

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, January 23, 2017 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

1. Call to Order.

The Mayor 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 January 9, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2016

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Pastor Dan Pore and Joel Usher addressed Council concerning Black History Month and about the first annual art exhibit "Another Side of Color" which will be held at the Live Oak Arts Center. The opening reception will be held on February 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Usher stated an art contest with the local schools will be held in conjunction with Black History Month with prizes being awarded on February 25th.

Mayor Dungen read and signed a proclamation recognizing Black History Month and the "Another Side of Color" art exhibit.

Pastor Pore thanked the Mayor and Council for their support.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, McCormick WWTP, Sewer Averaging, Colorado Valley Communications Contract, and Design Projects Updates.

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

Warschak stated the City's sales tax payment for the Month of January was \$111,657.86. This was an increase over the same time period as last year. He also stated the County and the City of Eagle Lake both saw increases as well, while Weimar experienced a slight decrease.

The City Manager stated an emergency was declared because of more pipe failures and riverbank erosion at the plant. He contacted B & D Services to begin installing the temporary repairs detailed in the plan submitted to FEMA. The outfall pipe was extended by approximately 60 feet, and the additional pipe was secured with temporary supports. In order to backfill, clay was brought in and compacted. An additional 40 feet of pipe will be added with pipe bollards. Next to the bank, fabric will be placed and then covered with bull rock. The temporary repairs should be finished within a few days. Councilwoman Gobert asked if we would still meet the criteria for the temporary fix submitted for FEMA funding. Warschak commented that he had spoken to his contact at FEMA, and he stated the plan had been submitted to the higher ups. Although he could not guarantee approval, he felt it was prudent to go ahead and start the repairs. Warschak added that all emergency purchasing protocols had been met.

Warschak stated the City is in the annual sewer averaging period. Residential water consumption from December 15th through February 15th will determine the residential sewer rates for the coming year. Councilman Rankin asked about leaks because of frozen pipes. City Secretary, Bana Schneider stated they had received a few calls, and after looking at the abnormal readings report, the utility clerks sent letters to customers who might have possible leaks. The letter explains the procedures for mitigating the impact on their sewer average.

Warschak stated Colorado Valley Communications, marketed as Meridian, has exceeded their customer demand with the current communications equipment they have on the red and white water tower. They are asking to place more equipment on the tower. At this point, Warschak stated, they would look at placing equipment on the industrial park water tower since the red and white tower is running low on space. Currently CVC provides the mobile units for the police department with wireless communications in exchange for the space on our tower. A contract amendment may be brought to Council in February

Warschak gave an update on the design projects. Regarding the water filtration system, he stated it will take approximately 30 days to complete the design, which will then have to be submitted to TCEQ for approval. The concrete foundations and old sand traps have been demolished at the Tait and Spring water well sites. Once the plans are approved, we can bid the filtration equipment then bid the construction portion. Completion should be the end of calendar year 2017. Councilman Rankin asked if the project was on target with the budget. Warschak stated the project will be within the bond proceeds earmarked for the project.

Money had been budgeted for the lowering of gas and water lines for the east river bridge project, but Warschak stated he had spoken with TxDOT about changing their elevations since our infrastructure was already in place. We may be able to save some money on that project. Warschak stated \$100,000 had been budgeted for those changes.

Sewer improvements slated for this year include 600 feet of line on McCormick Street and 100 to 200 feet on Travis and North Streets. The North Street improvements are for the newly annexed property. Because of the quantity of work involved, we will look at hiring a contractor to do the work. Continuing his report, the City Manager stated the Tait well has been ear tagged to be pulled and a camera survey to be performed. This is part of routine maintenance, and hopefully nothing will be wrong. The well was drilled back in the early 1960's. Rankin asked about the timeline for the maintenance. Warschak stated he hoped it could be during the construction of the water filtration system. The well will have to be offline during that time. Mayor Dungen asked when the well was last pulled. Warschak said sometime in the early 2000's, at least 10 years. There was discussion regarding the optimal time to take the well offline.

Regarding the downtown visitor's park, Warschak stated the architect and engineer are working on the plans, and we are anticipating going out for bids mid to latter next month.

Councilwoman Gobert asked when the next flushing cycle would occur. Warschak replied flushing would start the end of next month. Gobert also asked about the status of the meters. Schneider stated we are having some software issues on some commercial meters. Gobert asked if there were meters left to be installed. Warschak stated there were a few meters that will require some excavation in order to install, and some changes in how the gas service goes into the school need to be made.

Rankin asked about a main line gas inspection. Warschak stated he does not think our main line is required to be inspected.

Gobert commented the signal light project seemed to be going very slow. Warschak stated they were probably waiting on the 7 day concrete break tests before they continue.

Mayor Dungen moved to item 7.

7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2016 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

There was discussion regarding the process for substandard housing. Councilman Cummings asked what happens if a property owner refuses to comply with code enforcement. LaCourse stated it would be brought to Council for a decision on taking legal action. Dungen stated they are always willing to work with citizens.

No action was required.

8. Consideration and Action for the Approval of Polling Places for the 2017 May General Election. Consideración y acción para la aprobación de los lugares de votación para la elección general de mayo de 2017.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the polling places as stated in the notice. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

Concejal Swindle hizo una moción para aprobar los lugares de votación como se indica en el anuncio.

Concejal Rankin secundó la moción.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

La votación fue como sigue:

*Ayes: Concejales Cummings, Swindle, y Rankin; Concejal Gobert
Ausente: Concejal Hernandez*

La moción aprobada.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Nesbitt Memorial Library Quarterly Report.

Library Director, Susan Chandler, gave her library report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She highlighted the summer reading program gains over the past few years. Chandler also spoke about upcoming programs for both children and adults. The Mayor commended Chandler on the growth of the summer reading program.

No action was required.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2016 Police Report.

Chief Lattimore gave the December police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Lattimore spoke about his participation in the MLK day celebration. He also stated Officer Wilson will

be conducting programs with the Boys & Girls Club. Lattimore concluded his report with the racial profiling statistics for the past year.

No action was required.

11. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Thanked Warschak for the tour of the WWTP.

Councilwoman Gobert – Thanked Warschak for all of the projects updates, and stated she would like to have a CCIDC report agenda item at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Swindle – Spoke with Tom Raetszch of Windshield Express regarding drainage issues on his property, and was wondering if there was anything the City could do.

Councilman Hernandez – Absent

Councilman Rankin – None

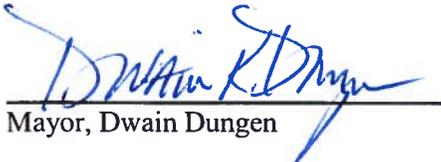
Mayor Dungen – Got a thank you for the street sweeper being out. There will be a public hearing regarding the Commercial Corridor Overlay at the next Council meeting.

12. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

13. 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.