

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, January 24, 2013 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:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein

**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 10, 2013 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of December 2012 Financial Statements.
- d. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2012.

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>**

Vance Elliott asked to speak later.

**5. City Manager's Report including Sewer Averaging, Fitch Rating, 2012 Water System Improvements, and Cardinal Hill Elevated Storage Tank Project.**

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

**6. Consideration and Action Regarding Proposed Subdivision Development.**

Mayor Dungen explained that representatives from the proposed subdivision were not at the meeting, and that perhaps they would be at the next Council meeting. No action was necessary.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit at 813 Martin Luther King St. Requested by Francisco Gonzales.**

Mayor Dungen explained that the manufactured home that was on the lot is being replaced with a larger one, and that the Board of Adjustments had approved a variance for setbacks the night before.

Councilman Rankin observed that the manufactured home is already there on the lot. Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, explained that the company that sold the manufactured home was supposed to take care of the permitting, but they failed to do so. He said that Mr. Gonzales is now trying to correct that. Councilman Rankin observed that under the City's zoning rules that nonconforming use of property is not encouraged even on property where it was grandfathered in. He said that while he thinks in this case the variance should be granted, in general variances should be rare and infrequent.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit as requested at 813 Martin Luther King St. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund Grants for 2012-2013.**

Mayor Dungen said that while Council had previously withheld the advertising portions of the HOT Fund Grants requested, at this time he felt that it would be unfair to the organizations who had applied for funding to change the rules on them. He said that he would therefore recommend that Council approve the additional \$20,000 requested by the Chamber of Commerce for advertising, \$10,000 for the Colorado County Fair which is the amount that they received in the prior year, \$2,430 for the FFA Alumni (which does not include entertainment), and \$3,000 for the Lions Club. He said that he would like to continue to look at the request by Community Empowerment.

Councilman Rankin commented that he did not want to be in the same position next year.

Councilman Tesch said that he had looked at the financial information provided by the Colorado County Fair and that he did not see that the revenue from last year's HOT funds was included. He asked if the Fair was making a profit. The Fair representative said that she would run a more current financial report. Councilman Tesch said that he would like to hold off on funding the Fair until he had seen that update.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the additional HOT Fund Grants of \$20,000 to the Chamber of Commerce, \$2,430 to the FFA Alumni, and \$3,000 to the Lions Club but to exclude the grant to the Colorado County Fair. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the additional HOT Fund Grants as recommended by the Mayor with \$20,000 to the Chamber of Commerce, \$2,430 to the FFA Alumni, \$3,000 to the Lions Club, and \$10,000 to the Colorado County Fair. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

Noes: Councilman Tesch

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 117-13 Authorizing the Award of Administration and Engineering Service Providers Contracts for the 2012 Texas Capital Fund Award.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, told council that six requests for qualifications were sent out for the administration services and engineering services for the 2012 downtown revitalization grant. Only one response was received for the administration services. That was from GrantWorks, Inc. and he said that he would recommend that GrantWorks be awarded that contract. Four responses were received for the engineering services on the project and those were evaluated by looking at various criteria such as related experience and staff. Based on that evaluation, he recommended that the contract for engineering services be awarded to BEFCO Engineering, Inc. out of LaGrange who has extensive experience in the area with sidewalk improvement projects. He said that Mercer Engineering will oversee the whole project as the City Engineer. Donald said that the engineering services provider will now work

on a preliminary design with input from the business owners involved and the Texas Historical Commission.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to award the Administration Services contract to GrantWorks, Inc. and the Engineering Services contract to BEFCO Engineering, Inc. Councilman Tesch 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 Resolution 118-13 to Designate Authorized Signators for the 2012 Texas Capital Fund Program.**

The Mayor told Council that this resolution would authorize the Mayor, City Manager, and City Secretary to sign the documents necessary for the downtown sidewalk grant.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Resolution 118-13 to designate the Mayor, City Manager, and City Secretary as authorized signators for the 2012 Texas Capital Fund Program. Councilman Woodall seconded the motions.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. 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 explained that the purpose of the item was to authorize him to sign the necessary paperwork to increase the Fire Department monthly pension contribution from \$66 to \$71 as was approved in the 2012-2013 Budget.

Councilman Woodall made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign an amendment to the Fire Fighters' Pension contract to increase the monthly contribution rate to \$71. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$3,700 for Police Donation Revenue and Vehicle Expenditures.**

City Secretary, Linda Lakich, explained that this budget amendment was to increase budget revenue and expenditures in the Police Department for the \$3,700 gift received from Wal-Mart.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,700 for Police donation revenue and vehicle expenditures as presented. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the December 2012 Police Report.**

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, presented his December 2012 Police Report, a copy of which is attached. He also reviewed other December Police Department activities, and presented the Police Department's Annual Racial Profiling Report.

No action was necessary.

The Mayor recognized Vance Elliot for Citizens' Comments. Mr. Elliott expressed the Chamber of Commerce's and Lions Club's appreciation for the HOT Fund grants. He said that in the last four years that the Council and the City have changed a lot. He noted that four years ago the Industrial Park was just Great Southern Wood and grass, and said that the City's leadership is visible in the activity that is taking place there now.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – told Council that the hotel group had met and that they are getting good suggestions.

Councilman Tesch – reminded Council that the next meeting would be on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

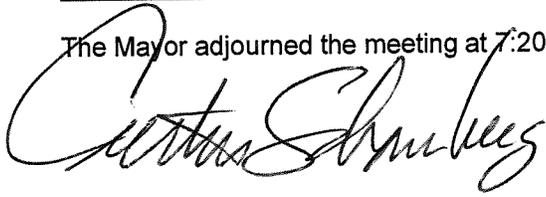
Mayor Dungen – no comment.

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

There were no other announcements.

**16. Adjournment.**

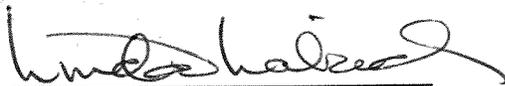
The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.



Mayor  
Dungen

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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.