

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, May 10, 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
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka (Absent)
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 February 2021 Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding the theft of plants that occurred at her business downtown.

5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project Update, the Water Well Rehabilitation Project Update, and the Transportation Alternative Sidewalk Application Update.

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 Plant filter is at the fabricator, with an anticipated return date of May 25th.

Regarding the Water Well Rehabilitation Project, the water well at the Tait Plant is scheduled to be installed tomorrow by the contractor.

Regarding the Transportation Alternative Sidewalk Application, Warschak stated we have been contacted to submit a final application for the Montezuma Sidewalk Project. We are in the process of completing the paperwork for the final application that is due in June.

Councilman Ridlen asked when do we see an upturn in water usage for the summer? Warschak replied it depends on how dry it gets, but usually around July. Ridlen questioned, if the well doesn't come back online, do we have the capacity to keep up, or will we be pushing it? Warschak replied, we'd be pushing it, and there would not be a lot of rest for the wells we have. We will be glad when we have that well up and going.

6. Consideration and Action to Award the Contract for the Nesbitt Memorial Library Fire Alarm and Suppression System and Installation.

There was only one bid received, and it was from A-1 Shiner Fire & Safety. Gobert stated the bid was about what we were expecting. Warschak stated even though it is about \$2,000 higher than the original quote, it is in line. Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse stated the current Halon system is out of date and has to be changed out. Gobert stated this is in the archival area. LaCourse stated the product is similar, it just need replacing. It is a dry chemical, an oxygen depleting system. Councilman Rankin stated we have \$62,407 in the budget. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated this quote of \$52-53,000 was given some time ago during the original budget session. Rankin replied, but it is still within the budget.

Councilman Ridlen made a motion to award the contract to A-1 Shiner Fire & Safety. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Amend a Noise Variance Request Granted to Thunder on The Colorado for a Mini-Rod, Truck, and Tractor Pull, Originally Scheduled for April 30, 2021 thru May 1, 2021, to now be Held on May 21, 2021 thru May 22, 2021 due to Rain.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the amended noise variance request. Councilman Ridlen seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2021 Golf Association Report.

Schneider stated \$27,899 had been collected in dues. They lost three members, but added seven new members. Ridlen questioned if the school pays any fees for the use of the course. Schneider stated, yes, they pay a flat fee for the year.

No action was needed.

9. Consideration and Action to Send Request for Proposals for Administrative Services for the American Recovery Plan (ARP) Funding.

Schneider stated she had just distributed a packet of information to Council members as the information had just been released. Larger cities can go online to apply, but for us we don't know for sure how it will be administered. I'm thinking it will be similar to the CRF. Gobert stated the bigger municipalities can apply directly, but we will have to apply through the State. Schneider stated we do not know what we can apply for as far as infrastructure, but Donald has some ideas. Rankin stated this is just to select an administrator, to which Schneider replied, yes.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve sending a request for proposals for an ARP Administrator. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action To Certify the Canvass of the Municipal General Election Held on May 1, 2021.

Consideración y acción para certificar el escrutinio de las elecciones generales municipales celebradas el 1 de mayo de 2021.

Gobert read the election results report.
Gobert leyó el informe de resultados electorales

Councilman Rankin made a motion to certify the canvass of the Municipal General Election. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.
El concejal Rankin hizo una moción para certificar el escrutinio de las Elecciones Generales Municipales. El concejal Swindle apoyó la moción.

The vote was as follows:
La votación fue la siguiente:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, and Ridlen
Sí: Concejales Swindle, Rankin, Cummings y Ridlen
Absent: Councilwoman Frnka
Ausente: Concejal Frnka

The motion passed.
La moción pasó.

11. Recognition of Service for Outgoing City Councilman.

Gobert thanked Michael Ridlen for his service on Council and to the citizens of Columbus. Ridlen thanked the Mayor and Council members for their support and their service to Council and the citizens as well.

12. Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officials.

Schneider administered the oath to the newly re-elected Mayor, Lori An Gobert. Gobert administered the oath of office to the newly re-elected Councilman Keith Cummings, and newly elected Councilman Ronny Daley.

13. Items from Council members.²

Councilman Cummings – thank you to all of those that voted and thank you Michael Ridlen for helping the City of Columbus

Councilman Daley – I am going to try my best here and I will be looking towards Michael Ridlen for help

Councilman Swindle – thanked Michael Ridlen for his service

Councilwoman Frnka – absent

Councilman Rankin – none

Mayor Gobert – I second Cummings; I want to personally thank Michael Ridlen. He accepted my appointment and stepped up when Dwain Dungen departed. You figured out governmental budgeting very quickly and that was impressive. I congratulate you as well Ronny Daley.

15. Announcements.

Warschak thanked Michael Ridlen for his service.

Schneider thanked Ridlen as well. Schneider reminded members they had been given the certified annual report from the auditors. I will need to schedule a Zoom meeting with the auditors for the next meeting and need to give them any questions you all might have. Schneider stated she was also given ten tickets to the Cory Morrow Meet & Greet at the Magnolia Festival. If anyone would like to attend, please let me know.


16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:52 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.