

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2015 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
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert (absent)
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
Public Works Supervisor	-	Michael Poncik

**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 February 26, 2015 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of January 2015 Financial Statements.

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, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

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

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax and AutoRead Meter Project.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition, he reported that he had received a verbal notification from TxDOT indicating that they will be installing traffic lights at the I-10/Highway 71 intersection.

**6. Consideration and Action to Award Contract for Solid Waste Collection.**

Councilman Rankin stated that he was still unhappy that Texas Disposal Services did not reduce their charges during the later years of the current contract. He said that he does not want an automatic increase in charges to be part of the agreement, and that the newspaper poll results were misleading. Councilman Schonenberg stated that he would be in favor of choosing biweekly recycling with a reevaluation after one year. Councilman Rankin asked Jay Howard with TDS why the currently bid charges were so much lower than TDS's current charges to the City. Mr. Howard stated that the

company was able to rein in costs over the past years, and that they are willing to look at the contract whenever asked to.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to award the contract for solid waste collection with biweekly recycling to Texas Disposal Services. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion. Councilman Rankin confirmed that Council would approve the final contract.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Hernandez, and Schonenberg  
Noes: Councilman Rankin  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action to Award Construction Bid for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Visitors Center Project.**

Donald Warschak stated that Council had been provided with a bid tabulation, but he requested that the item be tabled. The bids were higher than anticipated so he is working with the low bid company to reduce the costs.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to table action until the next council meeting. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**8. Public Hearing Regarding Horses Kept in the City Limits.**

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Faye Collins stated that she is unable to enjoy being in her back yard because of the smell from the horses that are kept on the neighboring lot. The Mayor explained that the current city ordinance only allows for action to be taken if the horses are a nuisance. Chief Lattimore said that action by the Police Department is therefore complaint driven. When the Police receive a written complaint, they issue a citation on the complainant's behalf. He said that citizens are understandably reluctant to make complaints against their neighbors. Mayor Dungen said that the City can review the current ordinance and the ordinances of other cities, and then possibly make changes. He thanked Ms. Collins for bringing this to the attention of Council.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

**9. Certification of Unopposed Candidates in the Regular Municipal Election.**

The City Secretary presented certification that the following candidates were unopposed for the May 9, 2015 election: Mayor – Dwain K. Dungen, Council Place #1 – Woodrow M. Moore, and Council Place #2 – Lori An Gobert.

**10. Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 171-15, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Texas Declaring the Unopposed Candidates for the Offices of Mayor, City Councilmember Place One, and City Councilmember Place Two as Elected.**

Councilman Woodall made a motion to adopt Ordinance 171-15 declaring the unopposed candidates for the offices of Mayor, City Councilmember Place One, and City Councilmember Place Two as elected. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action to Accept the Resignation of Councilman Steve Woodall from City Council Position #1.**

Councilman Woodall delivered a letter of resignation, effective upon his replacement by Council, to the City Secretary. Councilman Woodall stated that, since he decided not to run for reelection, he would like to give the newly elected Woody Moore the chance to serve for the remaining of his unexpired term. Councilman Woodall thanked Council and City staff and said that it had been a pleasure working with them.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to accept Councilman Woodall's resignation effective upon his replacement. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Fill the Vacant City Council Position #1 by Appointment as Provided by Section 22.010 of the Texas Local Government Code.**

The Mayor stated that his recommendation would be to appoint Woodrow Moore to fill the vacant Council position.

Councilman Woodall made a motion to appoint Woodrow Moore to fill the vacant City Council Position #1. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

The Mayor presented Steve Woodall with a plaque in recognition of his service to the City.

**13. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Official to City Council Position #1 for an Unexpired Term Ending in May 2015.**

Mr. Moore was unable to attend the Council meeting.

**14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the February 2015 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Official Ford Stein presented his February 2015 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

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

Councilman Schonenberg – also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Woodall for his service on the CCIDC board.

Councilman Hernandez – thanked Mr. Woodall.

Councilman Rankin – thanked Mr. Woodall.

**16. Announcements.**

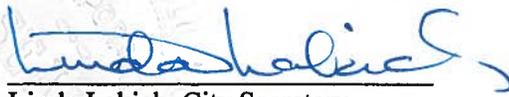
There were no announcements.

**17. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:16 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.