

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 13, 2017 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	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

**1. Call to Order.**

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

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

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**3. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of the January 23, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of December 2016 Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.

The motion passed.

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

Debbie Damon of Bedazzled gave an update regarding AEP delivery charges, a copy of the information presented is attached to these minutes. She stated our state legislator was concerned about the delivery charges, especially those to CISD.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, McCormick WWTP, Sewer Averaging and Water System Flushing.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the February sales tax payment, which is based on December collections, was \$169,614. This was an approximate \$20,000 increase over the same time period last year. He also stated the county and Weimar both saw increases, while Eagle Lake saw a slight decrease.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP, Warschak stated the emergency repairs have been completed. Approximately 100 linear feet of pipe, 3200 cubic yards of fill and 163 tons of bull rock had been put into place.

Warschak stated the sewer averaging period ends in a few days. He also indicated flushing of the water system would begin on March 6<sup>th</sup>, and orange postcards would again be mailed to all customers. Councilwoman Gobert asked what happened last week that made the water clarity so bad. Warschak stated LCRA hit a water main during the erection of a power pole.

She also asked if the WWTP repairs would be eligible for reimbursement from FEMA. Warschak stated the FEMA contact indicated FEMA funding is in the system, and should be going to the state

emergency funding system. Warschak also said he had not been able to contact the state agent for this project. Councilman Hernandez asked the cost of the emergency repairs. Warschak stated \$119,000. The City Secretary stated the invoice was included in the accounts payable packet. Warschak explained further that FEMA was a 75% reimbursement, but when the plans were submitted to them, the budget was around \$92,000. Since that submission, we had lost additional river bank, so 40 additional feet of pipe had to be added to the project. Councilman Cummings asked about the status of the auger. Warschak stated the wrong part had been sent by the manufacturer.

**6. Consideration and Action to Award the Construction Contract for the 2017 Sewer System Improvements.**

Warschak stated there were three locations in the City that were in need of sewer line extensions. The areas for the utility work include McCormick Street, where Five Oaks Construction is building the new houses, the 800 block of Travis and North Street at the John annexation. The City Manager stated Supak Construction was the low bidder at \$53,408.50, with Mercer Construction the only other bidder.

Councilman Rankin asked how revenue would be generated in order to get the investment back. Warschak stated a \$750 tap fee is charged for each sewer tap, and the remainder would be raised over time through monthly billings. The Mayor stated it will take awhile to generate the income to cover those costs. There was discussion regarding the present location of the sewer and water for these areas, as well as gas services.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to award the contract for sewer improvements to Supak Construction. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Polling Places for the May 2017 General (Regular) and Special Elections. Consideración y acción para la aprobación de los lugares de votación para el mayo de 2017 general (ordinario) de elección y elección especial.**

The City Secretary explained the need to again approve the polling places. After election training, she realized Council Place 3 was considered a special election.

*La secretaria de la ciudad explico la necesidad de aprobar de nuevo los lugares de votacion. Despues de la capacitación electoral, comprendió la elección para concejal lugar 3 tendria que ser una elección especial.*

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the polling places as stated in the notice. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

*Concejal Rankin hizo una moción para aprobar los lugares de votación como se indica en el anuncio. Concejal Cummings secundó la moción.*

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.

The motion passed.

*Ayes: Concejales Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez y Rankin; Concejal Gobert*

*La moción aprobada.*

8. **Consideration and Action to Adopt Resolution 172-17, a Resolution of the City of Columbus Authorizing a General (Regular) Municipal Election and a Special Municipal Election to be Held on May 6, 2017. Consideración y acción para adoptar la resolución 172-17, una resolución de la ciudad de Columbus que autoriza un elección municipal (regular) general y elección municipal especial para ser sostenido el 6 de mayo de 2017.**

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to adopt Resolution 172-17 ordering a general and a special election on May 6, 2017.

Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

*La concejal Gobert hizo una moción para aprobar la resolución 172-17 ordenando una general (ordinario) elección y una elección especial, el 6 de mayo de 2017.  
Concejal Hernandez secundó la moción.*

The vote was as follows:

*Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.*

The motion passed.

*La votación fue como sigue:*

*Ayes: Concejales Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez y Rankin; Concejal Gobert*

*La moción aprobada.*

9. **Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation of 53.24 Acres of Land in the WB Dewees Survey, Abstract No. 18 Colorado County, Texas.**

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

There were no comments.

The public hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m.

10. **Public Hearing Regarding the Commercial Corridor Overlay District.**

Dungen opened the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

There were no comments

The public hearing was closed at 6:50:30 p.m.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street from Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Approximately 200 feet past Spring Street, the Closure of Spring Street from the East Side of the Annex to Milam Street (Spur 52), and the Closure of Milam (Spur 52) from Spring Street to Walnut Street (Highway 90) from 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017 to Midnight, Saturday, May 20, 2017 for the Magnolia Festival.**

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Amber Hughes, spoke about the upcoming Magnolia Festival and the schedule changes this year. Warschak indicated the closure time for Friday should be set back to 4:00 p.m. to accommodate end of school day traffic.

Dungen asked if it was necessary for the closure of Milam Street because last year, it seemed that all of the activities were on the east side of the courthouse. The mayor also voiced his concern regarding the businesses on Milam. Hughes explained the activities that were planned for Milam Street, and stated she had not received any complaints about the closure plans, but she would be sure to speak with the business owners again.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the street closures beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Jackson Street to Walnut Street (Highway 90) and the Closure of Walnut Street from Milam Street to Legion Drive from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 25, 2017 for the Annual FFA Parade.**

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the closures as requested. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Approve an Engagement Letter from Patillo, Brown and Hill for the September 2016 Financial Audit.**

Dungen asked if this was a new contract. Schneider stated it was approved the year before and had a few more years remaining. Council can choose a new auditor if they wish at the next bid letting.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the engagement letter. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.

The motion passed.

**14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Report from the Columbus Community Industrial Development Corporation.**

CCIDC Board member, Lori An Gobert, updated Council on several issues at the industrial park. Gobert stated there have been some major drainage problems at the park, and Great Southern Wood experienced a river flowing through their plant during the spring flooding. The drainage issues are also impacting the construction plans for an incoming tenant to the park.

Warschak stated improvements surrounding the park have been a detriment. A new road and an adjacent pipe yard are having negative impacts to the drainage. He explained some of the items the consultant recommended to help alleviate the problems.

Dungen stated the industrial park has experienced harm due to outside improvements. He also stated he would be in contact with the County Judge.

Gobert stated CCIDC's intent was to see what they could do to help E'Kabel's construction budget remain reasonable. She also stated the findings were much more extensive than expected.

Rankin asked about the number of employees KWI had reported. Schneider stated the latest employee quarterly report stated 33 employees up from 28 at the time of the last report.

**15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2017 Columbus Golf Association Report.**

CMGA treasurer, Mike Craddock, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Craddock stated he is working on eliminating some of the minor bills. Rankin commented that it was going to take an increase in revenue to really make a difference, and membership increases were imperative.

There was discussion concerning the main cart shed replacement.

No action was required.

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

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – Asked about the status of the visitors' center. Warschak stated the plans should be finished this month.

Councilman Swindle – Asked about the old Calico Hen's Building and if it was going to be the offices of Maverick Construction. Debbie Damon stated that was her understanding. Swindle asked about the zoning. Rankin stated the city attorney may need to look at the situation.

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – Stated he had heard grumblings about why the riverbank repairs at the WWTP were not put out for bids. He stated with the rapid erosion of the bank, an emergency situation was declared, and the purchasing policy for emergencies had been followed. Also, he added input from FEMA had been received.

**6. Announcements.**

Schneider stated the filing period for a place on the May 6, 2017 general or special election ballot was Friday February 17<sup>th</sup>. Dungen confirmed the cut off was at 5:00 p.m.

**7. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bana Schneider, 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited to statements. Issues raised by council members 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.