

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, December 12, 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	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin (Absent)
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
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1. Call to Order.

The Mayor 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 the November 28, 2016 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert.
Absent: Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Debbie Damon of Bedazzled thanked the City for their support with the issues with AEP she is investigating. She stated she had attended the Colorado County Commissioner's Court that morning, and presented the AEP billing breakdowns for several local businesses. She asked if there had been any communication from AEP or PUC regarding the letters sent from the Mayor. The City Manager stated there had been no response to date.

Ms. Damon also said that she would like to look at the bills of other local businesses if she could get the word out.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Sewer Averaging, and TxDOT Update.

Donald Warschak gave the City Managers report, a copy of which is attached.

Warschak stated the sales tax figures are based on the October collections. The City saw a decrease in sales tax of approximately \$6,700 compared to the same period last year. The County as a whole, Eagle Lake, and Weimar all saw a decrease in their sales tax collections as well.

Regarding the I-10 and Highway 71 Signal Project, Warschak stated the contractor had been onsite doing concrete demolition. He also stated he had received preliminary drawings for the north river

bridge. The frontage road between MLK and Robson will be removed because the approach to the new bridge will be in that area. It appears that Robson Street will dead end at Highway 71 with a turnaround drive. The Mayor asked about the effect on the boat ramp. Warschak stated he believed TxDOT was going to make some sort of provision for a boat ramp.

To conclude his report, the City Manager stated sewer averaging will be in effect from December 15th through February 15th. During this time residential customers' average water usage will determine their sewer rate until the next sewer averaging period.

6. Discussion and Action Regarding the Commercial Corridor Overlay District Recommendations from Planning & Zoning.

Councilwoman Gobert gave a brief history of the task force, and its members, that came together 3 years ago to address the appearance of the commercial corridors along Highway 71 and Business 90. Gobert stated any changes would not affect current businesses unless they changed hands or made substantial changes to their buildings. The task force submitted to Planning & Zoning a document outlining suggestions for commercial corridors based upon several different cities' ordinances. She also stated Planning & Zoning met several times to discuss the overlay. The minor changes made by the committee were discussed. Gobert stated the changes the committee made are realistic and would still meet the intended purpose of adding to the beautification of the area.

Councilman Cummings asked about the portable buildings along Highway 90, and if they would have to be removed. Gobert stated all current businesses would be grandfathered.

Mayor Dungen asked if food trucks were addressed. Warschak stated food trucks would have to be addressed in a different ordinance.

There was also discussion of a new sign ordinance.

Dungen thanked the committee and P & Z for all of the time they spent on the overlay. He asked Council to review the final document from P & Z, and it would be brought back at a future meeting for discussion on moving forward.

No action was taken.

7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2016 Columbus Golf Association Report.

Mike Craddock gave the October report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Craddock thanked the City for all of the support the CMGA has received. There was discussion concerning generating more revenue by possibly renting the meeting space at the clubhouse, tournaments, and cutting expenses by limiting employee hours.

No action was required.

8. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Expressed his concern about the riverbank erosion at the WWTP. There was discussion regarding the plans for repairs.

Councilwoman Gobert – Asked if the next meeting would be on the 26th.

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – Absent

Mayor Dungen – Stated, per ordinance, the next meeting would be the day after the City holiday so the next meeting will be on the 27th.

6. Announcements.

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

7. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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.

