

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, October 13, 2011 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	-	Steve Woodall
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Utilities Director	-	Jody Ripper
Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser

**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 September 22, 2011 Regular Meeting

Councilman Schonenberg asked for clarification on the Mercer Controls invoice which City Manager, Donald Warschak, explained was to replace a control panel at the Charter Street lift station. He also asked about the payment to USA Blue Book which Donald explained was to replace a blower that failed at Sewer Plant 1. He told the Councilman that it was less expensive to replace the blower than to repair it.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, 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's Report including Sales Tax, Water Usage, Texas Crossroads Business Park Water Tower, Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, 2011 Street Improvements, HOME Grant Program, and SECO Project.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes. He told Council that sales tax receipts were \$89,538.53, up 16% over the same month of last year.

6. **Consideration and Action to approve the closure of Wallace Street from the corner of Wallace Street and Live Oak Street to the corner of Wallace Street and Bowie Street for the St. Anthony's Annual Halloween Carnival from 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2011 until 9:00 a.m. on October 30, 2011.**

Councilman Woodall asked if there were any homes that would be affected by the closure. Mayor Dungen said that there was one home, but that the owner is in a nursing home so would not be affected. Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the street closure as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to approve street closure in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities on the evening of October 31, 2011.**

Mayor Dungen said that the closure would be needed from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and that off duty officers would be on site to handle traffic.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the street closure in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision on October 31, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to authorize the advertisement for bids for painting the interior and exterior of the Elevated Storage Tank at the Texas Crossroads Business Park.**

The Mayor explained that this item was coming back to Council from the last meeting because they are now going to paint both the interior and exterior of the tank at the same time.

Councilman Woodall made a motion to authorize the advertisement for bids for painting the interior and exterior of the Elevated Storage Tank at the Texas Crossroads Business Park. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the Fire Fighters' Pension Contract to increase participating department contribution rate.**

Mayor Dungen said that the Budget included funds to raise the Fire Department pension. He asked if the Fire Department would rather increase the pension contribution or the stipend paid to firefighters. Councilman Tesch said that it was his understanding that the pension would be increased. The Mayor explained that this item was just to authorize him to sign the documents to agree to that increase.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the Fire Fighters' Pension Contract to increase the participating department contribution rate to \$66 per fireman per month. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to approve schedule for City Council meetings for November 2011.**

Mayor Dungen explained that this item was to reschedule the second regular meeting that would be on Thanksgiving Day. It was decided that the best time would be November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to reschedule the second regular council meeting of November 2011 to November 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action if necessary on the September 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report.**

Ford Stein, the Code Enforcement/Inspection Officer presented the September 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Councilman Schonenberg asked if the apartment complex by the Little League fields, which was recently renovated, was issued a certificate of occupancy as a whole or for each unit. Ford was not certain since the renovations were completed before he started with the City. He said that he would research the question.

No action was necessary.

**12. Consideration and Action regarding Columbus Historic District.**

Mayor Dungen said that he would like to appoint an informal advisory committee to study the Historic District and then report to the Council. He would like to appoint Charlotte Tilotta with the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust, Nancy Stiles who is the new Chamber President, Barbara Peterman from the focus group, a Planning and Zoning Member, and Councilman Woodall. Councilman Woodall asked if they should look at the whole Kerry R. Gilbert study or just this part of it. The Mayor said that he would like to start with this part of the study. Councilman Rankin agreed. The mayor asked that the committee focus on the historic district and then report to Council with findings and recommendations. Councilman Rankin asked the committee to report once per month with an update. Mayor Dungen asked that they report at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

No action was taken.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – announced that he and the city manager had attended several seminars at the TML Conference. He mentioned that he would like to see some teeth put into the weedy lot ordinance.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Councilman Tesch left the meeting at 7:00 p.m. for a fire call.

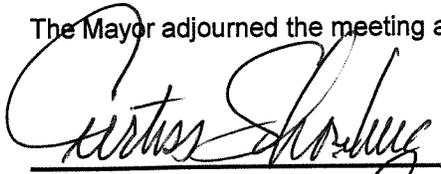
**14. Announcements.**

Donald Warschak announced that Columbus would be hosting the monthly water utilities meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 20<sup>th</sup>. He asked that if any of the Council members would like to attend that they let him know.

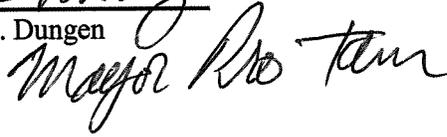
Mayor Dungen said that the Fall Trash Off would be on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nancy Stiles said that she thought that they had enough volunteers but if anyone would like to help that they could still do so.

**15. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen



ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, 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.