

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 26, 2021, 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
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
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Allen Gorman
Code/Fire	-	Duane Naiser
Library	-	Susan Chandler

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 April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2021

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. ¹

Toni Carter spoke about drainage and 18-wheelers in her neighborhood.

5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project Update, the Water Well Project Update, the Transportation Alternatives Sidewalk Application, and the Nesbitt Memorial Library Fire Alarm & Suppression System.

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

Regarding the Water Filtration Project update, The Tait Plant Filter is ready to be placed back into service once the water well is online. The Hill Filter is at the Universal facility being rehabilitated.

Regarding the Water Well Rehabilitation Project, the contractor has pulled the well pump at the Tait location. A new pump has been ordered. Once it is disinfected and returns satisfactory results, it will be placed into service. Warschak stated the pump was not perfectly plumb and the pressure caused it to snap. The contractor will put in a submersible pump and it will be is good to go, and at no cost to us.

Regarding the Transportation Alternative Sidewalk Application, Warschak stated we have been contacted to submit a final application for the Montezuma Sidewalk Project, and the application is due in June. The MLK Sidewalk Project is at the 90% design phase status.

Regarding the Nesbitt Memorial Library Fire Alarm and Suppression System, Warschak stated the design is complete and is being advertised for bids. Bid results will be presented at the next Council meeting. Councilwoman Frnka asked if there was any idea on the cost. Warschak replied in the \$50,000 range. It has been budgeted at \$56,000. Fire Marshal Gorman was questioned, and he stated it is a good system, and the main cost is in the archival area because you cannot use water in there.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street Between Walnut Street and the Railroad Tracks and the Closure of the Alley Behind the Banks from the Northeast Corner of the Probation Building up to the First State Bank Drive-Thru on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce for the Magnolia Days Festival Car Show.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the street closure. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action, Regarding Proposed 2021 Pool Admission Rates.

Pool Manager, Kathy Rester, submitted an outline of possible rate changes along with an update of activities happening at the pool. There was discussion on how much additional revenue might be generated from an admission rate increase. Rankin suggested having Rester submit a wish list of items for the pool and with no increase in the rate.

There was discussion only. No action was taken.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Nesbitt Memorial Library 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

Library Director, Susan Chandler discussed the items in the strategic plan.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the Nesbitt Memorial Library Strategic Plan. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Select a Specific Precinct and Race of the May 1, 2021 General Election to be included in the Legally Required Partial Manual Count as part of the Official Canvas.**
Consideración y acción para seleccionar un precinto y una carrera específicos de la elección general del 1 de mayo de 2021 para ser incluidos en el recuento manual parcial requerido legalmente como parte del lienzo oficial.

Gobert and City Secretary, Bana Schneider conducted the drawing.
Precinct 305 and Place 1 were drawn for the manual count.

Gobert y la secretaria de la ciudad, Bana Schneider, realizaron el dibujo.
El Recinto 305 y el Lugar 1 se dibujaron para el conteo manual.

10. **Consideration and Action to Approve a Second Amendment to the Master Equity Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management.**

Schneider stated the original agreement with Enterprise had our deductible at \$1,000. Our City insurance deductible is \$5,000. This amendment puts the lease agreement in line with our policy.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Second Amendment to the Master Equity Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Legion Drive in Front of Memorial Stadium from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2021 for Columbus High School Commencement Exercises as Requested by Columbus Independent School District.**

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to approve the street closure. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. **Consideration and Action to Declare a Cub Cadet Tank Zero-Turn Mower, a John Deere 4100 Tractor, a New Holland TC21 Tractor and a 4' Rhino Shredder as Surplus Property.**

Gobert asked if these were lease equipment pieces. Schneider stated no, just City purchased equipment. The John Deere and New Holland have already been replaced. The Rhino shredder is just worn out. The Cub Cadet is not that old, but is having too many maintenance issues.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to declare these items as surplus. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2021 Fire Marshal Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report when Gorman left to take a fire call. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Lil' Einstein is going up and going well. All things are up to code. Big Easy Ranch has plans for an 80 home subdivision, with restaurants, shopping and an addition to the golf course. Myself and Gorman are in full review with them, as well as fire department discussions and hydrants. The Precinct 3 Commissioner and Judge are also involved with their project. There was discussion on how the CVFD is funded and how they can help. There was also a discussion about a substation, but the question is manpower. There were 22 calls for service this month.

Gobert asked about Dollar General. LaCourse replied the fire alarm is in and up to code. They cannot open until the ceiling tiles are in place. There was discussion about flooding and mold, and the safety concerns. LaCourse responded we do not have a health department to inspect and enforce.

No action was needed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2021 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported 42 permits being issued for the month. He is waiting on the St. Paul storm drainage study. The 818 Fannin substandard property is in the process to be demolished, as well as 736 Crockett. Sign permits in Incode have been set up and the inspection criteria within the program are being updated. High grass and yard trash warning letters are being sent out.

No action was needed.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2021 Police Report.

Police Chief, Milton Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted the training and qualifications for the month. Firearms and Taser certification were conducted, as well as use of force policy reviews. Sub hub vaccinations are decreasing and being turned over to the pharmacies.

No action was needed.

16. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters – Interim Review of City Manager.

The Mayor closed the regular session at 6:15 p.m. and entered into executive session.

17. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Interim Review of City Manager.

The regular session reconvened at 6:57 p.m., with all members still present. There was no action to be taken.

18. Items from Council members.²

Councilman Cummings - absent

Councilman Ridlen – encouraged all citizens to get out and vote

Councilman Swindle – none

Councilwoman Frnka – I voted and it is very easy to do it; go vote

Councilman Rankin – I voted; very easy and encourage others to go vote

Mayor Gobert – Donald and I have been in touch with the Veterans about doing something for their dedication of the Memorial Park

15. Announcements.

Schneider stated there were two days left to early vote. Election will be Saturday, May 1st.

16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:59 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.