

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 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 (Absent)
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
Asst City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
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**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Rankin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Rankin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**3. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of the October 20, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**4. Consideration and Action to Approve an Invoice for Colorado Valley Veterinary Services.**

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

The vote was as follows:

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

Abstain: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

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

Citizens signed in to speak on specific agenda items.

Billy Kahn, Chamber Director, spoke regarding a proclamation declaring November 28 as Small Business Saturday in Columbus. Mayor Pro Tem Rankin read the proclamation. Photos were taken of Kahn and Rankin with the proclamation.

6. **City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project, Water Well Rehab Project, the GLO Storm Sewer Improvement Project Updates, and Operation Changes.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Regarding the Water Filtration Project, Warschak stated the two vessels had been removed. The tank consultant was on site, he took photos, as well as examined the tanks as they were removed. Friday, the vessels were loaded and shipped out to Iowa. The driver indicated it would take approximately three days of travel due to routing and permitting. WesTech informed Warschak upon arrival, the tanks would be inspected. Councilman Rankin stated he had been on site as well, and he felt comfortable things were being followed through as the council had requested, and now we just need the contractor to do the right thing. Councilman Ridlen questioned when the next communication would be. Warschak stated we would wait for the arrival of the tanks in Iowa and the WesTech inspection report. Rankin stated we already have a tentative schedule from WesTech, we just need to continue to follow up. Warschak stated the engineering firm, Strand Engineers, has an office approximately an hour and a half from the work site. He would have them periodically check in and give a status report. Councilman Swindle requested a copy of the report and photos taken in order to get a better understanding of what was going on. Warschak stated he will share the information once it is received.

Regarding the Water Well Rehab Project, Warschak stated the contractor had completed the screen cleanings. The pump is on order with anticipated delivery and installation by the end of next week.

Regarding the GLO Storm Sewer Improvement Project, Warschak stated the contractor is working on the storm sewer on Rampart and Dewees Streets.

Regarding the TxDOT Sidewalk Grant Project, Warschak stated TxDOT was currently on hold with hiring any consultants. The projects will start once they can resume. In the meantime, TxDOT indicated they were applying for additional grant funds for the project that could possibly cover our match amount. Ridlen asked if there was any update from the Corps of Engineers. Warschak replied we had sent all of our documents, but have not heard back. He would follow up.

7. **Consideration and Action to Award the Bid for the Front Street Lift Station and RV Park Lift Station FEMA Projects.**

Warschak stated three bids had been received for the project, Rosenbaum Electric, Mercer, and McDonald Electric. Rosenbaum Electric had the lowest bid of \$84,899.00. This did exceed the FEMA grant which was only \$54,000. Warschak stated we tried to get additional funds, but were unable to secure any more. We are working with the contractor to try to get the costs down. Rankin stated if we receive \$54,000 of FEMA funds, we'd be on the hook for the balance. Ridlen questioned the scope of the project. Warschak stated it was all electric. The RV Park needs a new meter can and replacement of the control panel. Front Street needs a new meter and control panel as well. They will need to be raised above flood level. Rankin questioned if they were previously inundated, to which Warschak replied yes. Rankin commented we are then on borrowed time.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to award the contract to Rosenbaum Electric. 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 the Closure of Travis Street Between Walnut Street and Spring Street on Thursday, December 3, 2020 from 5:15 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for Ladies Night Out.**

Chief Edman was questioned if he was okay with the closure, to which he responded yes.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the street closure for Ladies Night Out. Councilman Swindle 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 Milam Street (Spur 52) from Houston Street to Walnut (Highway 90) and the Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Veteran's Drive on Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as Requested by Beverly McMillian for a Holiday of Lights Christmas at Night Parade.**

Beverly McMillian spoke about her organization of the Holiday of Lights Christmas at Night Parade, as well as her passion and desire for unity within the community. She stated surrounding cities all have lighted night parades and wanted Columbus to have one as well. She conferred with Chief Edman regarding specifics and realized December 2 would be a better time for the parade as well as being a kickoff to Ladies Night Out the following night. The route would remain the same. Minimum number of entries was discussed in order to make it a worthwhile event. Twenty entries would be needed by November 30<sup>th</sup> and there will be no candy thrown during the parade. Councilwoman Frnka suggested reaching out to the Our Lady of Guadalupe group to possibly include them since their event was cancelled. It would be a great integration with their group. Billy Kahn of the Chamber requested that entrants be allowed to walk the route and distribute flyers regarding Ladies Night Out specials for the next night. Chief Edman stated that night and speed in the parade area are issues of concern, but stated they will do their best to pull it off.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the street closures for the Holiday of Lights Christmas at Night Parade. Councilman Ridlen 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 Approve the CCIDC Grant of \$10,000 Awarded to the Columbus Community Hospital for an Instrument Flight Navigation Service.**

Ridlen currently serves on the CCIDC Board as well. He gave a brief overview of the grant application as it was presented to CCIDC. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated no resolution was needed for this grant, but it was on the agenda for approval due to council's request to approve expenditures \$10,000 or greater.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the CCIDC Grant for the Columbus Community Hospital. 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 Approve the CCIDC Grant of \$15,000 Awarded to the Columbus Historic Preservation Trust for Cosmetic Improvements at the Stafford Opera House.**

Schneider stated this again did not require a resolution for the expenditure because it falls under a different code. Ester Chandler of the CHPT spoke on behalf of their grant and thanked CCIDC for the consideration and grant.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the CCIDC Grant for the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2020 Golf Association Report.**

Ridlen questioned the deficit of \$1,550.23 and if this was for the year. Schneider stated this was only for a month as they are on the same fiscal year as the City. She noted cart rentals were up. Rankin stated that over the three year comparison, things seemed to be increasing.

No action was necessary.

**13. Consideration and Action Regarding the Second City Council Meetings in November and December.**

Schneider stated the second meeting in November is the Monday before Thanksgiving and the second meeting in December is the Monday after Christmas.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to leave the November meeting date, but change the second meeting in December to December 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**14. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters – Review of City Manager.**

Rankin postponed this item until the Mayor could be present. No action was taken at this time.

**15. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Review of City Manager.**

This item was not needed due to no action of Item 14.

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

Councilman Cummings – thanked Billy Kahn for coordinating the YOLO TX segment that aired about Columbus

Councilman Ridlen – Echoed Cummings

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – Read a thank you letter sent from Chris Christensen and the Barn Builders

Mayor Gobert – Absent

**17. Announcements.**

Bana announced the City Christmas Party will be December 11.

**18. Adjournment.**

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.



Mayor Pro Tem, Chuck Rankin *Lori AnGobert*

ATTEST:



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 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.