

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

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|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| Mayor | - | Lori An Gobert |
| Mayor Pro Tem | - | Chuck Rankin (absent) |
| Councilman | - | Keith Cummings |
| Councilman | - | Michael Ridlen |
| Councilman | - | Gary Swindle |
| Councilwoman | - | Sandra Frnka |
| City Manager | - | Donald Warschak |
| City Secretary | - | Bana Schneider |

Other City Staff present included:

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| Police Chief | - | Skip Edman |
| Code Enforcement | - | Richard LaCourse |
| Fire Marshal | - | Brent 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 11, 2019 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of October 2018 Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. ¹

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding "Saturdays on the Square". She stated the program will run every Saturday except the last Saturday of the month. They will review in June and decide if they should continue to be open every week. Damon also stated they would have high school student volunteers helping out with the market.

There was a discussion regarding the confusion caused by an email sent to vendors. Gobert asked that a follow-up email be sent for clarification.

5. City Manager's Report Including Water Filtration Project, Waterline Project Update, CDBG-DR Project, Safe Route to School Project, and Water System Flushing.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Warschak stated WesTech had been sent a list of materials needed for installation of the piping on the filter units. He said the horizontal piping at the Hill Water Plant had been installed by B&D Services for the alignment to be inspected by WesTech. Councilwoman Frnka asked about the status of the Tait Plant. Warschak stated the flanges had been modified so it is ready for assembly.

Regarding the Waterline Project on Travis, Milam, Jackson, Live Oak, Wallace, and Houston Streets, Warschak stated the surveyors are doing some additional field work. Warschak has started the design of the project, and has estimated it will be ready for advertising for bids in the spring.

Warschak stated he and the Mayor had met with Mercer Engineering to identify several projects for the CDBG-DR program. The possible projects consist of drainage improvements on Rampart Street and a backup generator for the Jane Drive Lift Station.

Warschak informed Council TXDOT will be accepting preliminary applications for the Safe Route to School and Traffic Alternative Program. This grant program is for the improvement of pedestrian and bike safety to and from school campuses. Warschak said the City has applied several times in the past, but have yet to be awarded a project. During a live stream program with TXDOT, it was suggested projects be small in scale. Preliminary applications will be due in April.

Regarding the water system flushing, Warschak stated City crews started the process this morning at 8:00 a.m. They started in the downtown area, and will be moving south. In total, the City will be flushing 80 hydrants. Warschak stated low water pressure and water clarity issues could be experienced by the customers during flushing.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding the River Access Point Adjacent to the Front Street Lift Station.

Mayor Gobert stated there has been quite a bit of vehicle traffic down to the river by the lift station since the landing had been improved a bit for a canoe egress. Since the Beasons Park landing was closed after the hurricane, gravel was brought in on our property to accommodate the river traffic. The vehicles are making ruts, and there is potential for someone to get hurt. She stated she would like to see some bollards put in place spaced for canoe traffic, but limiting vehicle access. She also stated signage would need to go up as well. Councilwoman Frnka suggested getting legal advice regarding the wording on signs.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the placement of signage and bollards at the river access point. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, and Swindle; Councilwoman Frnka

No: Councilman Ridlen

Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street Between Walnut Street (Highway 90) and Spring Street from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the Last Saturday of Every Month Beginning March 30,2019 and Ending November 30, 2019 for the Columbus Country Market.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the street closures as requested. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Legion Drive in Front of Memorial Stadium on March 5, 2019 and March 7, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Columbus Track Meet.**

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the street closure as requested. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding a Report on the Film Friendly Texas Program.**

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Billy Kahn, gave Council a report about the workshop he attended for the Film Friendly Texas Program. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Kahn stated in order for the City to participate, three requirements must be met. A representative of the City would have to attend a workshop; his attendance at the recent workshop would qualify. The City would need to pass a film friendly ordinance, and photographs would need to be uploaded to a database. Kahn highlighted different incentives that could be offered to film companies in order to bring them to town. He also stated the Commissioner's Court should be approached as well. There was discussion by Council to give a directive to staff to look at the requirements to move forward.

10. **Certification of Unopposed Candidates in the Regular Municipal Election. Certificación de los candidatos sin oposición en la elección municipal de regular.**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, certified all candidates were unopposed.

La secretaria de la ciudad, Bana Schneider, certificó que todos los candidatos no tenían oposición.

11. **Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 217-19, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Texas Declaring the Unopposed Candidates for the Offices of Mayor, City Councilmember Place One, and City Councilmember Place Two as Elected. Examen y medidas encaminadas a adoptar Ordenanza 217-19, una Ordenanza de la ciudad de Columbus, Texas Declarar los candidatos sin oposición para la oficina Alcalde, Concejal de la Ciudad de la Lugar Uno, y el Concejal de la Ciudad Lugar Dos como Elegido.**

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve Ordinance 217-19. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

La concejal Frnka hizo una moción para aprobar la Ordenanza 217-19. El concejal Swindle secundó la moción.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

La votación fue la siguiente:

*Sí: los concejales Cummings, Ridlen y Swindle; Concejal Frnka
Ausente: Concejal Rankin*

La moción pasó.

12. Consideration and Action to Declare Police Department, Parks/Public Works Department, and Utility Department Vehicles as Surplus Property:

2010 Ford Crown Victoria VIN 2FABP7BV5AX100948
2011 Chevrolet Impala VIN 2G1WD5EM2B1218755
1992 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTEX15N4NKC02086
1997 Chevrolet 1500 VIN 1GCEC14W9VZ189929
2010 Ford Ranger VIN 1FTKR1AD7APA02732
1993 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTEF15N8PLA73155
1997 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTDF176XVKC77539
2001 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTZF07271KC65579
2001 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTRX17W61KA05244

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to declare the listed vehicles as surplus property. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman gave the report, a copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Gorman gave an overview of the inspections done during the month, and the data collection planned for the fire hydrants during flushing. Gorman also stated he would be working on fire lanes for commercial businesses.

Gorman discussed the stand pipe issue at Baymont Inn. He said the owner was ill the day he stopped to speak to him, and did not want to get into a deep discussion. He stated the current ordinance does address the requirement of a stand pipe at the hotel.

Gorman spoke about the need to make some modifications to the current fire code regarding open burning. He stated the Sealy ordinance included all of the items he wished to incorporate.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to authorize staff to prepare amendments to the fire ordinance. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2018 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse discussed the permits issued last month. He also told Council about a solar panel installation in the City.

LaCourse gave an update regarding the ISO rating. He said Columbus is the only city in the County that is rated for building codes by the ISO. LaCourse stated the City had better ratings than the City of El Campo. He would like to update the ICC codes to 2018 for building and 2017 for electrical.

No action was required.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2018 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman spoke about recent civilian interaction training. He also stated it was nice to see the Mayor before the FFA parade.

No action was required.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – Absent

Mayor Gobert – None

17. Announcements.

Schneider stated tickets were available for the Chamber Casino Night on Thursday, March 7th. She asked Council to let her know if they would like to attend.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.



Mayor, Lori Ann Gobert Mayor Pro Tem, Chuck Rankin

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.

