

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, February 11, 2016 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 (absent)
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement	-	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.**

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. **Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2016 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Schonenberg, Rankin, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments.'**

Citizens signed in spoke during agenda items.

5. **City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Gas Line Project Update, and Highway 71 and Interstate 10 TxDOT Traffic Signal Update.**

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

Warschak stated the sales tax collections for December were up over \$1600 over the same period last year. He also commented that both Eagle Lake and Weimar saw increases, while the County's collection was down compared to prior year.

Regarding the gas line project, Warschak stated they are waiting for the change request permit from the railroad, and work is being done on the pipeline at the main gate.

Bids for the TxDOT project have gone out and they are expecting for contracts to be signed in April. Additionally, there will be a 14 to 16 week lead time for delivery of the poles.

Councilman Schonenberg asked about the status of the water evaluation study being done by O'Malley. Warschak stated they are waiting for everything to settle after the flushing, and the Spring Street well is currently pulled so there is not a time line for completion. Councilwoman Gobert asked if O'Malley would be making a presentation to Council with their findings. Warschak responded that he would make that request.

Councilman Rankin requested that a bulk garbage pick up report be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

6. Consideration and Action on Funding Support to the Columbus Garden Club for the Spring Trash Off Event.

Garden Club President, Joann Obenhaus, introduced Spring Trash Off Committee Chairman, Marion Schonenberg. Mrs. Schonenberg gave a report regarding this 10th annual event which will be held on Saturday, April 2nd. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Councilman Rankin asked if there was a budget item for this. Warschak explained the City usually helps with logistics for the roll-off dumpsters and for additional help with large item disposal.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to give support to the Columbus Garden Club for the Spring Trash Off Event. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Schonenberg, Rankin, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street from Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Approximately 200 feet past Spring Street, the Closure of Spring Street from the East Side of the Annex to Milam Street (Spur 52), and the Closure of Milam (Spur 52) from Spring Street to Walnut Street (Highway 90) on May 14, 2016 Between the Hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for the Magnolia Festival.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Michelle Gorman, spoke about the festival and the efforts of several organizations to bring back a festival to Columbus. She continued that the business owners on Milam had been very positive about the festival itself, and she secured signatures of those owners agreeing to the street closure.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the street closures as requested. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Schonenberg, Rankin, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Adopt Resolution 157-16, a Resolution of the City of Columbus Authorizing a General (Regular) Municipal Election to be Held on May 7, 2016.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to adopt Resolution 157-16 authorizing a General Municipal Election to be held May 7, 2016. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Schonenberg, Rankin, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

Consideración y acción para adoptar la resolución 157-16, una resolución de la ciudad de Columbus que autoriza un elección municipal (regular) general para ser sostenido el 7 de mayo de 2016.

El concejal Schonenberg hizo una moción para adoptar la Resolución 157-16 que autoriza una Elección Municipal General que se celebrará 7 de mayo de 2016. La concejal Gobert apoyó la moción.

La votación fue el siguiente:

Sies: Concejales Schonenberg, Rankin, y Hernández; La concejal Gobert
Ausentes: Concejal Moore

La moción fue aprobada.

9. Discussion and Action to Approve a Variance for the Encroachment of a Structure, Located at 220 Preston Street, into the Preston Street Right of Way.

Property owner, Dorothy Leyendecker, thanked the City Council for opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Leyendecker stated this was a property that was built in the 30's, and she purchased it in the 70's. When she purchased the property, there were no issues with the title; however, now that she is trying to sell, this issue has come to light.

Councilman Rankin voiced his concern regarding the wording of the agreement. He said he was unsure of the title "Consent to Encroachment", but would defer to the City Attorney that this was the proper term. Rankin stated the City Code of Ordinances should be referenced, and the agreement should specify there can be no additions or alterations. Mayor Dungen asked if attorney Barry Rutta had seen the document, and if it would suffice for any title policies. Rankin continued saying if this was a commercial venture, he would have concerns with regard to the standing oak trees on or near the City's right of way. He wants to ensure they will be maintained and no harm will come to them with the business operation.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table this item for consideration at a later date. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Schonenberg, Rankin, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Adopt Resolution 158-16, a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Texas Criminal Justice Division Grant Application for Equipment Project Grant for the Police Department.

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, stated this grant application would be submitted to HGAC in concert with the Eagle Lake Police Department and the local schools. It would cover mobile data computers for vehicles, ticket writers and technology for schools in which calls for help would bypass the dispatch system and go directly to patrol units. After 2 years the maintenance cost of the software would have to be met by the schools, and the Police Department is looking at possibly using some Court Technology or Court Security fees to help defer maintenance costs for the City after the 2 years. Chief Lattimore stated this is a \$0 matching grant.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to adopt Resolution 158-16 authorizing the submission of a CJD Grant Application. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Schonenberg, Rankin, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the January 2016 Columbus Municipal Golf Association Report.

Mike Craddock, treasure, of the Columbus Municipal Golf Association, gave the January report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the funds in the Association's checking account were getting low, and there are some large expenditures coming up before membership dues will be paid in April. The Association is in the process of signing the lease agreement with Jacobson for the equipment, and will need to cancel the lease agreement for the equipment with the former golf course operator. With the upcoming required course maintenance and repairs to the sprinkler system, he stated the Golf Course would require approximately \$12,000 to continue until after the membership dues are paid in April.

Rankin commented the Association should target female golfers. Dungen stated they are looking at some different fundraising events. Rankin asked about the funds that were remaining of those appropriated in the fall. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated \$17,000 remained.

No Action was required.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report to Council.

Ford Stein of the CVFD gave the quarterly report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the January 2016 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, gave his report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was required.

14. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Moore – Absent

Councilwoman Gobert – Stated the train seems to be very loud in the evening, and are much more frequent.

Councilman Schonenberg – The contract for the rail spur renovation has been awarded. Drymalla will start clearing on the 12 acres and E'kabel is in the hiring process.

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

6. Announcements.

Warschak stated the Chamber Banquet is next Saturday. The City purchased a table, and tickets are available through the City Secretary.

7. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, 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.

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.

