

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, March 26, 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	-	Woody Moore
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

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

The City Secretary administered the oath of office to Woodrow Moore to fill Council Position Place 1 for an unexpired term ending in May 2015.

4. Consent Agenda.

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

6. City Manager's Report Including Warrant Round Up, Catherine Dumraese Trust Grant, and Auto Read 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 the issue of horses kept in the city limits would be addressed at a later Council Meeting.

The Mayor moved to item 8 on the agenda.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve a Contract for Solid Waste Collection.

The City Manager explained that the City has not yet received a copy of the contract. He said that he has talked with Texas Disposal Services about including a provision for an option to extend the contract in year four for an additional 2 to 3 years to give TDS the opportunity to reprice. He also has asked them to add an option to change the recycling frequency after one year, if the City would like. There was a discussion of TDS rates versus what the City charges to customers.

The item was tabled.

The Mayor moved to item 7 on the agenda.

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

David Sheblak with John D. Mercer & Associates explained that three bids were received for the building of the Visitors Center, with the low bid from LL&F Construction out of El Campo. Since this low bid was higher than the amount budgeted for the project, LL&F was asked to identify areas where cost would be reduced. LL&F came up with cost reductions of \$108,841, which would reduce the total price to 649,900, which is still over the amount budgeted. He said that at this point the City could ask LL&F to look for further items to reduce costs, perhaps eliminating the gazebo. There was a discussion of the amount available in the HOT fund through the end of the fiscal year. Councilman Schonenberg ask for a breakdown of the bid so that Council could see where the cost is. David said that he could get that for them. When asked what Council's options were at that time, David said that they could table the award again and ask for additional information or reject all bids and rebid after obtaining a new design.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table the item pending further analysis. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

The Mayor moved to item 9 on the agenda.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve a Library Internet/Computer Use Policy.

Library Director Susan Chandler stated that the policy has two purposes. It will protect children and there are some grants which require compliance with the policy. She stated that they would like to create a separate section for children to use the computers. There will then be two levels of filtering – one more heavily filtered for the children's section and one for the adult's section. She said that the Library Board and the City Attorney have both approved the new policy and that the City Attorney has advised the Library Staff on how to handle violators.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the library internet/computer use policy as presented. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the February 2015 Police Report.

Police Chief William Lattimore presented his February 2015 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

11. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Moore – no comment.

Councilwoman Gobert – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – said the CCIDC has recently had presentations from two companies that are very interested in acquiring land at the business park.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – welcomed Woody Moore.

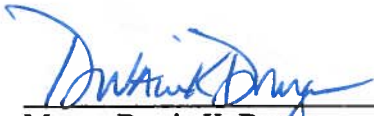
Mayor Dungen – asked for an update from the Planning & Zoning Review Committee.

12. Announcements.

The City Manager stated that City Hall recently had a bat in the hallway and that they were looking into ways to deal with bats in that building and at the Fire Station.

13. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:13 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.

