

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, March 10, 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 (absent)
Councilman	-	Woody Moore
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 February 25, 2016 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of January Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Debbie Damon of Bedazzled presented a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, regarding a meeting she and other local business owners had with an AEP representative. The meeting entailed discussion of TDU delivery charges on commercial electric bills.

**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 January were down over \$4000 from the same period last year. The County, overall, showed a decrease while Eagle Lake and Weimar experienced increases.

Regarding the Gas Line Project, Warschak stated they were waiting for materials for the Connor's Crossing to Radio Lane portion of the line. Those materials should be in later this month. He also

stated that the amended right of way agreement with Union Pacific has been signed, and they are waiting for its return in order to begin the work at the railroad.

Warschak spoke of a meeting with TDS regarding bulk trash pick-up. The meeting's purpose was to see how bulk pickup could be improved and the handling of the upcoming Trash-Off Event. One recommendation was to educate citizens regarding what is considered bulk waste and what is yard waste. The Mayor and Councilman Rankin also attended the meeting. Mayor Dungen stated he felt the meeting was productive, and he is hoping to see improvements with the service.

#### **6. Discussion Regarding Water System Quality Evaluation Study.**

Warschak stated the City is waiting to take samples at approximately a dozen locations around the City. He showed a map with the designated locations. It will be a couple of weeks before the samples can be taken. The Spring Street water well will be coming back online after some maintenance, and the engineers want it to be up and running for awhile before testing. The engineers want to make sure the water from that well is completely integrated into the system before testing. Warschak stated the engineers will be looking at the phosphates and iron levels in the samples.

Rankin asked what the engineers have done so far. Warschak stated samples taken during flushing have been sent to them and they have studied the system map along with the City's flushing protocol. Warschak stated this process should go fairly quickly. The Mayor asked if this was the last piece of the puzzle needed. Warschak stated he believes it is.

Citizen, Chad Henneke, spoke to Council regarding the water problems at his home. He showed a rusty looking filter taken from his water filtration system he had installed. According to Henneke, the filters have to be replaced about every 10 days. Henneke stated he had spoken with TCEQ regarding phosphates, and was told they do not work once they have gone through a water heater. He stated his concerns about the safety of the water for bathing, cooking and cleaning. Henneke also told Council that TCEQ informed him his only recourse was to take legal action.

Dungen stated once we have the results of the water system study, we should know in which direction to make any improvements.

#### **7. Discussion and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Private Ambulance Service Operations Within the City.**

Tom Fleming, representing Quick EMS, spoke about the need of non-emergency and take, wait and return type ambulance transport in the City. In order to receive a license, a new company must have a letter from the City stating they would not be in competition with any other agency. Fleming stressed the service would be for nonemergency cases.

Councilman Moore asked if there was a quantified need for this service, and Rankin asked for the results from any study done to show the need. Fleming responded the owner did the survey, and he does not know the results. However, he stated, they think it would be a profitable endeavor.

Dungen asked Colorado County EMS Director, Patty Nelson, if they offered the services Mr. Fleming was speaking of. She stated, currently, Colorado County EMS provides for 911 calls, nonemergency and emergency transfers out of county.

Moore asked Nelson if there was a cash pay option for this type of service. Nelson stated there certainly could be, but that would have to be decided upon by the County Commissioners. Nelson stated that it would be difficult to perform the wait and return type service since it would entail a truck being off-line for several hours.

Dungen stated he had spoken with an owner of another ambulance service who has a corporate office in the City. This owner stated he had not brought a unit into the City because he did not want to compete with the County program. Nelson commented that she had spoken to him as well, and he felt that an endeavor of this type would not be profitable for him at this time.

Councilman Hernandez asked if there were any agencies that perform that service in Columbus at this time. Fleming stated companies out of Houston come here now. Hernandez then asked the number of calls these Houston firms service in Columbus. Fleming did not know the answer.

Dungen suggested this item should be tabled until a letter can be drafted so Council can see exactly what they would be approving. Rankin stated he would be interested in learning the County's position on this enterprise.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table any action on this item until a letter can be drafted. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

The City Secretary presented certification that the following candidates were unopposed for the May 7, 2016 election: Council Place #4 - Eduardo Hernandez, and Council Place #5 - Charles D. Rankin.

**Certificación de los candidatos sin oposición en la elección municipal regular.**

*La Secretaria de la Ciudad presentó la certificación de que los siguientes candidatos eran sin oposición para los 7 de mayo de, el año 2016 elecciones: Consejo lugar # 4 - Eduardo Hernández, y el Consejo lugar # 5 - Charles D. Rankin.*

**9. Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 179-16, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Texas Declaring the Unopposed Candidates for the Offices of City Councilmember Place Four, and City Councilmember Place Five as Elected.**

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to adopt Ordinance 179-16 declaring the unopposed candidates for the offices of City Council Place #4 and City Council Place #5 as elected. Councilman Moore seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**Examen y medidas encaminadas a adoptar Ordenanza 179-16, una Ordenanza de la ciudad de Columbus, Texas Declarar los candidatos sin oposición para los cargos de la Ciudad del Ayuntamiento Lugar cuatro, y Ciudad del Ayuntamiento Lugar Cinco como Elegido.**

*La concejal Gobert hizo una moción para aprobar la Ordenanza 179-16 declarando los candidatos sin oposición para los cargos de Ayuntamiento Lugar # 4 y el Ayuntamiento Lugar # 5 como electo. El concejal de Moore apoyó la moción.*

*La votación fue el siguiente:*

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

*La moción fue aprobada.*

**10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Library Quarterly Report.**

Library Director, Susan Chandler, gave the Library Quarterly Report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Councilwoman Gobert commended Chandler for doing a stellar job of marketing the library programs. She also stated, from the newspaper coverage, they appear to be well attended. Councilman Moore stated he hoped she would continue outreach to home schooled youth.

No action was required.

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

Mike Craddock, treasurer, of the Columbus Municipal Golf Association, gave the February report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the Association is still working on the new equipment lease, acquiring their liquor license, and the cancellation of the current equipment lease. The Association is also looking at forming a tournament committee, as well as doing outreach to female golfers.

No action was required.

**12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the February 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.

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

Councilman Moore – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Schonenberg – Absent

Councilman Hernandez – Asked everyone to keep Nancy Stiles in their prayers. She has suffered a stroke.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

**6. Announcements.**

Mayor Dungen reminded everyone of Trash-Off Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**7. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bana Schneider, 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.

<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.

