

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring Street, Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Dwain Dungen
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel (Arrived at 6:35pm)
Councilman	-	John Wagner
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser

And the following absent:

Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
------------	---	-------------

Also City Staff present:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Utilities Superintendent	-	Wayne Karstadt
Hotel Tax Administrator	-	Melanie Appelt

1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He welcomed everyone to the new Council Chambers.

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 December 22, 2009 Regular Meeting.**

There were various questions regarding the invoices. Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

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

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

The motion passed.

5. **Consideration and Action to Approve Invoice from Bruce Tesch.**

Councilman Wagner moved to approve the invoice from Bruce Tesch. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Councilman Axel arrived at 6:35pm

6. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.ⁱ

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

7. City Manager Report including City Hall Construction, City Gas System, Charter Street Water Improvements, P&Z Changes, EECBG Grant Application, Austin Street Railroad Crossing, Glidden FWSD Wastewater Service Agreement Update, Library Director, City Hall Open House.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Dungen then moved to Agenda Item #9.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve 2009 Fire Department Report and Introduction of New Officers.

Bobby Walla, presented the 2009 Fire Department Report, which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Walla retired as Fire Chief at the beginning of January 2010. He introduced Walter Glaeser as the new Fire Chief.

He reminded the Council about the Fire Department's Stew Supper on Monday, January 18.

Mayor Dungen then moved to Agenda Item #11.

11. Discussion and Action regarding Railroad Crossing at Austin Street. (Schonenberg)

Councilman Schonenberg asked the council to look at options at this railroad crossing to make it safer for the citizens. Several options were discussed including raising the gradient and putting up barriers on the top. Councilman Axel voiced his concerns of the people living in the vicinity of Greater Smith Baptist Church. He said Back Street Crossing has been closed and Hwy 71 (Fannin) Crossing has been made into a one way crossing which make it difficult for those citizens to travel south.

Mr. Walla discussed the need for another fire hydrant at Back and Preston.

It was decided that Councilman Axel and Councilman Schonenberg get together with Mr. Warschak to discuss solutions to the Railroad Crossing problem including looking at putting up barricades on top.

8. Consideration and Action to Award Hotel Occupancy Tax Grants.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to award the following Hotel Occupancy Tax Grants:

Live Oak Art Center – Juried Art	\$ 9,354
Columbus Lions Club	\$ 3,000
Colorado County Fair Assn	\$10,000
Pilot Club of Columbus	\$ 500
Columbus FFA Alumni	\$ 1,500
Daughters of the Republic of Texas	\$ 900
Shropshire-Upton Chapter #361 UDC	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total	\$30,254

Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. . The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Since Councilman Tesch was not present at the meeting, the Council decided to wait until the next meeting to consider awarding grants to Columbus Chamber of Commerce , the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust and the Live Oak Art Center.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution # 71-10 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Resolution. (Glaeser)

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve Resolution # 71-10 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the City's Participation in the Columbus Trash Off Day, Sponsored by The Columbus Garden Club on April 10, 2010.

Marian Schonenberg asked the Council for support during the Columbus Trash Off Day scheduled for April 10, 2010. She asked that the City's maintenance yard be open 4 days prior to the Trash Off Day to allow citizens to deliver items earlier. She also asked the Council to participate in advertising through a photo ad. Ms. Schonenberg said because of these efforts, the City may qualify for a \$60,000 grant from the Parks and Wildlife for upgrading parks, etc.

Councilman Wagner moved to approve the City's participation in the Columbus Trash Off Day sponsored by The Columbus Garden Club on April 10, 2010. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Discussion and Action Regarding Request for Payroll Information to Satisfy GSW Promissory Note Dated April 2000. (Wagner)

Councilman Wagner would like to notify Great Southern Wood as to what payroll records the City will need when their \$400,000 note comes up. Councilman Wagner moved to authorize the City Attorney, Ty Prause, to write a letter to Great Southern Wood requesting particular payroll documents to be submitted to him. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve City of Columbus' Colorado County Central Appraisal District Representative for a two-year term. (Glaeser)

Councilman Schonenberg moved to re-approve Rhonda Schneider as the City's representative on the Colorado County Central Appraisal District for a two-year term. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

15. Discussion of November Police Report. (Jackson)

Chief Jackson presented his November Police Report, which is attached to these minutes.

16. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.072 – Deliberations about Real Property – Industrial Park Land Offer.

Mayor Dungen closed the regular session and entered into Executive Session at 7:37 pm.

17. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Industrial Park Land Offer.

Mayor Dungen reconvened into regular session at 7:55pm with the same council members present. He entertained a motion to approve a proposal for land sale in the Industrial Park by the Columbus Community Industrial and Development Corporation. Councilman Axel so moved. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

18. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Mayor Dungen asked Mr. Warschak to check into expanding the recycling center to take glass.

19. Announcements.

There were no additional announcements.

20. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Dwain K. Dungen, Mayor

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.
