

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, October 13, 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 (arrived at 5:49pm)
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
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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 August 10, 2020 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of the August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting
- d. Approval of Minutes of the September 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Citizens signed in to speak on specific agenda items.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the Water Filtration Project, Water Well Rehab Project, the 2020 Sewer Line Improvement Project, and the Nesbitt Library Roof Project Updates.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the sales tax the City received for the month of October, was \$121,110 compared to \$139,985 from the same time period last year. The County, Eagle Lake, and Weimar all saw decreases as well.

Regarding the Water Filtration Project, Warschak stated a letter had been sent by him and the City Attorney, Cary Bovey. Bovey joined the meeting via telephone this evening to give an update to Council. Bovey stated he had discussions with the VP of WesTech and the City has their attention now. They are taking full responsibility and taking this seriously. They understand there is clearly a defect with their product, and are going to do the right thing. Bovey went on to say he was encouraged by the conversations and they will give a timeline by the end of the week. Bovey did not feel this was unreasonable to ask for additional time, as they have several things to evaluate before they can give a timeline, and judging by their response, he said it seems they want to the right things. The fabricator, Universal Tank, was not dodging liability either. According to WesTech, they are responsible for Universal Tank, and Universal Tank is taking responsibility. Bovey feels they will act more timely than they have in the past. Councilman Rankin stated he asked for a timeline, not an answer to resolve the problem. The issue is they need to do it right, and how they do it is up to them to get us a working unit. There are a couple of options, one being to pick up the vessels and take them to Iowa, the fabrication plant, for repairs, hydro testing, repainting, recoating, and then be returned; a second option being to repair them onsite. The quality would be better with option one and quicker due to the logistics of having repairs done onsite. Rankin stated that Warschak needs to be in negotiations with WesTech, but that we did not want to be in a position to tell them what to do. Gobert stated she did not want them to take down the working unit, and that it would take 3-4 months to complete the repairs. Gobert stated there is some fine tuning and we want the warranty to start when the unit has been completely replaced. Councilman Swindle questioned if redoing this will affect the manifold problem. Warschak replied this is a separate issue, and went on to explain the issue with the interior walls of the vessels.

Bovey departed the meeting.

Regarding the Water Well Rehab Project, Warschak stated the contractor had started work at the Tait plant. They ran a camera down and found the screens choked up. They will do a chemical clean of the screens and brush and agitate them. They will go forth with the new pump and he has asked them for a timeline on this project, as the plant will be down until everything comes back online.

Regarding the Sewer Line Improvement project, they met last week Friday, and gave a walk through. There is now a punch list of items that need to be completed.

Regarding the Library Roof Project, a walk through was completed this week. They have some material onsite to be hauled off, gutters on the back side that need leaf screens yet, but this project is basically complete.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 220-20, a Resolution Updating the Colorado County Mitigation Action Plan with the Adoption of Additional Mitigation Actions.**

Gobert stated this is a mandatory format for us to be able to submit for mitigation funds.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Resolution 220-20. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Engineering Services Contract with Strand Engineering for Engineering Services Related to the GLO-CDBG Mitigation Grant Program.**

Warschak stated there were some changes made to the grant and Bovey had reviewed the contract.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2020 Golf Association Report.

John Mangini gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mangini gave updates on the tournaments held, the shape of the course, and the issue with hogs. Pat Neundorff was also present and presented a proposal on purchasing some used golf maintenance equipment. The package includes a greens mower, deck mower, and airifier. The fair market value of this used equipment is anywhere from \$8,000-\$14,000. The proposal was for \$15,000, but was negotiated down to \$13,500 should they pursue the purchase of this equipment. Purchasing these items new would cost \$30,000-\$35,000.

No action was required.

Let the record reflect that Councilman Ridlen arrived at 5:49 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) Beginning in Front of the Elementary School and Ending at Walnut Street (Highway 90), and the Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Veterans Drive (Old Hwy 90), the Closure of Veterans Drive (Old Hwy 90) to Milentz Street, the Closure of Milentz Street to May Street, and the Closure of May Street to Cardinal Lane from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade on Wednesday, November 4, 2020.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the street closures for the Homecoming Parade. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street from the Corner of Milam Street up to the Law Office Located at 415 Spring Street from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2020 for Ladies Night Out.

Billy Kahn of the Chamber introduced Lindsy Graham to the Council. He spoke on the street closure request and gave an update on Ladies Night Out. There are over 50 vendors currently signed up. There will be no vendors in the Opera House this year. All vendors will be located around the courthouse lawn. With the new electrical upgrades that were done, all will have access to electricity if needed.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the street closure for Ladies Night Out. Councilman Swindle 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 Submit to Planning and Zoning a Proposed Replat of a 0.412 Acre Tract, Situated in the Original Lot 1, Block 15 of the City of Columbus into Two (2) Lots (0.383 Acres (Lot 1A) and 0.029 Acres (Lot 1B)) as Requested by Byron Woods.

Warschak explained the lot was located at the corner of Travis and Spring Streets. He wants to carve out where the office is located. Rankin stated he had asked Code Enforcement Officer Richard LaCourse about the setbacks. The entire block is zoned commercial. Warschak stated the porch and part of the carport do have encroachments. Rankin stated he is concerned about this but not sure what the remedy is. Warschak stated there were others in that area, such as the Opera House that extend into the right of way.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to submit the replat to P&Z. Councilwoman Frnka 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 the Appointment of Cynthia Alley to the Library Advisory Board to Fill a Term Ending April 1, 2021.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the Library Advisory Board had already voted to approve the appointment, but approval was still required by Council.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the appointment. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Appoint the 2021 Representative and Alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly and Board of Directors.

Currently Gobert is the Representative and Rankin is the Alternate. Rankin stated things are working and suggested they stay the same.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to reappoint Gobert and Rankin as the Representative and Alternate to the HGAC General Assembly and Board of Directors. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilman Ridlen – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – stated she had received a call from a lady regarding the Guadalupe parade which would be held on a Saturday. They want to make it bigger and longer. Edman advised the Council that in doing so, more officers will need to be called in on a Saturday, but all was good.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – stated the county had filed a petition for a variance from the mandatory mask order. The County had received the variance, but businesses can still require patrons to wear a mask.

15. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:08 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.