

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, December 23, 2019, at 12:00 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 (Absent)
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
Public Works	-	Michael Poncik
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire/Code Assistant	-	Duane Naiser
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices

City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated a used bucket truck had been located, and the invoice was included in the packet waiting to be approved. Public Works Superintendent, Michael Poncik, gave Council details of the truck and some tools that will need to be added. There was a discussion regarding the price and features of the truck.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. ¹

Citizens present spoke during specific agenda items.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax and the Water Filtration Project.

Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the sales tax payment the City received was down from the same time period as last year. Weimar was also down while Eagle Lake and the County both saw increases.

Regarding the filtration project, Warschak stated the Spring and Tait plants were online. The Hill plant will go online sometime in January. Councilman Ridlen asked if there was any change in water samples after the filters went online. Warschak stated they have drawn water downstream of the filters and the water looks good. He also stated once the Hill filter goes online, they would flush the entire system. The flushing will take place after the sewer averaging period.

Warschak stated Council had also received a sales tax analysis performed by an outside company. Gobert stated this was something Councilman Rankin had been asking for. Rankin stated he had read the report, and he did not necessarily agree with some of the conclusions. He said he thought there was good information in the report that can help us see the drivers behind the City's sales tax. Gobert stated this report was public information, and there is a report that contains confidential information. If Council members would like to view that report, they will need to see City Secretary, Bana Schneider.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 200-19, a Resolution Giving Written Consent for a New Municipality to Incorporate Within the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Columbus.**

Roger Wade stated he was there in case Council had questions. Gobert stated this resolution was drafted by the attorney working with the Alleyton group, and it has been reviewed by the City Attorney. Alleyton needs this resolution in order to move forward. Gobert stated this did not mean the City was obligated to do anything. Councilwoman Frnka asked if City officials had met with Corix. Gobert stated they had met last week, and more information was being gathered. Warschak stated he would be meeting with their engineer soon.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 200-19. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Mayor's Appointment of One Member to the Columbus Community Industrial Development Corporation Board**

The Mayor stated she was appointing Pastor Dan Pore` to the board on the recommendation of resigning member, Joel Usher. Gobert stated she had spoken with the pastor, and she felt he would bring a different perspective to the board with his ministerial work in the community. Police Chief Edman stated he is a great man, and he does great work in the community.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the appointment to the CCIDC Board. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Mayor's Appointment of Two Members to the Board of Adjustments.**

Gobert stated she was nominating former Councilwoman Lori Meyer and Shane Theriot.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the two appointments to the Board of Adjustments. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He gave an overview of the inspections during the month; a program for the residents at Oak Bluff Village; and a fire investigation in the Frelsburg area. Frnka asked why Maria's was always on the list. Gorman stated this month was for a re-inspection, and they are now in compliance. He also stated just because they are on the list does not mean it is bad.

No action was required.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2019 Code Enforcement Report.

LaCourse gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated the next substandard property he was looking at is located at 902 Rampart. He thanked Council for the appointment of new members to the Board of Adjustments since he would need to conduct a hearing in January. There was a discussion of the property which will be addressed during the BOA hearing.

No action was required.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2019 Police Report.

Chief Skip Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman stated the Our Lady of Guadalupe parade on the 12th went really well. He thanked Councilwoman Frnka for all of her work on the parade route. He also thanked the Mayor for stopping by Wal-Mart during the Shop with a Cop event on the 17th. He said 30 children and 29 officers participated, and it was a remarkable event to participate in.

Edman also stated a 2017 seizure of a motorcycle had finally been awarded to the department. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

No action was required.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Absent

Councilman Ridlen – Stated the shopping trip with local officers was a shining example of all lives matter.

Councilman Swindle – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Frnka – Thanked Chief Edman and all of the officers who helped out during the parade.

Councilman Rankin – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Gobert – Stated the parade was wonderful and thanked administrators for putting everything together throughout the year.

13. **Announcements.**

Warschak wished everyone a Merry Christmas and there is barbeque and fried chicken for lunch. He also reminded everyone we are currently in the sewer averaging period.

14. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 12:32 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 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.