

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, November 25, 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	-	Eddie Hernandez
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
Utilities Superintendent	-	Jody Ripper
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 November 14, 2013 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

All those who signed up for citizens' comments wished to speak during an agenda item.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Christmas Lighting and AEP Smart Meters.**

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

**6. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Presentation by Aqua Metric/Sensus Concerning Water and Gas Meter Replacement.**

Donald Warschak explained that the touch read component of the current utility metering system is starting to have failures and that replacement parts for the current system are no longer available. He said that with the need to replace the meter reading component, the City is considering going to a gas and water meter radio read system. Jonathan Blackwell with Aqua Metric, Inc. gave a presentation showing the estimated costs and returns of the replacement project. The scope of the project includes replacing all water meters and retrofitting or replacing all gas meters. All meters would be connected to

the Sensus FlexNet System which would allow radio read of all meters from City Hall. The preliminary estimated cost is \$975,771 for the entire project. Mr. Blackwell explained that there will be a financial benefit because of reductions in manpower, reduced capital costs and reduction of losses due to unbilled consumption. He also said that if Council would like, Aqua Metrics could perform additional testing of current water meters to obtain a better estimate of current metering inaccuracies. He said that the next step would be for Council to sign a letter of intent if they decide they would like to do the additional meter testing.

After receiving clarifications on the scope and cost of the project, Councilman Rankin made a motion to move forward as outlined in the letter of intent to test a sample of meters, and to ask management to identify other improvements that the system may need. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item 9 on the Agenda.

**9. Presentation by Columbus Volunteer Fire Department Concerning the Fire Station.**

Richard LaCourse with the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department gave a presentation regarding the department's request for construction of a new fire station. Fire Department representatives answered questions regarding the presentation. Council asked that both the department and city management look into grants and other sources of potential funding.

No action was taken.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item 7 on the Agenda.

**7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Presentation by Columbus Independent School District Concerning School Resource Officer Grant.**

Columbus High School Principal Jerry Brem told Council that the School District has received a grant to pay for a school resource officer. He said that the District would like to contract directly with City Police personnel for their services, but they are asking the City to allow officers to use City owned vehicles and other equipment while at the schools. Police Chief Lattimore said that it would be treated the same as when the officers work security at school athletic events and that he would work to ensure that the officers are not over extended. He told Council that he wanted to inform them what was happening with the grant. Donald Warschak said the he would report back to Council with an agreement between the School District and the City.

No action was taken.

**8. Consideration and Action Regarding the Readdressing of Krupka Street.**

Donald Warschak explained that when Krupka St. was addressed years ago no provision was made in the numbering for a home on the western corner of Krupka and Walnut Streets. When the Chandlers built there, the house was assigned the address of 100A Krupka. That address is not recognized for 911 purposes. Esther Chandler told council that they first became aware of the problem when their neighbor got new internet service and they lost theirs. She explained that they are concerned about being unable to get 911 emergency services at their house or at their next door neighbor's house if it is needed.

Mark Warner who lives on Krupka St. said that readdressing the whole side of the street would be a great inconvenience and asked the City to explore other options. Councilman Rankin asked if there are any other places in town with the same problem and what the criteria for addressing are. Mayor Dungen suggested that Council take no action, allow the City to research the issue, and bring the item back at the next meeting

No action was taken.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item 10 on the Agenda.

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

Linda Lakich presented the Columbus Chamber of Commerce's proposed budget for operating the Tourism Bureau for the coming year. She explained that while the budget request is for \$70,800, the Chamber will have an estimated balance in their tourism account of \$29,000 at the end of December. This will mean that the City will only need to fund \$41,800 for 2014. She explained, that with the changes in personnel at the Visitor's Bureau and the construction at the Court House, the 2013 amounts budgeted for personnel and advertising were not fully used.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the publicity and tourism agreement between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce for \$41,800 with a request that the Chamber provide more frequent reports to Council on their activities. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve a Request from Colorado County for Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds to be Used for Repairs to the Old Water Tower on the Courthouse Square.**

Mayor Dungen said that he had talked with County Judge Ty Pause about the needed repairs to the roof of the old water tower on the Court House square. Judge Pause told him that the estimate for the cost to repair the roof was approximately \$32,000 and that the County would like to have the City split the cost. The County completed a Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund request for \$32,945. Laura Ann Rau, Jayne Easterling, and Elizabeth Flint spoke in support of the HOT grant emphasizing the historical and tourism importance of the tower.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to allocate Hotel Occupancy Tax funds from the City for half of the estimated cost of repairing the old water tower's roof (\$16,470). Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to the Colorado County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for a two year term.**

Mayor Dungen explained that the City shares the appointment with Columbus Independent School District. Rhonda Schneider is the current member and he recommended that she be reappointed to serve again.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to appoint Rhonda Schneider to the Colorado County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for a two year term. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action Regarding a Proposal from Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation (CCIDC) Board to Transfer Mineral Rights to the City with the CCIDC Retaining Income.**

Mayor Dungen said that the CCIDC is considering this as a way to alleviate the risk of future transfers of mineral rights. Councilman Schonenberg explained that the CCIDC Board wanted to see if the Council would be willing to accept the transfer before they incurred the costs of having the documents prepared to do so. Council expressed their willingness to accept the transfer of the mineral rights to the City with the CCIDC retaining income.

No action was taken.

**14. Consideration and Action to Declare the 1997 Ford Ranger Pickup (VIN: 1FTCR14U3VT21808A) as Surplus Property.**

Donald Warschak explained that the vehicle in question would be scrapped.

Councilman Axel made a motion to declare the 1997 Ford Ranger pickup at surplus property. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motions.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the October 2013 Police Report.**

Police Chief Bill Lattimore presented his October 2013 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment

Councilman Axel – no comment

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment

Councilman Hernandez – no comment

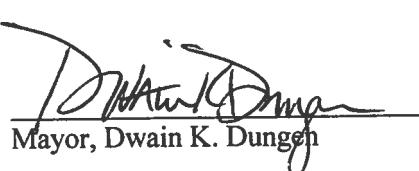
Councilman Rankin – no comment

**17. Announcements.**

Mayor Dungen announced the next Council Meeting will be on December 12, 2013.

**18. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.



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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.

