

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 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
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Allen Gorman

**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 February 22, 2021 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of the November 2020 Financial Statements

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

Chris Christensen presented several options as a way to be able to get communication out to citizens in the event of an emergency. Gobert stated they are working on this topic and it will be an agenda item in the future.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project Update, the Water Well Rehab Project Update, the Transportation Alternative Sidewalk Application, and the Colorado County Household Hazardous Waste and Reusable Materials Collection Day.**

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 filter media contractor has installed the filter media at the Tait Plant. Media is also being removed from the Hill Plant filter. The contractor

is scheduling the disconnect this week, to ready the filter to be sent to Iowa for similar repairs. WesTech will be here next week to prepare the Tait filter to be placed back into service.

Regarding the Water Well Rehab project, the liner and gravel pack have been installed into the well. The well has been test pumped, and is predicted to hit the 400 GPM. They will order the pump and get it ready to be set in. The well will then be disinfected. Water samples will be taken, and if everything comes back good, the well will be put into service.

Regarding the Transportation Alternative Sidewalk Application, Warschak stated an application has been made to TxDOT. The cost of this project is estimated to be \$494,000.

Regarding the Colorado County Household Hazardous Waste and Reusable Materials Collection Day, Warschak stated this will be on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds. There was discussion of acceptable items. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated citizen always have the option for a bulk pickup through TDS. They can call TDS and schedule the pickup, as it is part of their garbage service.

Councilwoman Sandra Frnka questioned the partial sidewalk from Montezuma to I-10. Warschak stated this was a TxDOT project. They look at different areas, and this was done because there had been a pedestrian fatality in that location.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street to Travis Street (During Business Hours Closure, will be up to Law Office) from 7:00 a.m. Friday, May 14, 2021 until 1:00 a.m. Sunday, May 16, 2021; Spring Street from Travis up to Front Street from 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 14, 2021 to 12:00 a.m. Saturday, May 15, 2021; Travis Street from Walnut to Spring Street from 7:00 a.m. Friday May 14, 2021 to 1:00 a.m. Sunday May 16, 2021; Travis Street from Spring to Washington Street from 5:00 p.m. until Midnight on Friday, May 14, 2021; Spring Street from Travis to Front from 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 15, 2021 to 1:00 a.m. Sunday, May 16, 2021; Travis Street from Spring Street to Washington Street from 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 15, 2021 to 1:00 a.m. Sunday, May 16, 2021 for the 2021 Magnolia Days Festival.**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the street closure. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Fire Marshal Update.**

Fire Marshal, Brent Allen Gorman, gave an update on A Brighter Day Daycare. He has had multiple conversations with Beverly McMillian and City Attorney, Luke Cochran. She is moving forward with putting in the alarm system. Her first quote was in the \$12,000 range. The second quote was in the \$7,000 range. She is still moving forward with a grant application, and will know something by March 31<sup>st</sup> on that. She has a May 15, 2021 drop dead deadline for the alarm to be installed. Gorman stated he has spoken to Bluebonnet Alarm, and they are sending plans for his review. A contract has been signed with Bluebonnet Alarm, with a projected start date in April. Cochran has backed off on the trial date to the first court date after May 15<sup>th</sup>. To date, Gorman stated McMillian has in good faith, already corrected the door swings. We are getting there. The contract is signed and it is going to happen.

No action was needed.

8. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2021 Golf Association Report.**

Schneider reviewed the report. They were a little lower on revenue this month, but play was hampered due to the winter storm. Councilman Chuck Rankin stated the February to February comparison looked good.

No action was needed.

9. **Items from Council members.**<sup>2</sup>

Councilman Cummings – none

Councilman Ridlen – I know we had solicited good Samaritans during the storm, what is the status of those? Schneider stated she had received some from the Citizen. The Mayor and I will be discussing these tomorrow and how to go about acknowledging them.

Councilman Swindle – none

Councilwoman Frnka – a big thank you to Brent Allen for going down the big hill and jumping in the freezing water to save the victim.

Councilman Rankin – there is noise about what is going on at the border, and things don't look good.

Mayor Gobert – asked Police Chief Skip Edman if he had any concerns come Wednesday and the unmasking and reopening 100%. Edman stated no, it will be like before, we will address the calls as they come in.

10. **Announcements.**

There were no other announcements.

11. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

  
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Mayor Lori An Gobert

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 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.