

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, January 26, 2012 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 (absent)
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:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Public Works Super.	-	Michael Poncik
Animal Control Officer	-	Butch Schmidt
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper

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 January 12, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of November 2011 Financial Statements.
- d. Approval of December 2011 Financial Statements.
- e. Approval of Investment Report for Quarter Ended December 31, 2011.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

5. City Manager's Report including Crossroads Business Park Water Tower, H-GAC Criminal Justice Grant, Annual Sewer Rate Averaging, City Hall Building Updates, Utility Services for Potential Businesses at the Industrial Park, and Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well.

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

6. Public Hearing Regarding Animal Control Ordinance.

Mayor Dungen opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Dungen explained that Council was looking at the animal ordinance from Bastrop and that they also had a copy of the state law. Councilman Woodall questioned the part of the Bastrop ordinance which bans giving

animals as prizes. There was concern that such an ordinance would impact raffles and groups such as the FFA. Councilman Rankin pointed out that the Bastrop ordinance addresses living conditions for dogs but not for cats. He stated that Council should make sure that minimum standards are followed for both. Mayor Dungen said that Columbus could either adopt its own ordinance or simply go by the state law. Councilman Woodall asked about penalties and also said that the part of the Bastrop ordinance which said that a dog couldn't be kept outside when the temperature was below 32° F seemed too cold. Cheryl Cook asked if there was a humane society organized in the City. Councilman Axel said that there was not. Ms. Cook said that a lot of animals are dumped off in Columbus and that she would not want to see criminal charges filed against someone who was unable to care for such an animal. Mayor Dungen said that pet ownership comes with responsibilities.

With no further comments the Public Hearing was closed at 6:47 p.m.

7. Consideration and Action if Necessary Regarding Animal Control Ordinance.

Mayor Dungen asked Council to continue to look at the problem and that it would be on the agenda again in the future. No action was necessary.

8. Consideration and Action if Necessary on the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report to Council.

Fire Chief Walter Glaeser presented the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. A total of 206 calls were responded to, with 34 in the City and 172 outside of the City. He reported that during the summer the CVFD had responded to the Bailey Fire which was the largest and most destructive fire in Colorado County history with 3,000 acres and 12 homes involved. In response to a question from Councilman Tesch, the Fire Chief told Council that the department had put in over 2,000 man hours over the last year. Councilman Axel asked if the County's contribution to the Fire Department was proportional to the percentage of calls made outside of the City. Mayor Dungen explained that the City funds a far larger portion of the Fire Department than the County does. He explained that the County pays for the jail and for emergency dispatch which would be a large expense for the City and that the Fire Department is the City's contribution. He also explained that the residents in the County provide a lot of support for the Department thru contributions. The Mayor commended the Department for their work over the last year.

No action was necessary.

9. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Submission of an Application for H-GAC Criminal Justice Grant – Juvenile Services.

Joel Usher made a presentation to Council for the Heading a New Direction (HAND) Counseling Center which will offer services for juveniles ages 13-17. He told them that Columbus is in need of an after hours counseling center that is not clinical in nature. He said that the Center would use the ARISE Program to tackle such issues as the consequences of uncontrolled behavior and making bad choices in life. They are asking for \$83,000 from H-GAC as a grant but need the City to partner with them because H-GAC no longer allows non-profits to apply for Juvenile Services Grants. The City would submit and manage the grant and contract with the HAND Counseling Center for providing services. Councilman Axel asked why they were coming to the City rather than the School District to partner on the grant. Mr. Usher said that the School District already had H-GAC grants that they were applying for so they thought that the City would have a better chance of receiving the grant. Councilman Axel said that H-GAC has been trying to get a juvenile counseling center in Colorado County for some time and that they currently have funding available. Mayor Dungen said that there was no question of the benefits to the City, but that the City would be responsible for the funds and for the reporting on the Grant. Donald Warschak noted that there was no provision in the proposed budget for liability insurance. He also asked if the funding would be received by the City as a lump sum or as reimbursement of expenditures. Mr. Usher said that he would need to look into those items. Councilman Tesch asked how they would identify individuals to participate in the program and if Mr. Usher had visited with the County Judge about the program. Mr. Usher said that the schools would help to identify the participants and that he had not talked with the County Judge yet. Councilman Rankin said that he thought it was a good idea and asked if participation could be required. Mr. Usher said that it could. Councilman Woodall asked what the Police Chief thought of the project. Chief Jackson said that he was in favor of counseling juveniles to keep them from getting to the point of having to deal with the Police Department. In response to questions from the Mayor, Mr. Usher said that they were looking at locating in either the old Style Shop location or the new building across from the Citizen office. Mayor Dungen asked Mr. Usher to get the information on insurance and funding and bring it to the next Council Meeting.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to table Item 9. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the City of Columbus and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

The City Secretary told Council that the contract as presented was the same as presented previously except that it no longer referenced periods other than the current year.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the publicity and tourism agreement between the City of Columbus and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve Changes to the Glidden Fresh Water Supply District #1 Sewage Treatment Contract.

Mayor Dungen explained that Glidden Fresh Water Supply had requested that the date to update the amount for their billing be changed from December to September of each year to correspond to their fiscal year end.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the changes to the Glidden Fresh Water Supply District #1 Sewage Treatment Contract. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Adopt Resolution 100-12, a resolution of the City of Columbus authorizing a general (regular) municipal election to be held on May 12, 2012. Consideración y acción para adoptar la resolución 100-12, una resolución de la ciudad de Columbus que autoriza una elección municipal (regular) general para ser sostenido el 12 de mayo de 2012.

Mayor Dungen read the title of Resolution 100-12, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He explained that the election would be on May 12th and that it would be for Council positions #3, 4, and 5.

Councilman Axel made a motion to adopt Resolution 100-12. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action on Utility Services for Potential Businesses at the Industrial Park.

Donald Warschak explained that one of the prospects at the Industrial Park had requested that the City provide them with free water and sewer services as an incentive. The Mayor asked what their usage would be, and Donald said that the loss in billing would be approximately \$3,500 per year. The Mayor said that he did not think that it was fair to penalize the Utility Department and that if CCIDC wanted to offer it as an incentive that they should pay the bills. He suggested that CCIDC come up with a full package then present it to Council. Councilman Woodall who is also in the CCIDC Board said that the Board has been saying that free services would probably not happen but that they wanted to get input from Council. Councilman Rankin said that he would always

want to know what the City would get in return. The Mayor also pointed out that utility rates in Columbus are low and that he did not think that they would keep a company from moving here.

No action was necessary.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve the Purchase of a Sewer Jetting Machine.

Donald Warschak presented the three quotes obtained for a sewer jetting machine which is used to unclog sewer lines. He explained that the one the City currently has is old and \$45,000 was included in the current budget to replace it. He told Council that the Texas Underground machine, which is the least expensive, is the one that they liked the best because it is the simplest.

After a discussion of the specifications and where service could be obtained, Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the purchase of a sewer jetting machine from Texas Underground for \$44,995. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action if Necessary on the December 2011 Police Report.

Police Chief Danny Jackson presented his December 2011 Police Report, a copy of which is attached. Councilman Rankin asked how the Police Department works with the school district. Chief Jackson said that the schools mostly only want the Police Department there when there is a problem. Councilman Rankin asked if Chief could report, perhaps quarterly, on the Department's work with juveniles and asked for his recommendations on what could be done proactively. Councilman Woodall also asked if he could include numbers for the last three months. No action was necessary.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

17. Announcements.²

The Fire Department reminded everyone that the Oyster Fry will be on February 26th.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, 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 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.

