

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, June 28, 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	-	Ronny Daley (arrived 5:34 p.m.)
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider (Absent)
Asst City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

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 June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of the April 2021 Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Toni Carter addressed Council regarding drainage on her side of town; mowing needed at the Habitat property in the 1600 block of Back Street; the need for a stop sign at Wallace and Fannin Street; and a police presence needed in her neighborhood to discourage illegal activity.

Let the record reflect that Councilman Daley arrived at 5:34 p.m.

5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project Update, the Transportation Alternatives Sidewalk Application Update, and the CodeRED Notification System.

City Manager, Donald Warschak gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Regarding the Water Filtration Project update, Wes-Tech was out last week. They have inspected the installation, backwashed the system, and tested it. The filter is being treated and disinfected

today. Samples will be taken, and if there are positive results, it will be placed back online and in service. All three will then be back in operation.

Regarding the Transportation Alternative Sidewalk Application, Warschak stated the application for the Montezuma project was submitted June 14th.

Regarding the CodeRED system, this is an emergency alert system. We are asking residents to sign up for it to receive notifications. There is a link on the City website. There is also an app you can sign up through. Notice of the CodeRED notification system will be on the back side of the utility bills that are being mailed out to customers.

Mayor Gobert asked Chief Edman to place this notification on the Police Department Facebook page as well.

6. Consideration and Action to Request the Planning & Zoning Commission Begin the Rezoning Process for the New B-1 Zoning Designation.

Gobert stated this was discussed at the last meeting. This is the action item now.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to request Planning & Zoning begin the rezoning process for the new B-1 zoning designation. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve a General Fund Budget Amendment for Equipment Fund Revenue and Parks Equipment Expense.

Warschak stated there were funds received from the sale of some surplus equipment. This is to account for the funds coming in as well as the additional expense funds going out for the purchase of a mower. Rankin asked if this was a net-net item. Warschak replied no, we will have to use some additional funds to pay the balance. We are taking the sale funds and adding them to this account.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the General Fund amendment. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve a Utility Fund Budget Amendment for Equipment Fund Revenue and Water, Sewer, and Gas Equipment Expense.

Warschak stated this is surplus funds on the utility side and the additional expense.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the Utility Fund amendment. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve a Budget Amendment for Library Grants and Donations and Associated Expenses.

Gobert stated this was to account for the grant and donation funds that the Library had received.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the budget amendment for Library Grant Funds and Donations. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action for the Approval of the 2021-2022 Employee Healthcare Plan.

Gobert presented the Options available to the City of Columbus, along with Assistant City Secretary, Dinah Jacobs. Jacobs stated Option 2 was being recommended.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Employee Healthcare Plan. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action for the Approval of Voluntary Payroll Deductions for Vision Insurance Plan Coverage.

Jacobs discussed Option H as the recommended option to offer to the employees.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Option H for the voluntary Vision coverage. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Cummings, Daley and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action, if necessary, Regarding the May 2021 Fire Marshal Report.

Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse, gave the report in Brent Gorman, Jr.'s absence. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported an inspection was done at Joe's Italian, as well as after, when it was made a drive in. LaCourse highlighted Gorman's training and qualifications, stating he is now a Master Firefighter, and the highest certified firefighter above any Chief around. Rankin asked when the new Tower would be in. LaCourse replied it had been pushed back due to some backordered parts, but by this Friday, it should be here. We've seen it, and now will just need to go pick it up.

No action was needed.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2021 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated 28 permits had been issued. There was one permit voided, because construction costs came back 40% higher than expected and they will go back for a redesign. All three permits have been pulled for the Wellness Center, Medical Offices, and Doctor's Offices. LaCourse stated Warschak, and Gas Supervisor, Jody Ripper, are working with them on these. Curtiss Schonenburg spoke on behalf of Frank Survey for the St. Paul Church. There are residents that feel they may be impacted by the construction. They are working to divert water away, and not have an impact on any neighboring residents. We are not trying to push more water their way. LaCourse went on to highlight other miscellaneous items listed in the report as well as stating a few grass letters had been issued.

No action was needed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2021 Police Report.

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted training. He stated he had lost an officer who was getting out of law enforcement, but was fortunate to fill that position with a previous officer from several years ago. Gobert asked if they could patrol the area Carter had spoken about. Carter interjected she wanted them to park in the area. Gobert stated she could not tell Chief Edman how to have his officers do their job.

Move to item number 4.

Curtiss Schonenburg spoke again regarding the drainage in the Krupka addition area. He stated he had spoken to Warschak today and there are plans to go through the Weido property. Gobert asked if that was going to be in the budget. Warschak replied yes, money will be allotted.

15. Items from Council members.²

Councilman Cummings – stated he has drainage issues in his neighborhood as well

Councilman Daley – none

Councilman Swindle – stated he would like to reiterate what Rankin stated. Jacobs has a tough job and work load, and she is doing a great job.

Councilwoman Frnka – stated she has drainage issues as well that drains directly into her backyard. She stated she would like to see that ditch that goes through Weido's property widened. Warschak explained the drainage in that area.

Councilman Rankin – stated he and Swindle had the opportunity to work with Jacobs and she is doing a great job, and we are making progress.

Mayor Gobert –stated she hopes everyone signs up for CodeRED; please check the budget schedule for upcoming meetings

15. Announcements.

Billy Kahn, Chamber Director, stated their newest member is the LGBTQ local chapter, and there is an event at the Courtyard Wine Bar later this week.

16. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:06 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.