

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, February 11, 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	-	John Wagner
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser

And the following absent:

Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
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Also City Staff present:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Utilities Superintendent	-	Wayne Karstadt
Utilities Foreman	-	Jody Ripper

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 28, 2010 Regular Meeting.**

Councilman Richardson had several questions. Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

5. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**<sup>i</sup>

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

6. **City Manager Report including City Gas System, Charter Street Water Improvements, TXDOT Drainage Project, EECBG Grant Application, Flood Plain Map Changes, Austin Street Railroad Crossing, Severe Weather Awareness Week, Standard & Poor's Rating, City Manager's Clinic.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak presented his City Manager's Report, which is attached to these minutes. Councilman Schonenberg asked Mr. Warschak if the City is still looking at redoing the gas system. Mr. Warschak replied that he would like to re-do the main City gate.

Councilman Wagner asked Mr. Warschak if he could look at the railroad tracks for visibility around vegetation. He said there appears to be vegetation in the City's right of ways. Mayor Dungen suggested giving the land owners the opportunity to clear the vegetation before the city clears it. Councilman Wagner also asked Mr. Warschak if the City has pursued the railroad "quiet zones". Mr. Warschak will look into it. Councilman Wagner also thanked Chief Jackson for slowing down traffic at the North River Bridge.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve a Request by the Columbus FFA Alumni to close Milam Street from Jackson Street to Walnut Street; and to Close Walnut Street from Milam Street to Legion Drive; for Approximately One and One-Half Hours Beginning at 11:00am Saturday, February 27, 2010 for the annual FFA Parade.**

Councilman Richardson moved to approve a request by the Columbus FFA Alumni to close Milam Street from Jackson Street to Walnut Street; and to Close Walnut Street from Milam Street to Legion Drive; for Approximately One and One-Half Hours Beginning at 11:00am Saturday, February 27, 2010 for the annual FFA Parade. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Milam Street on Saturday, March 6, 2010 between Walnut and Spring Street Beginning around 5:00 pm until 11:00 pm for the Texas Independence Relay.**

Jay Hilscher with the Texas Independence Relay was present to discuss the request. He said this is the third year to have the relay which celebrates Texas history. He said 150 teams are expected to participate with each leg running about 5 miles. Councilman Axel moved to approve closure of Milam Street on Saturday, March 6, 2010 between Walnut and Spring Street beginning around 5:00 pm until 11:00 pm. for the Texas Independence Relay. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Discussion and Action Regarding Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Bylaw change, Article III, Section 3.02, Number, Qualification and Service of Directors.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Bylaw change, Article III, Section 3.02, Number, Qualification and Service of Directors. This eliminates any business affiliations. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Discussion and Action Regarding the 2010 City Budget.**

Mr. Warschak and Patti Glaeser discussed sales tax revenue decrease since September 30, 2009 and the overall revenue budget shortfall. Mr. Warschak said one thing the City might consider is to postpone the seal coating project of \$100,000 until later in the year or possibly wait until next year. Another area to look at would be the Sweetbriar Extension which is budgeted at \$130,000. The Council voiced their desire to obtain the easement and wait until later to actually extend Sweetbriar Lane. Council requested the cool deck project at the swimming pool remain in the Budget.

Ms. Glaeser discussed the 2010 Budget Summary that shows a \$218,000 deficit in the General Fund and a \$232,000 surplus in the Utility Fund. A fund transfer into the general fund from the utility fund will be presented at the next meeting.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 72-10 Police Resolution for the BJA FY 09 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Local Solicitation.**

Councilman Axel moved to Approve Resolution 72-10, Police Resolution for the BJA FY 09 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Local Solicitation. This resolution changes the approval authority to the City Manager. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Sale of Surplus City Property at Public Auction.**

The City is requesting to sell surplus city Property at public auction to be held at the City Maintenance Building. (This auction will be held from Thursday, February 18, 2010 until February 26, 2010. Bids will be opened March 1, 2010.) A list of the property is attached. Councilman Schonenberg so moved. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Approve Budget Amendment for Library Memorials.**

Councilman Richardson moved to approve a budget amendment for Library Memorials for \$1,000 to be used for office supplies – a copy machine. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

A copy of the budget amendment is attached.

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

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel discussed the Safe Route to School program with Mr. Warschak and Ms. Glaeser and the school. He would like a cost estimate on an overhead metal rack above the train crossing.

Councilman Schonenberg commended Shannon Gerik, a teacher at Columbus Elementary School for initiating a recycling program at the school. He would like to recognize her and her gifted and talented students and perhaps the Student Council.

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

15. **Announcements.**

There were no additional announcements.

16. **Adjournment.**

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:20 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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