



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, December 27, 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 (Absent)
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:

Code Enforcement Officer – Richard LaCourse
Library Director – Susan Chandler

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Rankin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Rankin led the pledge and invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Sandra Frnka

Seconded by: Gary Swindle

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 December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Billy Kahn stated he was here for his last meeting.

Toni Carter was checking to see where the City was on the water drainage in her area of town.

5. City Manager's Report Including the Water Filtration Project Update, and Sewer Averaging.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Regarding the water filtration, Warschak stated the Spring, Tait, and Hill water plant filters are in service and operating satisfactorily.

Regarding sewer averaging, Warschak reminded citizens that sewer averaging will run from December 15th through February 15th. This will determine residential sewer rates for the upcoming year.

Sandra Frnka asked if the Corp was still down at the water edge. Warschak replied yes, but scarce this week. There is not a whole lot happening with the holidays. Frnka requested to go out there when it gets a little further along.

6. Consideration and Action to Award the Bid for the Nesbitt Library Flooring Replacement Project.

Warschak stated there was only one bidder. There was another contractor that took plans, but did not bid it. Five Oak was the lone bidder. Rankin asked what was budgeted. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, replied \$40,000, but Susan Chandler, Library Director, has secured donations to make up the difference. Frnka questioned the type of carpet. Chandler replied there will be carpet planks and luxury vinyl in the walkways.

Motion to award the Nesbitt Library Flooring Project to Five-Oak Construction.

Moved by: Sandra Frnka

Seconded by: Gary Swindle

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

Carried 5-0

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Kahn stated a letter was enclosed to Council members along with a spreadsheet indicating budget vs actual. Kahn stated they had a surplus of \$61,647.23. The agreement is the same, only adjusted for the surplus.

Motion to approve the 2021 Tourism Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 242-21, a Resolution Supporting, Adopting and Approving the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council and Settlement Allocation Term Sheet Approving the Allocations of Any and All Opioid settlement Funds.

There was discussion on what the funds could possibly be used for. Schneider stated there are specific uses for the settlement funds. Cummings asked if this was for just the City, to which Schneider replied yes.

Motion to approve Resolution 242-21.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Abstained: Chuck Rankin

Carried 4-0

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2021 Fire Marshal Report.

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the Fire Marshal report in Brent Gorman's absence. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse highlighted they had the Fire Station site review by Martinez Architects, new construction consults with Blake's, St. Paul's fellowship hall, and the Hospital Wellness Center. Fire calls total 202 at this time. The Fire Marshal also did fire extinguisher training at the hospital.

No action was needed.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2021 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. a copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported 43 permits being issued, 3 were for new construction. LaCourse reported about the ROW cleanups at 1st Ave and 800 Travis, along with the abatement of #1 Buffet, per Code of Ordinances.

Cummings asked LaCourse if he could check on an area at the corner of Austin and Jackson Streets, to which LaCourse agreed.

No action was needed.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2021 Police Report.

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the police report in the absence of Chief Skip Edman. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse highlighted the training, department participation in Shop with a Cop, and the 5 mental health transports.

No action was needed.

12. Items from Councilmembers²

Rankin - Happy New Year to all; he expressed his thanks to Billy Kahn and Susan Chandler for all of their efforts; he stated that whenever anyone has a chance to appreciate the flag because of what people have done for our country, they should do it.

Frnka - thank you to Billy for the fine job you have done; it has been a pleasure having you work with us; I am sure the new lady will do just fine, but you have been an asset and helped put Columbus on the map; Happy New Year to all

Swindle - none

Daley - none

Cummings - Happy New Year and see you soon Billy

13. Announcements

There were no announcements.

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



Lori An Gobert, Mayor

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.