

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, April 9, 2015 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	-	Woody Moore
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
Assist. City Secretary	-	Traci Edman

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 March 26, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water Line Flushing, and Auto Read Meter Project.

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

6. Consideration and Action to Award Construction Bid for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Visitors Center Project.

Mayor Dungen told Council that they had been given a breakdown of the cost of the project. He said that he and the City Manager met with the contractor and Mercer Engineering regarding the project and that there was significant work that needs to be done to alter the project and its costs. The Mayor's recommendation was to take no action at the current time to give them time to see whether the current design could be modified or whether they were looking at a complete redesign. David Sheblak with Mercer was available to answer questions from Council concerning the various areas of concern, especially the roof and electrical costs.

No action was taken.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve a Contract for Solid Waste Collection.

Jay Howard, with Texas Disposal Systems, was at the meeting to answer questions from Council regarding the proposed contract. Councilman Rankin stated that he was not in favor of automatic increases over the term of the contract because costs to TDS could go down. The mayor pointed out that they could also go up more than the increase. Jay Howard stated that most cities like the idea of knowing what costs will be to facilitate budgeting for them. The mayor suggested starting the renegotiation process at the beginning of year four. At that time, the City could look at the prices offered by TDS and decide whether to extend the contract or go out for bids at the end of year five.

Donald Warschak said that another item that they would like added to the contract was the opportunity to change the recycling after one year. If recycling isn't working out after a year, it could be dropped, and if the city wants to go to weekly recycling, they would be able to. He also said that they would like to change the schedule for the special event services so that the timing of the event is not tied down, in case events are moved.

There was a discussion of recycling procedures, trash pickup for the farmer's market, and bulky waste pickup.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the City of Columbus Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2014.

Donald Warschak told Council that typically they would have time to review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and then approve it at the next meeting.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to table the approval until the next council meeting. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for 1402 Preston, as requested by Carrie Junious.

Ford Stein stated that Ms. Junious has not purchased the manufactured home yet, because she wanted to find out if Council would approve its location first. He said that the lot currently has a home at the front of the lot and Ms. Junious would like to put a manufactured home at the back. He said that if approved by council it would have to go to Board of Adjustments because it would not meet the set back requirements. The zoning is residential. Ford stated that she is aware that the placement would not qualify on several items but wanted to try to get Council approval. The mayor explained that, while they are sympathetic, the request goes against several City ordinances.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to reject the manufactured home permit for 1402 Preston. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

10. First Reading of Resolution 145-15, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with less than 20,000 Residents for the Real Estate Transaction between Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corp. and E'Kabel Projekts.

The mayor read Resolution 145-15.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve Budget Amendments for Library Revenues and Expenditures.

The mayor stated that the first proposed budget amendment was to increase donations \$1,121 and related expenditures for Dues and Subscription expenses for the same amount. The second was to increase grant revenues for \$16,105 with related expenditure increases spread out over books, supplies and audio visual.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the budget amendments for Library revenues and expenditures. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, to Adjust Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates.

Donald Warschak explained that the City can increase the municipal telecommunication right-of-way fees if they desire. If the fees are increased, the cost will be passed on the consumer. Council agreed that they were not interested in raising the rate.

No action was necessary.

13. Consideration and Action to Authorize City Management to Apply for the 2015 TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Donald said that in the past the City has applied for, but not received, Safe Routes to Schools grants for the construction of sidewalks around the junior high and along Montezuma Street. This program is another opportunity to apply for grants for sidewalk construction in those areas. This program has a 15% TxDOT administrative fee and a 20% match to be paid by the City. Donald said that if they were interested in applying for the program, he would recommend that GrantWorks administer the application and the grant if received. The cost for the application administration would be \$3,500. There was a discussion of what the scale of the project could be.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize the City Manager to collect additional information regarding potential cost and move forward with the application for the 2015 TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Program. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Quarterly Fire Department Report.

Ford Stein presented the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department's Quarterly Fire Department Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the March 2015 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Official, Ford Stein, presented a copy of his March 2015 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Moore – no comment.

Councilwoman Gobert – asked for the status of hiring a manager for the City Pool.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

17. Announcements.

Those in attendance were reminded of the Trash Off event taking place the following Saturday.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, 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.

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.

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.