

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1538 Hwy 71 S, Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Richard Heffley
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
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.

Mayor Heffley then moved to Agenda Item #6.

6. Consideration and Action to Award Bids for City Hall Renovation.

City Manager, David Meisell, reviewed the seven bids received for the City Hall Renovation. BLS Construction of El Campo was the low bidder with a combined bid for the base bid and three alternatives of \$808,600. Their bid consisted of a base bid of \$668,000, alternate #1 – Pitched roof for \$83,000; alternate #2 – City Hall façade for \$11,600; and alternate #3 – Generator for \$46,000. Councilman Wagner moved to accept the bid from BLS Construction for \$808,600. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

Tim Geisheidl, Architect, said construction should start in 2 to 3 weeks.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2009 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of January Financial Statement.

Councilman Schonenberg said the Item #13 in the Minutes should be R-1 instead of R-2 and R instead of R-1. Councilman Schonenberg moved to accept the consent agenda with the correction to the minutes. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

4. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.ⁱ

Citizens were asked to wait to speak until the Agenda Item they requested is discussed.

5. Discussion of City Manager's Report including Water Project, City Hall Relocation, River Status, Water Pumpage History, February Revenue Results, Economic Indicators, CCIDC Refinancing, Crockett Street House Demolition.

Mr. Meisell presented his City Manager's Report, which is attached to these minutes. Discussion focused on the proposed closure of the rail crossings at CR104 and Roundhouse Road. Pictures of rail crossing and maps of the areas were used to explain the concepts agreed to by the City, County, TXDOT, and Union Pacific. This discussion was the tenth time that this closure concept was heard in open session by either the City, County, or CCIDC.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 93-09 Setting Speed Limits on SH 71, South of IH 10 and Business 71, North of IH 10.

Mr. Meisell explained that TXDOT reviewed the City's proposal for reducing speed limits on Highway 71. TXDOT agreed to all the City's requests except for area south of the North River Bridge and south of Interstate 10. Mr. Meisell suggested Council approve the agreed upon speed limits. Councilman Wagner moved to approve Ordinance 93-09. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

Mr. Meisell said he has already asked TXDOT to review the speed limits on Highway 71, south of the North River Bridge. He will also ask them to review the speed limits on south of Interstate 10.

8. Discussion and Action Regarding the City's Involvement in the Railroad Grade Crossing Closures at FM 2104 and Roundhouse Crossing.

Mayor Heffley asked the Council if anyone had any additional comments relating to these closings. This item was discussed numerous times before. Councilman Wagner moved to reaffirm the Council's commitment to the closing of the railroad crossings at FM 2104 and Roundhouse Crossing. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

Discussion continued regarding the history of the Ag Complex, Fair Board, CCIDC, and the City.

9. Consideration and Action to Award Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenues.

Kaylee Brune with the Fair Board explained they are requesting \$7,500 for the 2009 Fair for advertising. Ms Brune said they figured hotel rooms were used on Friday of last year by about 60 people and on Saturday by 80-100. Mayor Heffley said that the Fair's P&L showed that the gate proceeds go to the Ag Complex to pay for loan at the First State Bank for the land purchase. Pam Potter also said the Fair hosted a music fest this summer and booked about 50 rooms for that. Councilman Tesch commented that the music fest advertised part of the proceeds would benefit the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department. To date, no funds have been received by the Fire Department.

Councilman Tesch moved to award the Colorado County Fair, \$7,500. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

Fausta Kaiser representing the Columbus FFA Alumni, is requesting funds for their annual cook-off. She said teams come from Houston and judges come from Austin and San Antonio. She said they fill about 12 rooms. Councilman Wagner moved to award the Columbus FFA Alumni \$1,000. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

Paulina Kearney and Pat Johnson were present representing the Live Oak Art Center's Juried Art Exhibit. This exhibit runs from May 15 through July 4, 2009. Artists within 150 miles are invited to exhibit their work. They hold a large opening where these exhibitors stay in the hotel rooms.

Councilman Wagner moved to award the Live Oak Art Center \$7,060 for their Juried Art Exhibit. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

10. **Consideration and Action to Send Request for a Change in Zoning for Properties located in an area bordered by or encompassed by: Hwy 90 on the north from Radio Lane to Cardinal Lane; thence on the east by Cardinal Lane from Hwy 90 to Montezuma Street; thence on the south by Montezuma Street from Cardinal Lane to Columbus Loop; thence on the west by Columbus Loop from Montezuma Street to Radio Lane, and by Radio Lane from Columbus Loop to Hwy 90. Street, from District R-1, Multi-Family, Apartment, Townhouse, or condominium District to District R, Single Family or Two-Family Residential District, as Petitioned by Property Owners within the above area, to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Recommendation and Report.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to send a request for change in Zoning for Properties located in an area bordered by or encompassed by: Hwy 90 on the north from Radio Lane to Cardinal Lane; thence on the east by Cardinal Lane from Hwy 90 to Montezuma Street; thence on the south by Montezuma Street from Cardinal Lane to Columbus Loop; thence on the west by Columbus Loop from Montezuma Street to Radio Lane, and by Radio Lane from Columbus Loop to Hwy 90. Street, from District R-1, Multi-Family, Apartment, Townhouse, or condominium District to District R, Single Family or Two-Family Residential District, as Petitioned by Property Owners within the above area, to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Recommendation and Report. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch and Wagner

The motion passed.

11. **Discussion of Police Report.**

Police Chief Danny Jackson presented his report for January 2009. Councilman Richardson asked about the graffiti in town. Chief Jackson said one person is already doing time for the offense.

Chief Jackson said a cycling group asked today to be allowed to have a bicycle race though town on Saturday, the same day as the FFA parade. The bicycle race will be earlier in the day.

12. **Items from Councilmembers.**²

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

13. **Announcements.**

Mayor Heffley asked that the appointing of a CCIDC member be put on the next agenda.

14. **Adjournment.**

Mayor Heffley adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

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.
