

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Tuesday, August 17, 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

Other City Staff present included:

Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Police Lieutenant	-	Kevin Daniels
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler (arrived 5:43 p.m.)

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

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, Daley, and Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments. ¹

There were none.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the August sales tax payment was \$175,536 compared to \$185,920 last year. This was for June collections. The City of Weimar saw an increase, while the County and City of Eagle Lake also each saw decreases.

MOVE TO ITEM 10

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 244-21, an Ordinance Providing for the Closure, Vacation, and Abandonment of a Portion of the Public Right-of-Way Known as Austin Street.

Warschak stated this ordinance would officially abandon this right of way, and clean up this situation on Austin Street. All parties have signed off on the necessary documents. Once approved, the documents will be filed at the courthouse.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance 244-21. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

MOVE TO ITEM 6

6. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022.

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.
Councilman Rankin stated he thought the CAD website contained incorrect information. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated she had notified the CAD. They stated they were unaware of the inaccuracies and were notifying their website administrator.
There were no other comments.
Gobert closed the public hearing at 5:37 p.m.

7. Discussion of Budget Workshop – Final.

Schneider stated the only changes were the estimates for the beginning general fund balance. Schneider stated she and Library Director, Susan Chandler, had made some changes. There was discussion on the Park Budget and expenditures over the last several years. Rankin stated he felt Warschak needed to look at labor costs and find more initiatives to become more efficient. Councilman Cummings questioned the number of personnel and if there have been any changes.

8. Public Hearing on Proposed 2021-2022 City of Columbus Operating Budget.

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:45 p.m.
There were no comments.
Gobert closed the public hearing at 5:46 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 242-21, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 235-20 to Adopt a Budget for the Ensuing Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2021 and Ending September 30, 2022.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 242-21. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Items from Council members.²

Councilman Cummings – none

Councilman Swindle – none

Councilwoman Frnka – none

Councilman Rankin – none

Councilman Daley - none

Mayor Gobert – Stated a lot of things have been happening, along with a lot of discussions, regarding the golf course. I expect some of the golf members to be in attendance at the next meeting. Also stated there is property for sale downtown that the CCIDC is looking to purchase. Their expenditure will be up for approval on the agenda next Monday.

12. Announcements.

Schneider stated the motion and vote on the tax rate is required to be very specific. Information will be distributed regarding the motion.

There was discussion regarding members not receiving the agenda notifications via the new Diligent software. Schneider stated she will inquire to figure out what the problem is and get a resolution.

13. 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.