

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Wednesday, November 13, 2014 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
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin (absent)
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein

**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. Consent Agenda.**

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2014 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, and Hernandez  
Councilwoman Gobert  
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

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

Brent Donalson addressed Council with his concerns over hunting that has taken place adjacent to his back yard. He said that while there is an ordinance prohibiting the use of firearms in the city limits, there is no city ordinance prohibiting hunting. He complained that hunting with guns and bows takes place in the property behind his, which is all within the city limits. Mayor Dungen said that the City would look at the options available.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Downtown Sidewalk Project, and Aerator Grant.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

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

Columbus Chamber of Commerce President, Nancy Stiles, introduced the new visitor center director, Gina Hillock. Ms. Stiles told Council that they have increased their request with an additional \$15,000 going to personnel and \$10,000 for Live on the Square. She stated that they would like to have one full time and two part time employees staffing the Visitors Center with half of the full time person's wages being paid by the Chamber of Commerce and the other half with HOT funds. They are looking at Live on the Square to bring people downtown. Mayor Dungen commented that Council has been urging the Chamber to be more aggressive in attracting visitors and to hire additional staff. He said that they seem to be doing what Council has requested. Lori An Gobert asked for clarification on some of the proposed expenditures including office space rental, staffing, and Live on the Square.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the publicity and tourism agreement between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce with a budget of \$95,000. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, and Hernandez  
Councilwoman Gobert  
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Request that the City Secretary Conduct the Annual Audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds as Required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.**

The City Secretary explained that she conducts the audit required by the Texas Attorney General's Office of the Police Department's Chapter 59 Forfeiture funds each year. This year the Attorney General's Office is requiring that City Council make a formal request and authorize her to conduct the audit.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to request that the City Secretary conduct the annual audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds as required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, and Hernandez  
Councilwoman Gobert  
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Review and Modify, if Necessary, Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria.**

Councilman Schonenberg presented the Council with a copy of the modified Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria adopted by the County. He reviewed the major changes made and stated that the County's new guidelines give the County more flexibility in setting up abatement plans that do not conform to the old two tiers. Lori An Gobert pointed out that she thought that the language in that section was flawed and that she would like to have it reviewed. Mayor Dungen suggested that the item be tabled so that City representatives could meet with the County about the changes.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to table action on this item. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, and Hernandez  
Councilwoman Gobert  
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, to Appoint a Naming Committee for the Mayes Property.**

Mayor Dungen said that he had asked Councilwoman Gobert to meet with him and other members of the community to come up with options for naming the park to bring to Council. She agreed, and he stated that he did not think that formal action would be needed.

No action was necessary.

**10. Consideration and Action to Accept the Donation of \$500 from the Texas Association of Property and Evidence Inventory Technicians for Police Department Evidence Safes.**

Police Chief Bill Lattimore reported that Lieutenant Edman applied for this grant and that they would be purchasing safes for use in the evidence room.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to accept the donation from the Texas Association of Property and Evidence Inventory Technicians. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, and Hernandez  
Councilwoman Gobert  
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the September 2014 Police Report.**

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, presented his September 2014 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

**12. Consideration and Action to Declare Fire Department HMA Ultra High Pressure 200 Gallon Skid Unit as Surplus Property and Authorize its Donation to the Texas Forest Service.**

Fire Marshall, Ford Stein, stated that the skid unit was originally purchased by the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) and then donated to the City. He said that it has been replace by the CVFD because it does not deliver a large enough volume of water. He stated that they would like to donate it to the Forest Service because they would find a another fire department that would be able to put it to use.

Councilman Woodall made a motion to declare the skid unit surplus and authorize its donation to the Texas Forest Service. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, and Hernandez  
Councilwoman Gobert  
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the October 2014 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Official, Ford Stein, presented his October 2014 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

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

Councilman Woodall – asked that the topic of hunting in the city limits be added to the next agenda.

Councilwoman Gobert – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

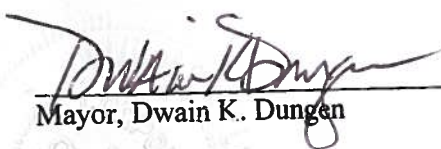
Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

**15. Announcements.**

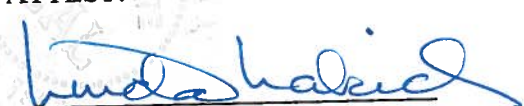
The City Manager invited Council to attend a retirement party honoring Butch Schmidt and his 22 years of service to the City on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

**16. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:05 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.