

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, June 11, 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	-	Dwain Dungen
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
City Manager	-	David Meisell
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser
Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson

And the following absent:

Councilman	-	John Wagner
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1. Call to Order.

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices.

b. Approval of Minutes May 28, 2009 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the invoices. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg and Tesch.

Absent: Councilman Wagner

The motion passed.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the Minutes of the May 28, 2009 Regular Meeting. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg and Tesch.

Absent: Councilman Wagner

The motion passed.

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

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

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, and Tesch.

Abstain: Councilman Schonenberg

Absent: Councilman Wagner

The motion passed.

5. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**ⁱⁱⁱ

Nancy Stiles briefed Council on the Chamber's plans for a Children's Parade to be held on July 4th. The parade will begin on Spring Street at Travis, travel in front of the Opera House, turn right on Milam Street until Walnut and then turn around and go back. She said the parade will be led by Veterans and will be completely non-motorized.

Mayor Dungen then moved to Agenda Item #8.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Spring Street From Travis to Milam and Milam Street from Spring Street to Walnut Street for a Children's Parade sponsored by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, July 4, 2009 from 9:30 am until 10:30 am.**

Councilman Richardson moved to approve the closure of Spring Street from Travis to Milam and Milam Street from Spring Street to Walnut Street for a children's parade sponsored by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, July 4, 2009 from 9:30 am until 10:30am. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

6. **Discussion of City Manager's Report including City Hall Construction, Sewer Plant Renovations, River Status, Water Pumpage History, Economic Indicators, May Revenue Results, Council Meeting Times, Wage Compression, Upgrade of Rural Broadband Services, Legion Circle, Industrial Park Sewer Plant, Traffic Light, Priority of Issues for FY 2010, CCIDC Recent History, A Sobering Reminder.**

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

7. **Introduction of New Police Officer and Administer Oath of Office.**

John Cionek was introduced as the new Police Officer. Mayor Dungen administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Cionek.

Mayor Dungen recessed the meeting at 7:43 pm.

9. **Presentation and Discussion of Open Meetings Training.**

Mayor Dungen reopened the meeting. Due to technical problems the Open Meetings Training was not held.

10. **Items from Councilmembers.**²

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Richardson asked what is going on at CCIDC? Councilman Schonenberg said new members may be going on the Board. He explained to Councilman Richardson that everything except an issue to clean up the old Schulenberg Easement came through Council. Mayor Dungen suggested including the CCIDC minutes in the Council Packet.

Mayor Dungen said Council Schonenberg asked him to talk to the CCIDC about the beginning of the organization and what past happenings were at CCIDC. He said at the previous meeting, Councilman Wagner asked that this be discussed at a Council meeting and asked that this be put on an upcoming agenda. Mayor Dungen does not remember other Council members wanting to go that way. He says that that he only sees that by looking in to what happened before, 10 years ago, you would be dissecting what happened, looking for mistakes. He wants to know if any other Council members want to continue to discuss it. If so, he said, they would. If not, they would move on.

Councilman Tesch said he cares about what happened, but believes we must move forward. He said we cannot fix what happened before and must keep everything in front of the Council and moving forward like we should be in the right direction and not making any mistakes. Mayor Dungen said that we can only make the best decisions we can with the information we have. 10 years from now, people may question the decisions we are making now.

Councilman Schonenberg is concerned with standards of oversight. With oversight, some of the items that happened would not have. Having council look at everything will help. Mistakes were made, having another set of eyes will help. That was 10 years ago, and mistakes were made. Instead of looking back, he would like to move forward. However, having standards of oversight will help.

Councilman Axel said that as long as there is not an impression of wrongdoing, it is ok. Being wrong is making a mistake. He said that as long as the impression of being wrong and not clarifying is not going on, then everything is ok. There is oversight. Maybe someone should explain to them how it should work, about what can be done or not. He thinks it is now going fantastic.

Councilman Richardson said it is wise what Councilman Axel said. Councilman Schonenberg was right in his outline. He also agreed with Councilman Tesch that going back is a waste of time. He said that we would only go back to learn from our mistakes. He said that we should move forward.

11. Announcements.

Patti Glaeser said that Council Pictures will be on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 5:30 pm at the Live Oak Art Center.

12. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

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.
