



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 5:30 PM, 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
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief – Skip Edman
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal – Brent Allen Gorman, Jr.
Code/Fire Assistant – Duane Naiser

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Gobert lead the pledge and invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Gary Swindle

Seconded by: Sandra Frnka

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

3.1. Approval of Invoices

3.2. Approval of Minutes of the November 22, 2021 Regular Meeting

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Debbie Damon addressed Council about "How Would You Feel?" regarding an incident that happened at her business. A copy of her statement is attached to these minutes.

Billy Kahn, current Chamber Director, introduced to Council, Kristen Cepak, the new Chamber Director upon Kahn's retirement.

Billy Kahn thanked Council for everything they have done for the Chamber over the last four and half years.

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding the invasion happening at the southern Texas border. He stated Governor Abbott has activated the National Guard at the border due to this invasion. Some of these service people are from Columbus. Pay is low and slow. If there is some way to show support to the guardsmen on the southern border, that we are thinking of them and support them. Also, if there is a way to support them financially.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the Water Filtration Project Update, the Army Corp of Engineer WWTP River Bank Project Update, and Sewer Averaging.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Regarding sales tax, Warschak reported the payment to the City was \$141,208, up from \$125,824 over the same time period last year. The County and the City of Weimar also saw increases, while the City of Eagle Lake saw a decrease.

Regarding water filtration, all three plants are in service and functioning satisfactorily.

Regarding the Army Corp project, the contractor has mobilized and excavation has begun.

Regarding sewer averaging, it will begin December 15, and run until February 15. Water usage during this time period will be used to calculate the sewer rates for the upcoming year for residential customers.

6. Second Reading of Resolution 239-21, 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 Community Development Grant to the Boys & Girls Club of Champion Valley for Purchase of Lighting and Security Cameras for Their Sports Pavilion.

Gobert read Resolution 239-21 for the second time.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 239-21, 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 Community Development Grant to the Boys & Girls Club of Champion Valley for Purchase of Lighting and Security Cameras for Their Sports Pavilion.

Motion to approve Resolution 239-21.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Gary Swindle

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

8. Second Reading of Resolution 240-21, 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 Kim and Drew Lynch to Help with Facade Improvement to the Building at 1008 Milam Street.

Gobert read Resolution 240-21 for the second time.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 240-21, 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 Kim and Drew Lynch to Help with Facade Improvement to the Building at 1008 Milam Street.**

Motion to approve Resolution 240-21.

Moved by: Sandra Frnka

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

10. **Second Reading of Resolution 241-21, 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 and Economic Development Grant to Blake's for Facade and Exterior Improvements for a New Restaurant Location.**

Gobert read Resolution 241-21 for the second time.

11. **Consideration and Action Resolution 241-21, 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 and Economic Development Grant to Blake's for Facade and Exterior Improvements for a New Restaurant Location.**

Motion to approve Resolution 241-21.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

12. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to The Colorado County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for a Two Year Term.**

Motion to approve Blake Schulte to the CCCAD Board of Directors.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

13. Consideration and Action to Accept the Anonymous Donation of Acoustical Playground Equipment for the Midtown Park Music Corner in Memory of Arthur Ray Coleman and Authorizing the City Manager to Take all Action Necessary to Install the Equipment and a Plaque in Memory of Mr. Coleman.

Gobert stated they had met with the anonymous donor and the Coleman family is thrilled with this honor. Photos of the donated items are attached to these minutes.

Motion to approve the authorization of City Manager to install equipment and plaque at Midtown Park.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

14. Consideration and Action to Name the Midtown Park Pavilion in Honor of Former Mayor, Dr. Thomas B. Hancher and Authorizing the City Manager to take all Action Necessary to Install a Plaque Honoring Dr. Hancher.

Gobert stated Hancher was a previous City Manager. When the plaque was originally dedicated, only Aldermen were listed and hi name was not included. Hancher has a terminal illness and they would like to have the plaque replaced and dedicated soon.

Motion to rename and dedicate Midtown Park Pavilion in Honor of Former Mayor, Dr. Thomas B. Hancher.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Sandra Frnka

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November Golf Association Report.

No action was required.

16. Items from Councilmembers²

Rankin - I agree with Chris' statement about the crisis at the border.

Frnka - asked Chris if he has the capacity to get with any organizations to gather resources for some type of military support. Chris agreed to check into it.

Swindle - none

Daley - none

Cummings - none

Gobert -we can definitely do a resolution for those serving at the border and wished we could


do more; She welcomed the new Chamber of Commerce director, Kristen Cepak.

Kahn reported on Ladies' Night Out - it was a success; record number of wine glass sales; weather was great; merchants all reported excellent or record sales; hard to tell with no ticket sales but with wine glasses and the same metrics being used for Magnolia Days, There were approximately 2000 in attendance

17. Announcements

18. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.



~~Lori An Gobert, Mayor~~
Chuck Rankin, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



City Secretary, Bana Schneider

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 councilmembers 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.