guidelines if they are reopened.

Councilman Cummings stated the playgrounds should pretty much be "use at your own risk".

Gobert added, yes it is pretty simple, basically a hold harmless notice.

Councilman Rankin asked if the signage was required. Gobert stated no, but with all of the lawsuits being filed, it was only wise. Warschak stated it is just giving notice that we are not spraying and sanitizing the equipment.

Discussion continued in regards to restrooms and protocol for them with the openings.

Councilman Swindle asked if there were any other issues with any other aspects of the ordinance.

Chief Edman spoke about the parks and the basketball nets. There are potential problems if the nets are put up at this time, as they draw large crowds of people not only to play but as spectators.

Cummings asked what the difference was between the basketball at Midtown Park and the football being played on the football field.

Edman stated the football field is not his enforcement, but the City parks are.

Cummings replied it is the same situation, and suggested Council rescind the entire ordinance.

Discussion continued with regards to rescinding parts or all and the effects of each. Gobert stated the part of the ordinance pertaining to City Hall lobby needs to be repealed since the lobby was reopened last week.

Rankin suggested repealing the entire ordinance, which would take it back to the status quo. Not opening up areas that look to be potential risks, like not installing the basketball hoops just yet, along with not opening up the facilities yet because we can't follow sanitizing guidelines.

Swindle stated the problem will be restrooms if you start opening up for athletic events.

Councilwoman Frnka questioned Little League and how that would be handled. Options were discussed on how that could be handled, along with leaving the decision up to management about opening due to not being able to follow the cleaning guidelines.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to repeal Ordinance 232-20. Councilman Ridlen 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 Submit to Planning & Zoning a Proposed Replat of a 0.3362 Acre Tract, Situated in Block 59 of the City of Columbus.

Warschak presented the property that was up for discussion for council to view. He stated a replat was needed to recognize what currently exists.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to send this piece of property to Planning & Zoning for replat. Councilman Cummings 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 Award the Hurricane Harvey Storm Sewer Outfall Repair Project.

Warschak stated several bid packets were picked up for this project, but only one had been returned by B & D Services, Inc. Warschak discussed the scope of the work for this project.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to award the Hurricane Harvey Storm Sewer Outfall Repair Project to B & D Services, Inc. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2020 Fire Marshal Report.

Fire Marshal Gorman gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated inspections were still postponed, and he gave a recap of the investigations during April. Gorman also forecasted it will be a busy summer.

No action was required.

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

Code Enforcement Officer LaCourse gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He gave an overview of the permits issued for the month, including building permits. He also discussed the miscellaneous items giving additional information on the CISD softball facility review.

No action was required.

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

Chief Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted department training, recognition of Police Week as well as the decline in calls for service during the month.

Gobert asked Chief to give council a rundown of how graduation ceremonies were planned.

Edman gave the plan and procedures and stated how well it went. Other schools were now looking at Columbus as a model because of how smoothly it went.

No action was required.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – Asked for a COVID case update. Gobert updated with 20 confirmed cases, with only 3 being active. All were convalescing at their homes. There have been zero hospitalizations and zero deaths here. She also stated that all nursing home patients have now been screened but no results were back at this time.

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – None

13. **Announcements.**

14. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:09 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.