

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, September 24, 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	-	John Wagner
City Manager	-	David Meisell
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser
Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson

And the following absent:

Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
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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 of September 10, 2009 Regular Meeting.**
- c. **Approval of August Financial Statement.**

City Manager, David Meisell, said another Invoice was added to the list of Invoices. It was an invoice for \$10,000 to TMRS to add a payment for the unfunded liability.

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

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

The motion passed.

The Mayor then moved to Agenda Item #14.

14. **Discuss and Consider Designation by Resolution # 64-09, Engineering and Administration Service Providers for the 2009 Texas Community Development Block Grant community Development/Recovery Fund Award. (City Mgr)**

Kelly Divins with GrantWorks in Austin, was present to discuss the proposal to provide administrative services to the City of Columbus for the Block Grant.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve Resolution # 64-09 authorizing John D. Mercer as the Engineering Provider, which was approved at the September 10, 2009 meeting and GrantWorks as the Administration Service Provider for the 2009 Texas Community Development Block Grant Community Development/Recovery Fund Award. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution # 65-09 to Designate Authorized Signators for the 2009 Texas CDBG Program. (City Mgr)

Councilman Richardson moved to approve Resolution #65-09 to designate the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and the City Secretary as authorized signators for the 2009 Texas CDBG Program. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.¹

Richard Heffley, former Mayor, thanked City Manager David Meisell for his service. He highlighted some of the projects Mr. Meisell undertook over the last five years. These included recognition of the water system problems, the sewer plant and lift stations remodel, the appointment of Danny Jackson, City Hall remodel, value to CCIDC, Visitor's Bureau, Glidden Fresh Water District, split of Great Southern Wood between the City and Glidden Fresh Water District. Mr. Heffley also said the word that describes Mr. Meisell is loyalty. Mr. Meisell has loyalty to himself, his job, his employees and to Mr. Heffley. Mr. Heffley presented Mr. Meisell with a plaque for his appreciation of Mr. Meisell's service.

5. Discussion of City Manager's Report including, Sewer Plant Renovations, City Hall, River Status, Water Pumpage History, Economic Indicators, Charter Street Sewer Repair, Seal Coating Project, Hotel Occupancy Tax Grants, A Contrasting Compliment.

Mr. Meisell presented his City Manager's report, which is attached to these minutes. As part of #5, Mr. Meisell discussed shopping bond rates to possibly refinance the CCIDC bonds and the 2008 Certificates of Obligation.

6. Public Hearing: Consideration of the City's Budget for all Operating Funds for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009. (City Mgr/Fin Dir)

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 7:25 pm. There were no comments. Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing at 7:26 pm.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance # 97-09 Adopting the City's Budget for all Operating funds for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2009. (City Mgr/Fin Dir)

Councilman Richardson moved to approve Ordinance #97-09, adopting the City 's Budget for all operating funds for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Ratify Budgeted Property Tax Increase reflected in the Proposed 2009-2010 Budget. (City Mgr/Fin Dir)

Councilman Schonenberg moved to ratify the budgeted property tax increase reflected in the 2009-2010 Budget. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. This Budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$5,959 or .99%, and of that amount, \$9,207 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the roll this year. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance # 98-09 to Establish the Property Tax Rate of \$.27312. (City Mgr/Fin Dir)

Councilman Axel moved to approve Ordinance #98-09 to approve that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.27312 per \$100 in valuation. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

The maintenance and operation rate is \$.21024 and the debt service rate is \$.06288. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$2.65.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance # 99-09 to Establish Water Rates. (City Mgr/Fin Dir)

Councilman Richardson moved to approve Ordinance #99-09 to establish water rates. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Water rates for the first 3,000 gallons remain at \$13.00 (minimum). The next 17,000 gallons is \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons; the next 15,000 gallons is \$3.15 per 1,000 gallons; over 35,000 gallons is \$3.40 per 1,000 gallons.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance # 100-09 to Establish Sewer Rates(City Mgr/Fin Dir)

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve Ordinance # 100-09 to establish sewer rates. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Sewer rates for the first 3,000 gallons remain at \$13.00 (minimum). The next 17,000 gallons is \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons; the next 15,000 gallons is \$2.75 per 1,000 gallons; over 35,000 gallons is \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons.

12. Consideration and Action to Award Bid for Bank Depository. (City Mgr)

Mr. Meisell explained the bids received for the Bank Depository. Bids were received from The First State Bank, Columbus State Bank and Industry State Bank. The bid from Industry State Bank contained an interest floor of 1.50%. Scenarios of the t-bill rates were discussed. Councilman Wagner moved to approve Industry State Bank as the City's depository from the period of November 1, 2009 through September, 2011 with a one year renewal option. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution # 63-09 – CCIDC.(Wagner)

The purpose of Resolution # 63-09 is to alleviate any potential conflict of interest in the mayor's appointment of members to the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Board (CCIDC). This resolution shall give all decision-making regarding Great Southern Wood Preserving Company to the City Council. Councilman Richardson moved to approve Resolution #63-09. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

16. Consideration and Action to Contract for Public Services between the City and Combined Community Action. (City Mgr)

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the contract for public services between the City and Combined Community Action. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

17. Consideration and Action to Contract for Public Services between the City and Family Crisis Center.(City Mgr)

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the contract for public services between the City and Family Crisis Center. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

18. Consideration and Action to Approve Engagement Letter from Wm Pierce Arthur for the 2009 Audit. (City Mgr/Fin Dir)

Councilman Axel moved to approve the engagement letter from Wm. Pierce Arthur for the 2009 financial audit. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

19. Consideration and Action to Approve Homecoming Parade and Bonfire Sponsored by the Cardinal Booster Club on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 7:00pm until 9:00 pm. (City Mgr)

Councilman Axel moved to approve the Columbus ISD Homecoming Parade and Bonfire sponsored by the Cardinal Booster Club on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. The parade route will begin as normally at the Elementary School and will end at the High School. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

20. Consideration and Action to Approve TML Interlocal Agreement. (City Mgr)

Councilman Axel moved to approve the TML Interlocal Agreement to provide benefits that are in the best interest of the City of Columbus, its employees, officials, and retirees and their dependents. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

21. Consideration and Action to Approve Library Budget Amendment for Lone Star Grant. (Alma Hilburn)

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the Library Budget Amendment for the Lone Star Grant in the amount of \$4,983. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

22. Discussion of August Police Report. (Chief Jackson)

Chief Jackson presented his August Police Report. Councilman Wagner asked about the wreck today in front of The First State Bank. Chief Jackson said he had two officers that may be leaving.

23. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government code, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney Regarding Glidden Fresh Water District and the Extension of the Sewer Processing Agreement between the City of Columbus and Glidden Fresh Water District which expires on September 30, 2009.

Mayor Dungen closed the regular session and entered into executive Session at 7:50 pm. The Executive Session closed at 8:25 pm.

24. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Glidden Fresh Water District and Consideration and Action Regarding and the Extension of the Sewer Processing Agreement between the City of Columbus and Glidden Fresh Water District which expires on September 30, 2009.

Mayor Dungen reconvened into regular session at 8:26 pm. with the same councilmembers present as before along with City Manager, David Meisell and City Secretary Patti Glaeser. Councilman Richardson moved that the City not extend the Contract with Glidden Fresh Water District for Sewer Processing and that the Sewer plant be shut down as soon as possible. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. Mayor Dungen reread the motion made and seconded as to not extend the request for the extension of the contract with the City and Glidden Fresh Water District and to shut down the sewer plant as soon as legally and as practically possible. Councilman Wagner asked if the motion should be expanded to say that the City will not initiate any negotiations with Glidden Fresh Water District. Any negotiations should be initiated by Glidden. Mayor Dungen said that everyone understood that. Councilman Richardson said any negotiations should be made through the respective attorneys. Councilman Schonenberg would like to amend the motion to only say that City will not renew the contract and not say anything about shutting the plant down. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion to amend the original motion. The vote to amend the motion was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

The vote on the amended motion, to not renew the contract was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

25. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Wagner thanked Mr. Meisell for his 5 years of service to the City of Columbus.

Councilman Schonenberg said the last 5 years have been a big learning experience for him. He said he has learned a lot about City government and he owes it to Mr. Meisell. He said the infrastructure improvements would not have been done as thoroughly if it hadn't been for Mr. Meisell. He said it has been a pleasure to serve with Mr. Meisell.

Councilman Axel said that sometimes some of us will whack this off to spite our face. Mr. Axel told Mr. Meisell "You're one of the best"! He said he would say this in front of God and Christ himself. He continued by telling Mr. Meisell if he could change it, he would.

Councilman Richardson said he didn't know what a city manager should be until he met David Meisell. He said the way Mr. Meisell runs thing and the cold heart intellect he has, is both humbling and amazing. He said he has learned a tremendous amount from Mr. Meisell. He said he really and truly appreciates him and could not have learned from anyone better.

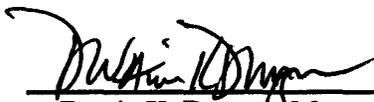
Mayor Dungen said he appreciates everything Mr. Meisell has done for the City and wishes him the best.

26. Announcements.

There were no additional announcements.

27. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.



Dwain K. Dungen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patti Glaeser, City Secretary

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.

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.
