

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 8, 2021, 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
Asst City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
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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 January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2020

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. There was no item #4 on the agenda

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Chris Christensen gave praise for the appointment to the Appraisal Board. Dusty Dittmar was the appointment. This was actually done at the County Commissioner's Court and not here at the City Council meeting.

6. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project, and the Water Well Rehab Project, and Sewer Averaging.

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 Spring plant filter is back in service. The Tait filter was delivered last week and set into place. The mechanical contractor is making all of the connections. The media contractor will install media this week. The Hill filter is being scheduled for pickup to have the same degree of work completed. Councilman Rankin questioned

if there were any stresses on the tank. Warschak replied no, and this was tested at the repair site. Rankin questioned how will we know if everything is ok. Warschak replied it doesn't sound like it used to. Councilman Ridlen asked if you would know if there were any small cracks. Warschak stated there is a top hatch and a lower hatch that could be opened to inspect inside. Rankin stated WesTech or the outside inspector could review the tank as well. Gobert stated there was major reinforcement done compared to before. Warschak said you don't hear all of the squeaking and creaking like before. Ridlen asked about planned preventive maintenance, where the tank is checked and compared every three or six months. Rankin suggested taking pictures before, and then comparing them when the inspections are done. Ridlen asked if the tank has to be treated each time it is opened. Warschak replied yes. Gobert stated we do have a warranty with the tanks. Warschak stated with maintenance, we can look at the exterior coating, as well as sand loss. There is some sand loss over time, but it could be added and retreated. Gobert went on to say she was very happy they did what they said they were going to do. It has been forever and a day since we did a flush and questioned flushing now. Warschak stated they would wait until sewer averaging was over, as well as the Tait well being back in service. Once all three wells are online, they will schedule a flush. This will turn the water upside down and there will always be some water discoloration because the water gets stirred up.

Regarding the Water Well Rehab project, the Tait contractor has ordered the screen and liner. They anticipate it arriving Friday. It will take them a couple of days to weld and set everything. They will then set a test pump, develop the well a couple of days, and then determine the size pump that will be needed.

Regarding sewer averaging, this started December 15th and will continue until February 15th.

7. Consideration and Action to Submit to Planning & Zoning a Proposed Replat of a 0.637 Acre Tract Situated in the Original Lot 4 and Lot 5, Block 28 of the Taylor Addition to the City of Columbus into Two (2) Lots (0.276 Acres (Tract A) and 0.361 Acres (Tract B)) as Requested by Ryan and Heather Thomas.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat to Planning & Zoning. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Submit to Planning & Zoning a Proposed Subdivision of a 4.87 Acre Tract Situated in the W.B. Dewees League A-18 in the City of Columbus into Three (3) Tracts (0.253 Acres (Lot 1), 0.253 Acres (Lot 2), and 4.364 Acres (Residual)) as Requested by Deborah Herring.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed subdivision to Planning & Zoning. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 225-21, a Resolution to Select an Engineering Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Related Engineering for the 2021-2022 TDA CDBG Community Development Fund Program.

This item was tabled.

10. Consideration and Action Regarding the Extension of Sweetbriar Road.

Gobert stated the hospital had approached the City in the past regarding an extension of Sweetbriar Road to I-10. TxDOT had been contacted previously, but the area had not been developed enough yet. Gobert stated the City could extend it. It would make a nicer and safer entrance to the hospital. Warschak reviewed all properties and roadways on a projected map for everyone to see, noting all of the hospital properties and proposed extension. Ridlen questioned the cost to the City. Gobert replied at some point it would become a City road. We are hoping they give us the property to do the road extension. The road would be done to our specs, no matter who does or has the road. It is for the greater good of the community. Warschak stated the City has the right of way. TxDOT would improve the feeder and make a wider access nose for the road. Rankin stated the problem now is there is really only one real access point to the hospital. Gobert stated time wise it makes sense to have TxDOT work this into their expansion plans.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize City management to negotiate extending Sweetbriar Road. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2021 Golf Association Report.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave the golf report. A copy is attached to these minutes. It appears they had a pretty good month. They have started cart shed dues collections and their register sales have increased.

No action was necessary.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the 2020 Report on Racial Profiling.

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave the 2020 Report on Racial Profiling. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. The report has already been submitted to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. The last requirement is to submit it to the department's governing body, which is Council. There were no racial profiling complaints during this time period.

No action was needed.

13. Discussion Regarding Parade Closure Costs, Parade Criteria, and Possible Permit Requirements.

The Mayor and Police Chief met with most of the large parade organizers. The FFA and Fair parades will continue with the long, traditional parade routes. Our Lady of Guadalupe, will have their route go around St. Anthony and end in the adjacent field where they can set up, decorate, and have additional performances. The Homecoming parade route was mapped around the school area, Montezuma, Legion Drive, Veterans Drive, and ending at the bonfire location. There were no representatives from the Juneteenth parade, as they were quarantining. It was discussed that their parade start at Milam, take a right at the visitor center, and then head down towards Beason's Park where they typically end. There were no lighted parade organizers present. It was decided to not take away from any of the other long standing parades in area cities, just to add another. In the future, if there are any additional parade requests, they would come before council for a discussion and approval of a route, cost and possible permit. Edman stated all of the other walks and runs are more manageable and can be handled more easily.

No action was required.

14. Items from Council members.²

Councilman Cummings – I have the same concern as Frnka; I prefer to address my question when the Fire Marshal is here

Councilman Ridlen – Little League has started replacing their lights on the little field; they are moving forward to improve them as they said they would

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – reiterating from the discussion at the last meeting, regarding the daycare in non-compliance – daycare costs run \$850-900/month; this particular daycare is licensed for 68 children; \$900/month x 68 children = \$61,200/month in income; she stated she had a quote for \$1,700-7,000 for a fire system, so she could do one; we need to concentrate and stay on this; there is no price for a child

Councilman Rankin – None


Mayor Gobert – thanked the hospital for the vaccine station at the fairgrounds; they did an exemplary job; they asked for very little support, only one paid officer for security; as for the sub hub, we have not heard on a decision yet

17. Announcements.

Schneider – candidate filing ends Friday, February 12 at 5:00 p.m.; Place 1, Place 2, and the Mayor position are up for election; W-2's were mailed out to each Council member; Library electric rates that were questioned last meeting – Sept 2019 compared to Sept 2020 – rates were down 46%; as for the bonds that were discussed, it is the CCIDC bond that will be paid off in 2023; the City bonds will be paid off in 2025 & 2027

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:15 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 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.