

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 24, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring Street, Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Richard Heffley			
		Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg	
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson			
		Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka	
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin			
Councilman				John Wagner	
		City Manager	-		David Meisell
City Secretary			-	Patti Glaeser	

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Heffley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Heffley led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of invoices.

b. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2008 Regular Meeting.

c. Approval of February Financial Statements.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the consent agenda.

Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Rankin, Wagner
Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

4. Citizen's Presentations and Comments1

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

5. Discussion of City Manager's Report including Drainage Improvements, TXDOT Refueling Point Revisions, River status, Water Plants Turn-Around, Water Pumpage History, Union Pacific Crossing Upgrade, Gas Volume Update.

City Manager, David Meisell, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes.

6. Public Hearing: Annexation of 9.5 Acres of Land in the Elizabeth Tumlinson Survey, Abstract No. 44, Colorado County, Texas.

Mayor Heffley closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing on the Annexation of 9.5 Acres of land in the Elizabeth Tumlinson survey at 7:29pm. There were no public comments made at the hearing. The public hearing was closed at 7:31 pm.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 53-08 - Agreement for Construction, Maintenance and Operation of Hurricane Evacuation Lighting System - Temporary Fueling Location.

Mr. Meisell explained Resolution 53-08 which describes the plans the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) has in constructing a hurricane evacuation lighting system at a temporary fueling location. Mr. Meisell presented a history of this project. He explained that TXDOT has asked for the City to assist them with a lighting system for a temporary fueling location on Highway 71 near the Industrial Park. They are asking the City to pay for the electricity for the lighting system. This lighting system is part of a plan that was proposed to TXDOT last year by Mr. Meisell when wet conditions prohibited TXDOT from building pads in the fairgrounds. The current plan would allow buses going north to exit Highway 71 and loop around south and proceed north on the west feeder road. Pads will be built that will house fuel for the buses and restrooms for the passengers. The buses will then be able to continue north.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Order of Cancellation to Cancel the May 10, 2008 Election and Deem the Unopposed Candidates Elected.

Councilman Rankin moved to approve an Order of Cancellation to cancel the May 10, 2008 Election and deem the unopposed candidates elected.

Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. Those candidates are Curtiss Schonenberg, Council Place #3; Bruce W. Tesch, Council Place #4; and John W. Wagner, Council Place #5. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Rankin, Wagner
Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

9. Discussion of February Police Report.

Chief Jackson was unable to attend the meeting.
Councilman Rankin moved to table the February Police Report.
Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:
Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Rankin, Wagner
Councilwoman Frnka

The motion passed.

Councilman Rankin asked that Chief Jackson give an update on motor bikes and scooters.

10. Items from Councilmembers.²
Councilman Wagner asked Mr. Meisell if he was still checking Cardinal Hill water well throughout the night. Mr. Meisell confirmed that he was.
Councilman Rankin asked for an update on inspections. He also asked for an update on the manufactured home and zoning ordinances consolidation.
Councilman Schonenberg asked about streamlining the annexation process.
Councilwoman Frnka asked about the status of hiring the Code Enforcement personnel. She also inquired about what could be done with the men panhandling in the Wal-Mart area.
Councilman Richardson - no comment.

Mayor Heffley asked the Council to start thinking about moving Council meeting from the 2nd and 4th Mondays to the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month.

11. Announcements.
There were no additional announcements.

12. Adjournment.
There being no further business, Mayor Heffley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor, Richard Heffley

ATTEST:

Patti Glaeser, 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.

² 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.