

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, October 23, 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
Councilman	-	John Wagner
City Manager	-	David Meisell
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser

And the following absent:

Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
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**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. Discussion with Lonnie Gregoryck of TXDOT.**

Lonnie Gregoryck, District Engineer with TXDOT, gave an update on the City's requests for improvements. He began by discussing the widening of Interstate 10. He said it is on schedule to be finished in March 2009. He informed Council that the new FM 806 Bridge will require the freeway to be closed and the traffic rerouted sometime in December, probably through the City. He said that the Evacuation Lane (shoulder) would be started after January 2009 from will extend from Brookshire to San Antonio.

David Meisell, City Manager, asked Mr. Gregoryck about lowering the speed limits on Highway 71 – Fannin. Ms. Marla Jasek, also with TXDOT, said that they would begin a speed survey on November 10. He said the speed limits would be set by what 85% of drivers' speed is.

Also discussed was the closing of Veterans Drive at FM 806. Several scenarios will be looked at. Mr. Kenny Neuendorff, with Neuendorff Water Well Service, was against closing the intersection. He owns the business at that location and is concerned he will not be able to get deliveries from large trucks with the road closed.

Mr. Gregoryck also informed Council that installation of the traffic light at Houston and Fannin would begin in February 2009. TXDOT is still looking at a solution for the traffic light situation at Hwy 90 and Hwy 71.

Mr. Gregoryck complimented Mr. Meisell on his actions during Hurricane Ike. He said the City Staff and TXDOT were also to be commended for a job well done. He also said TXDOT has several cameras in the area and they were able to monitor the traffic in the area.

Mr. Gregoryck also handed out a plan to put in feeders on I-10 at FM 806. The funds are currently not available. A copy of the plan is attached.

**4. Discussion with Tim Geisheidl, Architect.**

Tim Geisheidl discussed the construction process with the Council. Mr. Meisell suggested that because of the large projects the City is currently working on, he would like to begin the renovation of City Hall a little later. It was decided that the construction contract would be awarded on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The City plans to vacate City Hall by March 16, 2009.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

a. **Approval of Invoices.**

b. **Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2008 Regular Meeting.**

Councilman Richardson moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Invoice from Curtiss Automotive.**

Councilman Wagner moved to approve the invoice from Curtiss Automotive. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Richardson  
Abstain: Councilman Schonenberg  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

7. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**<sup>1</sup>

There were no citizen's presentations or comments:

8. **Discussion of City Manager's Report including Water Project, Water Line Repairs, River Status, Water Pumpage History, Burford Drive Line Problem, Sewer Plant and City Hall Bid Dates, La Quinta Construction.**

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

9. **Consideration and Action to Dissolve Columbus Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CCVB) Corporation According to Texas Law and Transfer and /or Convey Assets of corporation to City of Columbus as Required by State Law and /or CCVB Bylaws.**

Councilman Wagner moved to approve the dissolution of CCVB according to Texas law and transfer and /or convey assets of corporation to the City of Columbus as required by State law and/or CCVB Bylaws. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

10. **Consideration and Action to Appoint One of CCVB Directors to Sign All Documents Necessary to Carry Out Dissolution and Disposition of CCVB.**

Councilman Wagner moved to appoint Charlotte Tilotta as the CCVB Director to sign all documents necessary to carry out dissolution and disposition of CCVB. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve Budget Amendment – Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.**

Mr. Meisell explained that since the Hotel Occupancy Tax Administrator will now be housed at City Hall, he would like to utilize that position to help with other things at City Hall. This budget amendment will distribute part of the wages, etc to the Utility Department. Councilman Richardson moved to approve the Budget Amendment to reduce Wages, etc for the Hotel Occupancy Tax fund for \$15,728 and increase advertising in the Hotel Occupancy Tax fund by \$1,000. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve Budget Amendment – Utility Fund – Sewer Department.**

This budget amendment is the other side of the Budget Amendment in Agenda Item#11, and is for the Utility Fund. Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the budget amendment for the Utility Fund – Sewer Department, in the amount of \$15,728. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Approve Appointment of CCIDC Auditor.**

Councilman Schonenberg said the CCIDC had approved Pierce Arthur as their auditor for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. Councilman Wagner moved to approve Pierce Arthur as the CCIDC auditor for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

**14. Read Resolution 57-08 Authorizing CCIDC Expenditure of \$13,500.**

The CHPT has requested funding from the CCIDC to repair the elevator in the Stafford Opera House. Because the expenditure is greater than \$10,000, the City Council must approve the expenditure through a resolution. Mayor Heffley read Resolution 57-08. This resolution will be read again at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and action will be taken to approve the resolution and the expenditure of the funds.

**15. Consideration and Action to approve Ordinance 91-08 – Special Gas Contract Rates.**

Mr. Meisell explained that the Special Gas Contract Prices were omitted during the passing of other utility rate increases in September. Councilman Richardson moved to approve Ordinance 91-08, establishing special gas contract rates. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

**16. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Streets for St. Anthony's Halloween Carnival on October 25, 2008.**

St. Anthony's requested the City block off Wallace Street between Live Oak Street and Bowie Street beginning the morning of October 24<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Wagner moved to close Wallace Street between Live Oak Street and Bowie Street from 8:00 am October 24 through midnight October 25. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

**17. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Streets in Memorial Oaks for Halloween.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to close the streets in Memorial Oaks for vehicular traffic on October 31, 2008 from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Wagner, Schonenberg, and Richardson  
Absent: Councilman Tesch.

The motion passed.

**18. Discussion of September Police Report.**

Mr. Meisell said Chief Jackson was unable to attend this meeting. He would like to bring this item back on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Mayor Heffley asked for an update on the CCIDC incentives for the Industrial Park.

**20. Announcements.**

There were no additional announcements.

**21. Adjournment.**

Mayor Heffley adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

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Mayor, Richard Heffley

ATTEST:

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Patti Glaeser, 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.

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.

<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.