

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Dwain Dungen
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Acting Police Chief	-	Tomas Ramirez
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Utilities Super.	-	Jody Ripper

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**3. Administer the Oath of Office to Newly Elected Officials.**

This item was skipped because the oaths of office were administered at the Special Meeting held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**4. Consideration and Action to Appoint a Mayor Pro Tem.**

Councilman Woodall made a motion to reappoint Curtiss Schonenberg Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**5. Consent Agenda.**

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2012 Special Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- d. Approval of April 2012 Financial Statements.

Councilman Schonenberg asked about a payment to the Texas Workforce Commission. The City Secretary explained that as a reimbursing employer the City only pays unemployment tax as a reimbursement to TWC when they make a payment to a former employee. The advantage is that this saves the City money. One of the disadvantages is that the City can only protest payments if they were the last employer. In this case the payment is for a former employee where the City was not the last employer but is still in the base period so the benefits have to be reimbursed and there is no protest available.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

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

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

**7. City Manager's Report including HOME Grant Project, Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, Spring Water Distribution System Flushing, 2012 Water System Improvements, and Sewer Machine.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Councilman Schonenberg asked how the Spring water flushing went. Jody Ripper said that it went faster than last time and that the new phosphates seem to be working better.

**8. Consideration and Action to Grant or Refuse Petition from Landowners for Annexation by the City of Columbus 2.064 Acres of Land in the E. Tumlinson League, Abstract No. 44, Colorado County, Texas.**

Donald Warschak explained that the owner of this property had requested to be annexed by the City and that it is the vacant property located on McCormick Street across from existing housing. He said that this would start the annexation process.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to grant the presented petition from landowners for annexation of the property described. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 104-12 Setting the Dates, Times and Places for Public Hearings on the Proposed Annexation of Certain Property by the City of Columbus, Texas and Authorizing and Directing the Mayor to Publish Notices of such Public Hearings.**

Donald explained that publication and public hearings were the next step in the annexation process.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve Resolution 104-12 as presented setting the dates, times, and places for public hearings and authorizing the publishing of notices. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 132-12, Amending Article 12.02, Section 12.02.002, Speed Limits on Specific Streets, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus.**

Donald Warschak told Council that this ordinance would change the speed limit to 15 mph on Live Oak between Martin Luther King Drive and Dewees Street as had been discussed at Council's last meeting.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve Ordinance 132-12 as presented to reduce the speed limit on Live Oak Street between Martin Luther King Drive and Dewees Street. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**11. Discussion and Approval of HEB Community Investment Program Donation.**

Acting Police Chief, Tomas Ramirez, told Council that HEB was donating \$900 to the Police Department to purchase nine flashlights in response to a request he had made.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the donation from HEB. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the April 2012 Police Report.**

Acting Police Chief, Tomas Ramirez, presented his April 2012 Police Report, a copy of which is included in these minutes. He explained that the numbers showed a decline because the department had an officer out on leave. Councilman Woodall asked how morale was, and Tomas said that it was good. He said that officers are having some problems at Midtown Park with verbal and physical disturbances. He said that he wished there were rules preventing younger children from being in the park without an adult, and that there was a park closing time. It was suggested that he consult with the City Attorney on the subject.

No action was necessary.

**13. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Woodall – no comment

Councilman Axel – asked Chief Ramirez to put together a set of rules that he would like to see at the park and to post them.

Councilman Schonenberg – pointed out that Council had received a copy of CCIDC's latest minutes. He said they are clearing 54 acres by the river at the park and have had visits from possible tenants.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

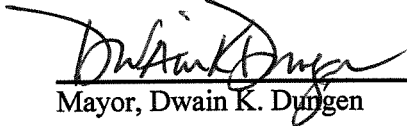
Mayor Dungen – thanked everyone who participated in Tuesday's Special Meeting.

**14. Announcements.<sup>2</sup>**

The City Secretary announced that the City Swimming Pool would open Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and that City Offices would be closed on May 28<sup>th</sup> for the Memorial Day Holiday.

**15. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Lakich, 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.

Citizens who wish to comment on a posted agenda item may do so when that item is addressed by the Mayor. Citizen's comments are limited to five minutes.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.