

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, October 9, 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	-	Bruce Tesch
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.

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

Laura Ann Rau thanked Council for agreeing to allow the Hotel Occupancy Tax office to remain at the Stafford Opera House. She said she appreciated their attitude toward the situation. She added that because she rented offices to the Colorado County Ground Water District, there would no longer be any room for the Hotel Occupancy Tax office to remain in the Stafford Opera House. Mayor Heffley also thanked Ms. Rau.

Mayor Heffley then moved to Agenda Item #11.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve Contract with Glidden Fresh Water District for Sewer Treatment Services.**

Glidden Fresh Water District Board members Edward Pavlicek and Kay Jones were present. They presented several handouts and discussed Glidden's sewer rates. They compared their out of town consumption using the City's in town rate schedule. This amount is \$4,056.92. They asked that the City base the monthly rate on this computation. (The Council agreed and voted on a rate of \$7,000 per month on September 22, 2008).

Councilman Richardson moved to table Agenda Item #11. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

**9. Public Hearing: Community Development Fund.**

Mayor Heffley adjourned the Regular meeting at 6:55pm and opened the Public Hearing. Bruce Spitzengel, a grant writer with Grantworks was present to discuss the grant he is proposing the City apply for. He said the City could apply for a \$350,000 grant from the Texas Community Development Block Grant. He said the criteria for awarding the grant have changed since the City applied for a grant before. The Grants are now awarded based on the last time the City was awarded a grant. Because it has been 16 years since the City of Columbus received a grant, Mr. Spitzengel feels the City has a great chance for receiving one this time.

The public hearing closed at 7:12pm and the regular meeting reopened.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution #56-08 to Apply for 2009-2010 Texas Community Development Block Grant Assistance under the Community Development Fund.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve Resolution #56-08 to Apply for 2009-2010 Texas Community Development Block Grant Assistance under the Community Development Fund for water improvement projects with a City match of \$100,000. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

The mayor then moved to Agenda item #8, topic #6, Office in Opera House.

**8. Discussion of City Manager's Report including Water Project, Water Line Repairs, River Status, Water Pumpage History, Revenue Update, Office in Opera House, Austin Street Crossing, Veterans' Drive at Fm 806, Garmin Complaint.**

Mr. Meisell introduced Melanie Appelt. Ms. Appelt was hired as the new Hotel Tax Administrator. Her office will be in the old ambulance room.

The Mayor then moved to Agenda Item #3.

**3. Consideration and Action to Approve Resignation of Councilwoman Sandra Frnka.**

Mayor Heffley said Councilwoman Frnka handed him her resignation after the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilman Wagner moved to approve the resignation of Councilwoman Sandra Frnka as of September 30, 2008. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

**4. Consent Agenda:**

- a. **Approval of Invoices.**
- b. **Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2008 Special Meeting.**
- c. **Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2008 Regular Meeting.**
- d. **Approval of Minutes of September 30, 2008 Special Meeting.**

Mayor Heffley announced that the minutes from September 25 and September 30 were written in detail due to the request of City Attorney Ty Prause. Councilman Tesch moved to accept the consent agenda. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

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

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

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Tesch, and Wagner

Abstain: Councilman Schonenberg

The motion passed.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoice from Heffley's Mill.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the invoice from Heffley's Mill. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

The mayor then moved back to Agenda Item #8.

**8. Discussion of City Manager's Report including Water Project, Water Line Repairs, River Status, Water Pumpage History, Revenue Update, Office in Opera House, Austin Street Crossing, Veterans' Drive at Fm 806, Garmin Complaint.**

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

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve Library Board Director Appointment.**

Councilman Tesch moved to approve Roger Wade to the Library Board. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Designate the City's Official Newspaper.**

Councilman Richardson moved to designate The Colorado County Citizen as the City's Official Newspaper. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner

The motion passed.

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

Councilman Wagner wants the remaining months to remain calm. He asked about the City's relocation plans. Mr. Meisell said the project might be delayed for 60-90 days due to the overwhelming schedule of the water improvements, the sewer plant renovation and the audit.

Councilman Tesch asked what the Council would do with the Open Seat since Ms. Frnka resigned.

Mayor Heffley then moved back to Agenda Item #3. He said that the seat could remain vacant or the Council could appoint someone to take her position (#2) seat. Position #2 will come up for election in May 2009. Mr. Meisell that the Council has appointed three people into vacant positions in the last four years. Two of the positions became vacant due to death. One was because a Council member was elected Mayor. In 2004, Lori Sprague was appointed to Council. She was elected to a two-year term in 2005 and ran unopposed. In 2005, Richard Heffley was elected Mayor, and his Council position became vacant. Chuck Rankin was appointed. He ran for election in an unopposed race in May 2006 for a two-year term. In 2008, John Wagner was appointed to Council. In May 2008 he ran for election and was unopposed. This also was for a two-year term.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

**15. Announcements.**

There were no additional announcements.

**16. Adjournment.**

Mayor Heffley adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

---

Mayor, Richard Heffley

ATTEST:

---

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.

---