

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 24, 2020, 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

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code/Fire Assistant	-	Duane Naiser

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 the October 2019 Financial Statements

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

Citizens spoke during specific agenda items.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the Water Filtration Project, and the Safe Route to School/Travel Alternatives Project.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the sales tax payment the City received for the month of February was \$162,933.59. The payment for this time last year was \$158,165.30. Eagle Lake and Weimar both saw increases as well, and the County saw a decrease.

Regarding the filtration project, Warschak stated both the Tait and Spring Water Plant filters are in service. The contractor is installing the remaining yard piping and electrical wiring and controls at the Hill Water Plant. He also stated the weather would have to clear before final work could be completed at that location.

Warschak stated a route map of the Safe Route to School/Travel Alternatives sidewalk project area was in the Council packets. He stated the grant was for \$344,000 with some City match required. Warschak stated the project would include the widening of MLK Street and adding curb and gutter,

along with sidewalks from the Junior High School to Midtown Park. Councilman Ridlen asked if the contractor had been obtained for this project. Warschak stated we have not received the contracts from the state yet, but the plan was to do the design work in one fiscal year and the construction in the following year, and they would have to go out for bids. Warschak stated the entire project would have a budget of approximately \$400,000.

6. **Discussion Regarding Proposed Alleyton Incorporation and Possible Consolidation with the City of Columbus.**

Mayor Gobert stated she met with Judge Prause, and he sent an email this afternoon indicating he did not feel there was satisfactory proof of the number of inhabitants in the mapped area for the consolidation of Alleyton. Councilman Cummings stated, in speaking with Alleyton residents, they do not know where to go in trying to move forward. Councilman Rankin stated it seems the Judge has made an opinion regarding the information. Gobert discussed all of the information gathered and the organizations involved. Ridlen asked if his opinion could be appealed. Rankin stated he felt that it could be. Gobert stated Mr. Wade is frustrated and is unsure if they will proceed with their plans.

7. **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.

8. **Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 231-20, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Texas Declaring the Unopposed Candidates for the Offices of City Councilmember Place Three, City Councilmember Place Four, and City Council Member Place Five as Elected. Examen y medidas encaminadas a adoptar Ordenanza 231-20, una Ordenanza de la ciudad de Columbus Texas Declarar los candidatos sin oposición para la oficina Concejal de la Ciudad de la Lugar Tres, Concejal de la Ciudad de la Lugar Cuatro, y el Concejal de la Ciudad Lugar Cinco como Elegido.**

Councilman Cummings made a motion to adopt Ordinance 231-20. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

El concejal Cummings hizo una moción para aprobar la Ordenanza 231-20. El concejal Ridlen secundó la moción.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

La votación fue la siguiente:

Sí: los concejales Cummings, Ridlen, Swindle, y Rankin; la concejal Frnka

La moción pasó.

9. **Consideration and Action to Send to Planning and Zoning a Rezoning Request for Lot PT S-4, 5, 7 in Block 34, Consisting of .2155 Acres, from District R, Single-Family or Two-Family Residential to District R-2, Boarding and Lodging and Bed and Breakfast District as Requested by Lucy Pacheco-Venghaus.**

Warschak pulled up the City map to show the location of the property. Ms. Pacheco-Venghaus told Council the house is on Houston Street with Mr. Swindle's property on one side and a church on the other side. She also stated it is across from the elementary school playground. Warschak pointed

out the property on the map. There was a discussion about the R-2 designation within the zoning ordinance.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to send the rezoning request to Planning and Zoning. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Code Enforcement/Fire Assistant, Duane Naiser, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He gave an overview of the inspections during the month. He stated the Harbert Garage sprinkler system has been installed, but it has not been connected to the alarm system. Naiser spoke about the re-inspections conducted by the Fire Marshal as well as an investigation of a vehicle and structure fire. Naiser also discussed the large structure fire from two weeks ago, stating the fire caused over \$3 million dollar in losses.

Ridlen asked if our fire department had all of the equipment they needed in order to properly fight the fire. Naiser stated 10 other departments were called out, but that was mainly for water tankers.

Ridlen asked if there was a piece of equipment that could have saved the structure. Naiser stated because of the location of the fire in the structure, they could not vent the fire so they could only try to save as much of the contents as possible.

No action was required.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2020 Code Enforcement Report.

Naiser also gave the Code Enforcement report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He highlighted the permits issued during the month. He also stated the proposed changes to the City ordinance regarding parking have been sent to the attorney.

No action was required.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding January 2020 Police Report.

Chief Edman gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman stated they had over 140 hours of training during the month, and they had two mental health transports, down from eight the prior month.

No action was required.

13. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Reminded everyone to go and vote.

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – Asked about the status of the Second Amendment Sanctuary City Declaration. Schneider stated she had not had the time to find an appropriate resolution.

14. Announcements.

Schneider stated the City had purchased a table for eight for the Chamber Casino Night Fundraiser. She asked Council to let her know if they would like a ticket.

15. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.



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.