

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, July 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Dwain Dungen
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
Assist. City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Utilities Superintendent	-	Wayne Karstadt

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Dwain 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 June 24, 2010 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of May 2010 Financial Statements.

After Council received clarification on several invoices and changed a word in the minutes, 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 Rankin

The motion passed.

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

Councilman Rankin moved to approve the invoice from Curtiss Automotive. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin  
Abstain: Councilman Schonenberg

The motion passed.

**5. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

Martha Jordan thanked the mayor for his letter to the editor urging citizens to make Columbus more beautiful. She then told Council that on July 2<sup>nd</sup> she was traveling on Montezuma St. when the car in front of her ran over and killed the duck family at the golf course. She stated that the vehicle was speeding and that the speed limit on that street is often disregarded. She also stated that cars are driving too fast thru the Memorial Oaks subdivision. She would like to see signs at the entrance to the subdivision saying that there are no thru streets and that children are playing.

**6. City Manager Report Including Charter Street Water Improvements, EECBG Grant Application, Economic Indicators, Austin Street Railroad Crossing, Harris County Radio System Access Agreement, City Secretary, Colorado County Appraisal District Budget.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes. He also told Council that the EECBG Grant contract was signed and sent to the state on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Discussion and Action Regarding Placing Vehicular Traffic Signs at the Intersection of Washington and Prairie Street.**

Donald Warschak showed a map of the existing stop signs in the area of the Elementary School. The intersection discussed currently has a two way stop on Prairie St. He stated that making the intersection a four way stop would duplicate signage on the southern side of the school. Councilman Schonenberg pointed out that the intersection where Jackson Street and Prairie intersect currently only has stop signs on Prairie Street. He would also like to see a four way stop at that intersection to slow traffic down before it gets to the school.

Councilman Richardson made a motion that an ordinance be prepared to place four way stops at the intersections of Washington and Prairie and of Jackson and Prairie. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Discussion and Action Regarding the Harris County Radio Access System & the Colorado County Computer Aided Dispatch System.**

Donald Warschak explained to Council that since the June 10th meeting at which they had approved pursuing an agreement with Harris County to access their communications systems using the Police Department's new Mobile Digital Terminals, it has been discovered that the Colorado County is updating their computer software. Colorado County, which dispatches Columbus Police Department calls, will now be able to provide the same services as Harris County locally, and in addition will be able to download additional information to the patrol units. The cost of the Harris county option would be \$7.50 per unit while the Colorado County option would be \$30 per unit but the licenses are only sold in bundles of 5 so with seven patrol units the city would need to purchase two bundles. Von Beals who represents the County's software provider was on hand to answer questions. Mr. Beals was asked what additional services could be provided by Colorado County. He stated that the current system dispatches entirely by voice. The new system will have the capability of additionally dispatching by computer and that all dispatch information will go to the patrol vehicles. It will provide the capability for communications by computer from vehicle to vehicle and from vehicle to dispatch. It also supports the use of GPS. There is also the capability, with the purchase of additional software, of downloading dispatch information to the City's computers to facilitate the preparation of police reports.

Councilman Axel asked Police Chief Danny Jackson what his preference would be. He replied that he would like to go with Colorado County since they dispatch for the City. Councilman Rankin suggested that the City piggyback with the County in the purchase of bundles so that extra, unused licenses are not required to be purchased. Mr. Beals told Council that the County would be going live on the dispatch portion of the system on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Dungen pointed out that if the City is able to work with the County in purchasing licenses, their system will cost the City approximately \$1,900 more per year than Harris County. If not, the extra cost would be almost \$3,000 more per year. Mayor Dungen stated that it appeared the consensus was that it was the optimal move to stay with the Colorado County system.

Councilman Rankin made the motion to rescind the prior action to approve an interlocal agreement with Harris County for use of its public safety radio system and to join the Colorado County computer aided dispatch system instead. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel – stated that he wanted to ask City employees to stop sending people who want to know about burial in the City Cemetery to Henneke Funeral Home. He said that Mr. Henneke does not have burial information for the cemetery. Mr. Axel said that it appears that no one has records of burials in the City Cemetery and that he would like to get someone to contact persons with families buried in the cemetery to try to document the known graves.

Councilman Schonenberg – stated that he and Donald Warschak had visited with people at Quickrete to discuss the possibility of the City providing them with gas service. It appears that they are interested and that they are now working on what volumes would be required. He stated that the plant may have 30 new jobs coming.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

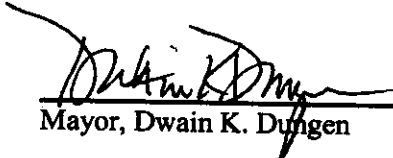
Mayor Dungen – offered his condolences to Councilman Axel and his family for the loss of his son.

10. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

11. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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Linda Lakich, Assist. 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.