

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1538 Hwy 71 S, Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Dwain Dungen
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	John Wagner
Interim City Manager	-	Patti Glaeser
Assist. City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich
Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Utility Superintendent	-	Wayne Karstadt

1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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 October 5, 2009 Special Meeting**
- c. **Approval of Minutes October 8, 2009 Regular Meeting**

Councilman Richardson said that on the October 8th Minutes, Item 4, that the person who seconded the motion was incorrect. (It should have been Councilman Axel).

Councilman Axel moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction for Item 4 as stated above. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

4. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**¹

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

5. **City Update including City Hall Renovation, 12 inch Water Main Break, Debt Refinancing, Fire Hydrant Flushing, Sales Tax, Sweetbriar Extension.**

Interim City Manager, Patti Glaeser, presented her City Update, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

12. **Discussion and Action Regarding City of Columbus Water Conditions. (Tesch).**

Councilman Tesch stated that he asked to have this item placed on the Council Agenda. He had the water at his house tested two times. The first time the iron levels were 17.7 times the legal limit and the second time the iron levels were 7.5 times the limit. He had talked with Donald Warschak who was present to talk to council about how the city can fix this. Donald Warschak told council that the city is currently using polyphosphates to sequester the iron. Steve Smith from NAPCO was with him and stated the polyphosphate system involves two steps – 1) adding the polyphosphates to the water and 2) flushing the delivery lines out periodically. Mayor Dungen asked when the City switched from filtering to the polyphosphate system. Mr. Warschak said that it began in 2006 with the wells on the hill and last year Spring St. and Tait

St. wells were added. Mr. Smith said that with the filter system the iron is oxidized and then filtered out. With the polyphosphates the iron is kept in solution. What we are seeing is the oxidized iron built up in the delivery lines. He stated that cleaning out the lines will take time and that the iron levels at the well are not terribly high. He said that he is testing the water every couple of weeks. He also said that the lines should be flushed at least once a year. We were not able to do so until recently because of the drought and having wells down. He also suggested that we flush the lines again in the spring before demand gets high. He also said that the iron in the water is not a health related issue but is just a color issue. Mayor Dungen said that it is a concern to council and Councilman Tesch said that since the City has raised water rates, it now needs to provide good water. Donald Warschak was asked what it would take to put the filters back in use. He replied that those at the Hill would have to be completely replaced and that the cost would be approximately \$335,000. Also additional filters would need to be added at the other wells to accommodate current flow. He stated that the system would still need to be flushed periodically. The City Utility Department will continue to flush the lines and monitor the condition of the water.

No action was taken.

13. Consideration and Action to Close Memorial Oaks Streets to through Traffic from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm for Halloween. (Glaeser)

Mayor Dungen said the Memorial Oaks neighborhood began closing its streets several years ago to provide a safe place for children to Trick or Treat.

Councilman Tesch moved to close Memorial Oaks Streets to through Traffic from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm for Halloween. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Streets for St. Anthony's Halloween Carnival on Saturday, October 31, 2009. (Glaeser)

Councilman Tesch moved to approve the closure of Wallace and Live Oak streets near St. Anthony's beginning Friday October 30th (to allow for set up) thru Sunday November 1st for St. Anthony's Halloween Carnival. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action Regarding the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Minutes. (Glaeser)

Council acknowledged the receipt of the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation minutes.

16. Discussion of September Police Report. (Jackson)

Chief Danny Jackson presented his September Police Report.

6. Executive Session: In accordance with Texas Government code, Subchapter D, Section 551.071- Consultation with Attorney Regarding Sewer Service to Glidden Fresh Water District.

Mayor Dungen closed the regular session and entered into executive session at 7:20 pm. The executive session closed at 8:06 pm.

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7. **Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Sewer Service to Glidden Fresh Water District.**

Mayor Dungen reconvened into regular session at 8:08 pm with the same council members present. He stated at that time that the City was making an offer to set a rate for processing Glidden Fresh Water District's sewage based upon the City's current year actual costs for the Sewer Department. Glidden's percentage of that cost would be based on a five year moving average percentage of total flow rate, and a 6% rate of return for the City would be added to this cost. A catch up provision would be added in the final year in the event that the City stopped processing Glidden's sewer. The contract would be for 5 years with a 5 year option for renewal. The estimated currently monthly charge would be \$6,950 per month with a new calculation being done in September 2010.

Edward Pavlicek with Glidden Fresh Water District said that he appreciated the offer but that there were some numbers that he did not agree with. He said that he would go back to the GFWD Board.

Councilman Richardson moved to make the above offer to the Glidden Fresh Water District. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

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8. **Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government code, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters regarding Benefits for Interim City Manager & Others.**

Mayor Dungen closed the regular session and entered into executive session at 8:16 pm. The executive session closed at 8:25 pm.

9. **Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Benefits for Interim City Manager & Others.**

Mayor Dungen reconvened into regular session at 8:28 pm with the same council members present. Councilman Tesch made the motion to pay the Interim City Manager \$75,000 per year and the give the Assistant City Secretary comp time at 1 ½ times for council meetings. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

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10. **Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters Regarding Applications for City Manager.**

Mayor Dungen closed the regular session and entered into executive session at 8:30 pm. The executive session closed at 8:40 pm.

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11. **Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Applications for City Manager.**

Mayor Dungen reconvened into regular session at 8:45 pm. Councilman Axed made a motion to create a steering committee consisting of Councilmen Schonenberg and Richardson with Patti Glaeser to review applications for City Manager. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

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17. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Wagner – said that the Mayor did a good job dealing with Glidden Fresh Water District and also in responding to Mr. Rankin's letter.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

18. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

19. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

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ATTEST:

Linda Lakich, Assistant 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 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.