

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 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 |
| Councilman | - | Keith Cummings |
| Councilman | - | Michael Ridlen |
| Councilman | - | Gary Swindle |
| Councilwoman | - | Sandra Frnka |
| City Manager | - | Donald Warschak |
| City Secretary | - | Bana Schneider |

Other City Staff Present:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------|
| Police Chief | - | Skip Edman |
| Code Enforcement | - | Richard LaCourse |
| Code/Fire Assistant | - | Duane Naiser |
| Fire Marshal | - | Brent Gorman |

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:31 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 November 25, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

Chris Christensen of St. Paul Drive spoke to Council regarding the condition of his street after the recent seal coating. He stated it was like driving down a gravel road. He urged them to ride down his street to see for themselves. He also said it was very noisy when cars drive through, and the gutters are full of gravel. He stated the contractor should be held responsible.

Mayor Gobert read a proclamation in support of "Shop with a Cop Day". She presented the Boys & Girls Club a \$1,000 donation in support of the program. Gobert and Police Chief, Skip Edman, took a photo with Laura Weido of the Boys & Girls Club.

5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project and Sewer Averaging.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated all of the testing at the Spring plant has been completed, and the chemicals to sanitize the sand have been installed. After samples have been collected and tested from the filters, two of the units will be ready to go online. Work is still being done on the piping at the Hill plant.

9. **Second Reading of Resolution 199-19, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to the City of Columbus to Assist in a Study and Development of Plan to Improve the Gateway Corridors Within the City of Columbus.**

Mayor Gobert read the resolution.

10. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 199-19, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to the City of Columbus to Assist in a Study and Development of Plan to Improve the Gateway Corridors Within the City of Columbus.**

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve Resolution 199-19. Councilman Rankin 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 Ordinance 222-19, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Building Regulations, Article 3.02 Building Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus, and Adopting Local Amendments to the International Building Code.**

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, stated after the ISO audit, he has been working with them in order to have no increase in insurance rates. He explained the ISO recommendations. LaCourse stated this code governs commercial and multi-family housing. He also gave an overview of the changes being adopted and those items not being adopted.

Christensen thanked Council for letting him speak. He stated the international building codes are evil. He stated these codes hurt minorities in small communities. He also said these codes should be published for the public to read, and contractors should be asked how these codes would affect building costs. Gobert stated LaCourse has gone through the codes with a fine-toothed comb, and he has conferred with local contractors. Christensen stated there should be input from the community before any changes are made. LaCourse stated the ICC model codes had been adopted many years ago by the City, and this action is to adopt a newer version. Christensen stated the code should be put online for anyone to see. LaCourse stated they are all available online. Rankin stated a link could be put on our website.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Ordinance 222-19. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 223-19, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Building Regulations, Article 3.03 Electricity, Divisions 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 Electrical Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus, and Adopting Local Amendments to the National Electric Code.**

LaCourse stated the current code the City had adopted was the NEC 2005 version, and the code to be adopted is from the NEC 2017. The biggest change with this code is the requirement of arc-fault breakers. Code Enforcement explained what the arc-fault breakers were and their cost versus traditional breakers. LaCourse also stated there would no longer be an electrical board. He stated

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

16. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 227-19, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Building Regulations, Adding Article 3.11 Existing Building Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus, and Adopting Local Amendments to the International Existing Building Code.

LaCourse stated this was a new code for the City. It applies to existing buildings, such as historical homes. The code states any rooms remodeled would have to follow the current code. We have been requiring those upgrades for rooms being remodeled already, but now we will have the code in place. There was a discussion regarding examples of when this code section would apply.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance 227-19. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

17. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 228-19, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3, Building Regulations, Adding Article 3.12 Residential Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus, and Adopting Local Amendments to the International Residential Code.

LaCourse stated this was also a new code for the City. Where the building code is geared towards commercial and multi-family buildings, this is specific to single and two-family dwellings. We have been enforcing the guidelines in this code already, now the code will actually be an adopted part of our ordinances.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance 228-19. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

18. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 229-19, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 5, Fire Prevention and Protection, Article 5.04 Fire Code of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus, and Adopting Local Amendments to the International Fire Code.

LaCourse stated this would be going from the 2012 to the 2018 fire code. Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, spoke about some of the additions he wanted in the code. One addition would be requiring addressing on the back doors of businesses, especially if they are in a strip center. Frnka asked if they would have the key boxes there. Gorman stated if the individual businesses wanted the Knox System, he or someone from the fire department would work out where the box would be installed. He stated normally those boxes are placed in the front. Gorman wants those addressing requirements for apartment buildings, townhomes, and multi-family dwellings as well. Additionally, there is a new section of the code addressing food trucks and other similar businesses.

Schneider stated the annual City Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 13, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

24. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:39 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.