

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, April 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
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:

Acting Police Chief	-	Tomas Ramirez
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper
Public Works Super.	-	Michael Poncik
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 April 12, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of March 2012 Financial Statements.
- d. Approval of Investment Report for Quarter Ended March 31, 2012.

Mayor Dungen asked if there were any questions concerning the consent agenda items. There were none.

Councilman Schonenberg 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. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

Cheryl Cook recommended that Council members drive through downtown Rosebud, Texas, to see what they have done with economic development funds there.

**5. City Manager's Report including TML Gas System Audit, 2012 Water System Improvements, HOME Grant Project, Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, 2012 Spring Trash Off, Monthly Heavy Trash Pickup, and Spring Water Distribution System Flushing.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Councilman Rankin asked how many gas supply lines come into the city. Donald

told him that there is one. Councilman Rankin said that it was his understanding that there are new requirements for more frequent gas supply line inspections and that in Weimar they had problems with interruptions in gas service. He asked Donald to look into this.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2011.**

Paula Lowe with Pattillo, Brown, and Hill, LLC gave Council a brief overview of the City's 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). She said that her firm had issued an unqualified or clean opinion on the report. She also pointed out that the prior year's CAFR had been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and that the 2011 CAFR had also been submitted to GFOA for the award. She told Council that the General Fund saw a decrease in fund balance of \$94,588 while the total Governmental Funds combined saw an increase in Fund Balance of \$59,186. This was due to a Fund Balance increase in the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund. She also pointed out that the Utility Fund saw a Fund Balance increase of \$95,765. She told Council that this was the second year that her firm had done the City's audit and that everything went very well. Councilman Woodall asked her if there was anything that she thought that the City should look at in the next budget cycle. She said that internal controls and risk assessment are always good items to look at. Councilman Rankin referred to page 13 of the report and said that he had two items of concern about CCIDC. He said that he would like for Council to receive copies of CCIDC minutes and that he would also like to know what CCIDC's plans are in reference to its debt and their plans for tax funds. Councilman Rankin also commented that he thought the Management's Discussion and Analysis was clear and that the entire report could be used for planning purposes. In addition he said that he would like for there to be a plan for Hotel Occupancy Tax use and that every dollar that can be generated in sales tax is one that does not have to be raised through property taxes. Ms. Lowe was asked if the City is in line with other cities as far as transfers from the Utility Fund to the General Fund goes. She said that Columbus is in the middle and not out of line in those transfers.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2011. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**7. Public Hearing for Proposed Replat of a 0.423 Acre Tract, Lots S-4, 5, and 6 Located in Block No. 43 of the City of Columbus; Such Application Requesting Said Tract be Subdivided into Three (3) Lots (0.154, 0.134, and 0.134 Acre Tracts) as Requested by L.A.W.N. Homes, LLC.**

Mayor Dungen opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. and asked if there was any public comment. There was none and he closed the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

**8. Consideration and Action to Submit a Proposed Replat of a 0.423 Acre Tract, Lots S-4, 5, and 6 Located in Block No. 43 of the City of Columbus; Such Application Requesting Said Tract be Subdivided into Three (3) Lots (0.154, 0.134, and 0.134 Acre Tracts) as Requested by L.A.W.N. Homes, LLC.**

Mayor Dungen explained that the action would be to refer the replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration and approval.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to refer the proposed replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Placement of Stop Signs.**

Councilman Schonenberg said that he had asked to have this item placed on the agenda because of complaints he received about traffic in two areas. The first was along Houston Street west of Fannin. He asked Tomas Ramirez his opinion regarding placing another stop sign in that area. Tomas said that he thought that there would then be a problem with traffic backing up to the highway. He also said that he had officers patrol the area and that they did not observe any violators. He said that he would recommend that they not place any additional stop signs in the area and that he would have officers continue to patrol the area especially during times when there is school traffic. Councilman Schonenberg agreed with that plan. Donald explained that the other area of concern was on Live Oak Street as it goes through Mid-Town Park since there are no stop signs at any of the intersections. Mayor Dungen said that the concern is for the children who are using the park. Councilman Axel suggested that the City install signs for children playing. Donald suggested putting a pedestrian crossing where the park pathway crosses the street. Councilman Schonenberg agreed with those suggestions and asked that the City continue to monitor the area.

No action was taken.

**10. Second Reading of Resolution 102-12, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of Clearing Bid Awarded to Schomburg Dozer Services.**

Mayor Dungen read Resolution 102-12.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 102-12, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of Clearing Bid Awarded to Schomburg Dozer Services.**

Councilman Schonenberg explained that this was for clearing the 54 acres on the north side of the Fair Grounds at the Industrial Park. He said that the area was last cleared ten to twelve years ago but that it has grown back. Council Rankin noted that it should be a valuable piece of property.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve Resolution 102-12 as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Second Reading of Resolution 103-12, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding a Grant to Colorado County for the Robert R. Wells, Jr. Airport to Assist in Purchasing an Automated Weather Observation System.**

Mayor Dungen explained that the City Manager had received a letter from Dr. Tom Hancher, who is the Airport Advisory Board Chairman, requesting that the City Council table the AWOS funding proposal pending further study and recommendation of the Board. Colorado County Emergency Management Coordinator, Chuck Rogers, explained that the AWOS was needed for emergency responders and also to bring traffic to the airport. He told them that TxDOT is supporting the installation. Mayor Dungen asked what the timeline is on the match from TxDOT, and Mr. Rogers said that they would like to strike while the iron is hot. Councilman Rankin asked who brought the request to the CCIDC. Clifford Wenske said that he did and that he was authorized to do so by the Airport Advisory Board. Councilman Woodall pointed out the Council would only be approving CCIDC's authority to provide funding for the AWOS system. Chris Christensen told Council that he is grateful that CCIDC recognizes the value of the airport, but the AWOS system is not necessary. He said that he goes to every Airport Advisory Board meeting and that they had not authorized anyone to request these funds. He said that the first thing that the Board should do is to come up with a plan. He advised that Council should table any action on the AWOS and let CCIDC

reconsider their grant. Mayor Dungen said that he thought that Council could not approve the resolution as written because it did not appear that the County had requested the funds as stated. He suggested that the issue be tabled pending clarification of whether a new resolution would be needed.

He did not conduct the second reading of Resolution 103-12.

**13. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 103-12, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding a Grant to Colorado County for the Robert R. Wells, Jr. Airport to Assist in Purchasing an Automated Weather Observation System.**

Councilman Tesch asked if the County was aware of the request for funding support from CCIDC for the AWOS. Chuck Rogers said that they were.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table the approval of AWOS funding by CCIDC and bring it back at the next council meeting. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**14. Consideration and Action to Approve a Budget Amendment for Revenue and Expenditures of Dumraese Grant Received by Nesbitt Memorial Library.**

It was explained to Council that the grant was one that has been received by the Library in the past and the budget amendment was for spending the funds received per the grant requirements.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve a Budget Amendment for revenue and expenditures of the Dumraese Grant received by the Nesbitt Memorial Library as presented. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**15. Review and Adoption of Revised City of Columbus Financial Management Goals and Objectives.**

City Secretary, Linda Lakich, explained that the City's Financial Management Goals and Objectives document requires an annual review and that the revised document was the same as that adopted last year except for correcting typos and duplications.

Councilman Axel made a motion to adopt the revised City of Columbus Financial Management Goals and Objectives. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**16. Consideration and Action to Approve a Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Grant to C-Town Nation for \$1,500 for Funding Costs Associated with a Seven-on-Seven Football Tournament.**

Mayor Dungen told Council that the application had been withdrawn. No action was taken.

**17. Consideration and Action to Approve a Budget Amendment for Police Patrol Vehicle Expenditures.**

Acting Police Chief, Tomas Ramirez, said that he had provided Council with two options. One was to convert the 2011 Chevy Impala to patrol and the other to convert the new Tahoe. He said that his recommendation would be to convert the Impala. The Police Department would then use the Impala for patrol, the Tahoe for the detective as originally planned, and the Explorer would be used by the Police Chief.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve a budget amendment to convert the Police Department's 2011 Chevrolet Impala to a police patrol vehicle. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**18. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the March 2012 Police Report.**

Acting Police Chief, Tomas Ramirez, presented his March 2012 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Patrol Officer Anthony Axel presented an overview of the anti-bullying program that he is conducting with the schools to prevent and track bullying. Mayor Dungen suggested that he talk with St. Anthony's School to see if they would be interested in the program.

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

Councilman Woodall – asked for an update on where Council stands with the Animal and Historic District ordinances.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

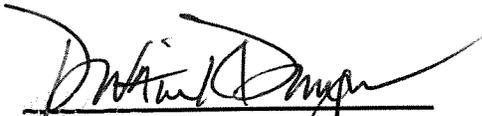
Mayor Dungen – read a letter from the State Fire Marshal's Office thanking Volunteer Firemen Walter Glaeser, Dusty Dittmar, Richard LaCourse, Blake Shifflett, Josh Chollett, and Brent Allen Gorman for their assistance in remaining on the scene of a fatality fire until the Deputy State Fire Marshal arrived.

**20. Announcements.<sup>2</sup>**

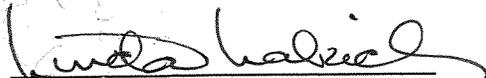
Linda Lakich said that the next meeting would be a Special Meeting for a Grievance Hearing on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**21. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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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.