

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on **Thursday, March 12, 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.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices.

b. Approval of Minutes February 26, 2009 Regular Meeting.

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

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

The motion passed.

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoice from Curtiss Automotive.

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

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

The motion passed.

5. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.ⁱ

Libby Flint invited Council to the Nesbitt Memorial Library's 30th Anniversary on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, from 2:00-4:00pm. She said an archivist has been coming to the Library and going through information. Jim Smallwood, of the University of Oklahoma, will be hired by the Nesbitt Memorial Foundation for 4-5 months to help with archiving.

6. Discussion of City Manager's Report including Water Aeration Project, City Hall Demolition, River Status, Water Pumpage History, Economic Indicators, Oil Pollution to Sewer System, Ditch Cleaning, Swimming Pool Well Panel, Grade Crossing Upgrades, CCIDC Issues.

City Manager, David Meisell, presented his City Manager's Report, which is attached to these minutes. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Road Easement through the Ag Complex and the City's access to the Sewer Plant only, and not the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation's (CCIDC) 50 acres north of the Ag Complex. A CCIDC timeline of land transactions was discussed.

The Council also discussed the Warranty Deed of the 1.837 Acres where the Sewer Plant sits. It contains language in the deed where if the CCIDC (City) does not operate the Sewer Plant for a continuous period of twenty (20) years, the property will revert to the Colorado County Ag Complex. Mr. Meisell said a meeting has been set up for Monday, March 16th with the CCIDC, the City, the Ag Complex and the Fair Board to resolve these issues.

Mr. Meisell also said he had a pre-construction meeting with TXDOT for the light at Highway 71 and Houston and they will discuss an additional turn signal in the east/west lanes at Walnut and Highway 71.

7. Discussion and Action to Consider Land Exchange with the Columbus Independent School District.

Mr. Meisell said he has not received the final documents from the City Attorney. Councilman Tesch moved to table Agenda Item #7. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Purchase New Fire Department Siren and Relocate it to the Tait Water Plant.

Councilman Tesch moved to purchase a new 10.0 hp Fire Department Siren for \$12,714.00 and locate it at the Cardinal Hill Water Plant because alternate power (generator) is available. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance # 94-09 Garbage.

Mr. Meisell explained that this ordinance was due to the annual rate increase from the supplier, Texas Disposal System (TDS), which is reflected in the 2005 contract. One change is out of town garbage collection is deleted. TDS will provide and collect for service to out of town customers effective April 1, 2009. Councilman Wagner moved to approve Ordinance #94-09, setting garbage rates and eliminating service to out of town customers. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Mayoral Appointment of Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Board Member.

Mayor Heffley announced his appointment of Clifford Wenske to the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Board. Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Clifford Wenske to the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Board. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Send Request for a Change in Zoning at 1722 Milam Street, BLK 139, LT S-15 and 1736 Milam Street, BLK 139 LT PT S 12-14 from District R, Single-Family or Two-Family Residential to District P, Public Building or Public Use District, as Requested by the First Baptist Church, to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Recommendation and Report.

Mr. Meisell explained that the First Baptist Church was interested in acquiring the above-mentioned property. Councilman Wagner moved to send the request for a change in zoning at 1722 Milam Street, BLK 139, LT S-15 and 1736 Milam Street, BLK 139 LT PT S 12-14 from District R, Single-Family or Two-Family Residential to District P, Public Building or Public Use District, as Requested by the First Baptist Church, to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Recommendation and Report. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg expressed his concerns regarding a sidewalk on Montezuma Street. There is concern with vehicles going through the ditches in to the fields located on the south side of Montezuma at the Park. Mr. Meisell said the City would install a cable fence along this area to help with the problem.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Richardson – no comment

13. Announcements.

There were no additional announcements.

14. Adjournment.

Mayor Heffley adjourned the meeting at 9:15 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.

