

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 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
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider
Asst City Secretary	-	Dinah Jacobs (Absent)

Other City Staff present included:

Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Fire Chief	-	Dusty Dittmar

**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 July 26, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. <sup>1</sup>**

Debbie Damon gave an update on the Endeavors shelter for illegal immigrant slated to open in Eagle Lake. She also shared how to get a replacement Covid-19 vaccination card.

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding food trucks. He discussed several newly installed trailers. Christensen stated the current state of the food trucks is an embarrassment to the City.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Water System Flushing, Transportation Alternatives Sidewalk Application and CodeRED.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated notices would be going out to residents, and the utility department would start flushing on Monday August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Warschak said the sidewalk application was in the hands of TxDOT, and awarded projects should be announced in October.

Regarding CodeRED, Warschak reminded citizens to sign up. There was notification on the back of the utility bills that went out.

6. **Second Reading of Resolution 232-21, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Business Improvement Grant to Raetzsch Ventures to Help with Façade Improvements to the Building at 1136 Milam Street.**

Mayor Gobert read the resolution.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 232-21, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Business Improvement Grant to Raetzsch Ventures to Help with Façade Improvements to the Building at 1136 Milam Street.**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 232-21. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action Regarding the Columbus Municipal Golf Association Application for a Texas Parks & Wildlife Grant and a Contract for Grant Administration Support.**

Gobert stated the golf association was being very vigorous in fundraising and applying for grants. She stated they would like to use Langford for help with applying for the grant, but the grant application must be in the City's name. There was discussion regarding the grant. Gobert stated any matching funds would have to be raised by the association not the City.

Councilwoman Frnka expressed her concerns that the golf association's plans were very aggressive, and she would like to see a paper trail for any monies they receive.

Councilman Rankin stated that he was encouraged the association is trying to make improvements. He asked if the \$2,500 fee was coming from the money the golf course receives from the City. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated she understood the association would be paying those funds directly.

Councilman Daley stated he thought it would be great if they were to be awarded this grant.

Councilman Cummings asked who Bobbie Gustus was. Schneider stated she was on the committee for fundraising. Cummings stated he was asking because she was one of those who went to Washington, D.C. on January 6th. He also asked if she would be involved with anything. Schneider reiterated that she was on the fundraising committee. Daley stated he would not want to see the golf course punished for her bad actions. Gobert stated it is Mr. Stein who is working with Langford, but she could not say if Bobbie might help gather information. Cummings stated he would have supported this item, but she was a traitor to the United States Constitution.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Columbus Municipal Golf Association application for a Texas Parks & Wildlife grant, and approve the contract for grant administration support. Councilman Daley seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin, Daley

Nays: Councilman Cummings and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2021 Golf Association Report.**

Schneider gave an overview of the golf report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was required.

**10. Discussion of Budget Workshop – Final Review**

Schneider stated there were a few changes to the budget since the last meeting. Most of those changes were personnel related, and there was a reduction in spending in the utility department.

Rankin asked if anyone had gone to the website on the postcard everyone received regarding property tax information. He stated the information did not seem accurate, and was, he thought, misleading.

There was a discussion regarding adding the new Federal holiday, Juneteenth, to the list of current City holidays. Cummings felt that it should be added; Daley stated he thought it should be added, but Columbus Day should be dropped. Rankin felt the current City holidays should remain intact. Gobert suggested the employees vote on which holiday should be on the schedule.

Schneider discussed the upcoming public hearings on the tax rate and budget, as well as the meeting date for tax rate adoption.

**11. Items from Council members.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Cummings – none

Councilman Swindle – none

Councilwoman Frnka – Stated hurricane season is upon us, and everyone should get prepared.

Councilman Rankin – none

Mayor Gobert - Stated there would be a meeting with herself, the City Manager, and county officials regarding the county road in the industrial park. She also gave a brief update on the status of COVID in the county.

**12. Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

**13. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

  
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Mayor Lori An Gobert

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bana Schneider, City Secretary

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.