

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, January 28, 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
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	John Wagner
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser

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.

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 January 14, 2010 Regular Meeting.**
- c. **Approval of November Financial Statement.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Axel 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.**<sup>i</sup>

Elizabeth Flint stated it was great to see the Council working together.

11. **Discussion and Action to Authorize Advertisement for Bids for 2010 Water Improvements as presented by John D. Mercer and Associates. (Warschak)**

David Sheblak, with John D. Mercer and Associates, summarized the proposed water improvement project. He estimated the Park Street project would cost about \$132,000 and the Charter Street project would cost around \$325,000 for a total of \$457, 000. The job will be awarded on February 25. Councilman Schonenberg moved to authorize the advertisement for bids for the 2010 water improvements as presented by John D. Mercer and Associates. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

5. **City Manager Report including City Hall Construction, City Gas System, Charter Street Water Improvements, Quarterly Revenue Update and Economic Indicators, TXDOT Area Changes, EECBG Grant Applications, Flood Plain Map Changes, City Hall Open House.**

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

6. **Consideration and Action to Award Hotel Occupancy Tax Grants.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to award the Chamber of Commerce, \$33,826.41 in Hotel Occupancy Funds and the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust \$32,919.59. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Public Hearing: Zoning Change for Section 14.02.732 (17).**

Mayor Dungen opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 pm. Mr. Warschak explained the ordinance is for a wording change in Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances, Industrial Uses. Mayor Dungen read the change. A copy of the ordinance is attached. The public hearing was closed at 7:32 pm.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 102-10, Zoning Change of Section 14.02.732 (17).**

Councilman Richardson moved to approve Ordinance 102-10, Zoning Change of Section 14.02.732. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Wagner  
Absent: Councilman Axel (Councilman Axel stepped out of Council Chambers for a brief time.)

The motion passed.

9. **Discussion and Action Regarding Railroad Crossing at Austin Street. (Schonenberg)**

Councilman Schonenberg stated that he, Councilman Axel and Mr. Warschak met to discuss the options and recommendations for the railroad crossing at Austin Street. Mr. Warschak recommends the City stop truck and trailer combination traffic from using the Austin Railroad crossing. They recommend control devices and fines to warn and prevent truck and trailer traffic from using this crossing. The committee also suggested that flashing lights are used and that they work with the businesses to ask that deliveries go around this crossing. Councilman Axel suggested that businesses get fined also if their delivery trucks get caught on the tracks. Councilman Tesch suggested the Police Chief go to the businesses and discuss the problem with them. Mayor Dungen suggested asking Management to come back to Council with the cost of the lights and what the maximum fine could be.

Councilman Tesch moved Agenda Item #9 be tabled until management brings back the figures. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. **Discussion and Action Regarding Thru-Truck Traffic Within the City of Columbus. (Tesch).**

Councilman Tesch asked if Thru-Truck traffic could be rerouted in the mornings. He has noticed big trucks traveling through town early in the morning, adding to the traffic. Mr. Warschak said TXDOT said that the route would have to be in the city limits. It was noted that most of the re-routes are out of the city limits. No action was taken.

12. **Consideration and Action to Provide Authorization to Survey Great Southern Wood Property for the Colorado County Central Appraisal District. (Warschak)**

Mr. Warschak said that in order for the Appraisal District to re-determine the percentage split of Great Southern Wood between Glidden Fresh Water District and the City of Columbus, Bill Mitchell of the

Appraisal District said the City would have to pay for a survey of the area. Councilman Axel so moved. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Discussion and Action Regarding Assisting other Entities with City Equipment. (Wagner)**

Councilman Wagner voiced his concern with the City helping Glidden Fresh Water District unclog a sewer line. Councilman Richardson said this could be a liability problem. Mayor Dungen said typically there would be an interlocal agreement for aid, such as mutual aid. The city does have a mutual aid agreement with other cities in the gas department to help in emergencies. Councilman Tesch said he had no problem helping the Cities of Eagle Lake and Weimar in case of emergencies. No action taken.

**14. Consideration and Action to Order Election for a General Municipal Election on Saturday, May 8, 2010 to Fill the Alderman Positions of 3, 4 and 5. (Glaeser)**

City Secretary, Patti Glaeser, reviewed the election calendar for the upcoming May 8<sup>th</sup> election. Councilman Axel moved to approve to order the General municipal election for Saturday May 8, 2010 to fill Alderman Positions of 3, 4, and 5. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**15. Discussion of December Police Report. (Jackson)**

Chief Danny Jackson presented his December Police Report, which is attached to these minutes. Councilman Richardson asked if there were any injury accidents. Chief Jackson said there were none.

**16. Discussion and Action Regarding Open Meetings Training. (Tesch)**

No action taken.

**17. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel voiced his concerns with children crossing the streets and railroad crossing at Rampart Street on their way to and from school. He said the children walk in the streets making it very dangerous. He said he and his grandson monitor the traffic and encourage the children to walk in the yards. He would like sidewalks and would be willing to pay for his. He would like city management to look at reopening the Back Street railroad crossing. Mr. Warschak explained that the City had begun this plan for safety at the Columbus Junior High, a few years ago. A plan was drawn up and a grant application for funding was submitted to 'Safe Route to School'. Unfortunately the grant was not approved. The program at the time was estimated at \$750,000.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch thanked everyone for coming.

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

Mayor Dungen thanked Ms. Glaeser and the staff.

**18. Announcements.**

There were no additional announcements.

**19. Adjournment.**

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

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Dwain K. Dungen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patti Glaeser, City Secretary

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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