

April 22, 2010

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring Street, 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
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser

Also City Staff present:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Utilities 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 of April 8, 2010 Regular Meeting.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**<sup>i</sup>

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

5. **City Manager Report including Charter Street Water Improvements, EECBG Grant Application, Economic Indicators, Water System Flushing, Railroad Commission Annual Gas System Review, Stop Sign Ordinance, 2010 Trash Off, Preston Street Sewer Line Repair.**

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

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**6. Consideration and Action to Enroll City Police Officers in the Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA). (Wagner)**

Councilman Wagner, Councilman Richardson and Mayor Dungen said they did not have additional information on the TMPA . Councilman Richardson said that they appeared to compare to a union. Mayor Dungen asked Mr. Warschak to check with other city administrations where TMPA represents the respective police departments to hear their thoughts. Councilman Wagner moved to table Agenda Item #6. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**7. Discussion and Action Regarding Planning for the Airport Zoning. (Dungen)**

Tom Hancher, M.D., Chairman of the Airport Advisory Committee, spoke regarding the proposed height zoning at the Airport. Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) has proposed zoning the airspace surrounding the airport to prevent obstructions or hazards to aircraft taking off or landing at the airport. The first step is to appoint an Joint Airport Zoning Board, which will oversee the zoning. This committee will consist of two members appointed by Colorado County and two members appointed by the City of Columbus. The County has agreed to appoint two members. Members of the current Airport Advisory Committee are eligible to serve on the Joint Airport Zoning Board; however, City Council and City Employees are not eligible to serve. Dr. Hancher said the only cost the Board and therefore, the City should encumber is advertising for a public hearing. Councilman Schonenberg moved to move forward with the joint creation of the Joint Airport Zoning Board with two Board appointments at the next meeting. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Discussion and Action Regarding the 2010 City Budget Status. (Schonenberg)**

Councilman Schonenberg said there will be a budget shortfall and would like to know what items will be trimmed. Mayor Dungen, Mr. Warschak and Ms. Glaeser met earlier in the week and said that the year is half way and sales tax is down compared to last year. Patti Glaeser told Council members that City Administration is carefully watching the Budget. Currently, revenues are down in the areas of Sales Tax and utility revenue, particularly in sewer revenues. Overall, a \$250,000 deficit in revenues could occur if the situation did not increase. Several expenses that can be postponed or suspended are \$100,000 of Street Seal Coating, \$130,000 for the Sweetbriar Extension from Shult Drive to I-10 feeder road, purchase of a Public Works vehicle, and not outsourcing mowing of the parks. She said they will continue to monitor the situation.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 106-10 – Garbage. (Dungen)**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve Ordinance 106-10, setting the garbage rates effective May 1, 2010. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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**10. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Legion Drive from Veterans Drive to Legion Circle from 3:00 pm Friday, April 23, 2010 until 6:00 am Saturday, April 24, 2010 for the Relay for Life. (Warschak)**

Councilman Tesch moved to approve the closure of Legion Drive from Veterans Drive to Legion Circle from 3:00 pm Friday, April 23, 2010 until 6:00 am Saturday, April 24, 2010 for the Relay for Life. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Patti Glaeser mentioned a request for approval of a street closure for the Live Oak Festival will be on the next agenda. This will be for the third weekend in May.

**11. Discussion and Action Regarding Pricing for Railroad Signs at Austin Street. (Warschak)**

Mr. Warschak presented two alternatives for the High center warning signs at the Railroad crossing at Austin Street. One option, a solar panel for the flashing lights, would cost \$8,750. The other option, 120V LED lights would cost \$4,750. Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the Solar panel option at a cost of \$8,750. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action Regarding Library Board Appointment. (Hilburn/Warschak)**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to appoint Patty Simmons to the Library Board. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Approve Budget Amendment for Library. (Hilburn/Glaeser)**

Councilman Richardson moved to approve a Budget Amendment for the Library for \$6,615 for the Loan Star Grant. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**14. Discussion and Action Regarding March Police Report. (Jackson)**

Police Chief, presented the March Police Report, which is attached to these minutes.

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

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg thanked everyone for making the Trash-Off so successful. Mayor Dungen thanked Councilman Schonenberg and his wife, Marian, for all their efforts with the Trash-Off.

Councilman Tesch also thanked the Schonenbergs.

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

**16. Announcements.**

There were no additional announcements.

**17. Adjournment.**

Mayor Dungen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

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Dwain K. Dungen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patti Glaeser, 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.

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