

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, September 23, 2010 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	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Cathy Ezell

Other City Staff present included:

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 September 9, 2010 Regular Meeting, and of August 31, 2010 and September 16, 2010 Special Meetings.
- c. Approval of August 2010 Financial Statement

After Council received clarification on some of the invoices and after City Secretary, Cathy Ezell stated that the financials were still in line with the projections that were used for the budget process; Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**4. Citizen's presentations and comments.<sup>1</sup>**

There were no Citizen's presentations or comments.

**5. City Manager report.**

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

**6. Public Hearing on proposed annexation of 2.09 acres of land in the Elizabeth Tumilson League, Abstract No. 44 Colorado County, Texas**

Mayor Dungen closed the regular session and opened the public hearing at 6:39 pm. He stated that this is the property where Industry State Bank is being constructed. He closed the public hearing at 6:40.

**7. Public hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2011.**

Mayor Dungen closed the regular session and opened the public hearing at 6:40 pm. Mayor Dungen stated that the Property Tax Rate was remaining unchanged from this year and that any tax increase was due to an increase in valuations.

Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing at 6:41 pm.

**8. Consideration and action to approve Ordinance No. 111-10 an ordinance amending Article 3.07, Divisions 1 and 2 and superseding anything therein to the contrary of the Municipal Code of the City of Columbus, Texas (Unsafe and Substandard Buildings Ordinance).**

Councilman Schonenberg stated that the ordinance was sound but he did have one question about Section 3.07.021. He asked if the maintenance of the property as in high weeds should be added to this section.

Mayor Dungen stated that there is a separate ordinance addressing high weeds. He also stated that would be one of the next ordinances that would be revisited.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 111-10 as presented. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Discussion of August Police Report**

Police Chief Danny Jackson presented his report on July Police activity.

Councilman Rankin asked if there was a specific program to address drug enforcement.

Mayor Dungen stated that there used to be a task force.

Chief Jackson stated that there was no longer a task force nor is there a specific program for drug enforcement.

No action was taken.

**10. Consideration and action to approve the Mayor to enter the City of Columbus into a contract for Public Services with Combined Community Action.**

Mayor Dungen stated that this was an on going program in which Combined Community Action acts as a subcontractor of the City.

Councilman Richardson made a motion to approve the Mayor to enter the City of Columbus into a contract for Public Services with Combined Community Action. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and action to approve the Mayor to enter the City of Columbus into a contract for Public Services with Family Crisis Center, Inc.**

Mayor Dungen stated that this was an ongoing program in which Family Crisis Center, Inc. acts as a subcontractor of the City.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the Mayor to enter the City of Columbus into a contract for Public Services with Family Crisis Center, Inc. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to approve Resolution No. 80-10 a Resolution adopting Section 3 Local Opportunity Plan for Its Texas Community Development Block Grant (TXCDBG) Program.**

Donald Warschak stated that this is part of the requirements to receive the grant funds. He also stated these are requirements that the contractors have to abide by.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 80-10 a resolution adopting Section 3 Local Opportunity Plan for its Texas Community Development Block Grant (TXCDBG) Program. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and action to authorize the advertisement for the 2011 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Grant Program.**

Councilman Rankin stated that he would like to see a partnership with the Chamber established to more affectively manage the administration process of the funds.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize the advertisement for the 2011 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Grant Program. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**14. Consideration and action to authorize management to negotiate a new electrical rate contract.**

Donald Warschak stated that in the spring the City went to market and obtained a new rate contract that starts in October and has a term of eighteen (18) months. He then stated at the time the contract was signed that the HGAC consultant stated that we should go back to market in six (6) to eight (8) months. He stated that on Friday, September 17, 2010 quotes were received and the rate was comparable to the current contract. He also stated that the consultant is recommending a term of twenty-four (24) to thirty-six (36) months.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to authorize management to negotiate a new electrical rate contract. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

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

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

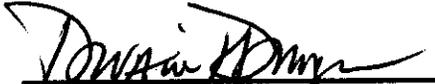
Mayor Dungen – stated that Council and staff had made some good accomplishments. He also stated that management has things running more efficiently and that staff seems to be happier. He thanked everyone for making this possible.

**18. Announcements.**

Cathy Ezell stated that there would be a Special Council meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

**19. Adjournment.**

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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Cathy Ezell, 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.