

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, October 14, 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
City Secretary	-	Cathy Ezell

Other City Staff present included:

Utilities Superintendent - Wayne Karstadt

**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 23, 2010 Regular Meeting, and of September 28, 2010 Special Meeting.

After Council received clarification on some of the invoices Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Richardson 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 invoices from Curtiss Automotive.**

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve invoices from Curtiss Automotive. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin

Abstain: Councilman Schonenberg

The motion passed.

**5. Citizen's presentation and comments.<sup>1</sup>**

There were no Citizen's presentations or comments.

**6. City Manager report.**

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

Councilman Axel asked what would have to be done to raise the fine for vehicles getting stuck on the railroad tracks.

Donald Warschak stated that he had spoken to Judge Peters and the maximum fine is \$500 since the violation is a traffic fine. To increase the fine the ordinance would have to be changed.

Councilman Rankin asked if it was possible to charge for costs incurred for closing the railroad tracks.

Councilman Tesch stated that it might be possible to make that intersection a no through truck traffic.

**7. Consideration and action to approve the Street Proposal as presented by Columbus Elementary School.**

Assistant Principal, Shawn Hagel with Columbus Elementary School presented a proposal to zone off a portion of Washington Street to Bowie Street and close the remaining portion of Bowie Street to traffic from 3:20 pm to 3:40 pm Monday thru Friday. He stated that there is a crossing guard at the intersection of Washington Street and Bowie Street, however people are still trying to cut in line on Washington, and this is a safety hazard to the children.

Mayor Dungen stated that this channeling would leave Washington Street open and make Bowie Street one-way for twenty (20) minutes. He also stated that this would only affect one resident on Bowie Street.

Councilman Tesch asked if cones could just be run up Bowie Street without closing the street.

Councilman Axel asked if the Elementary School had tried this before.

Mr. Hagel stated that it was tried for one day and that there were no complaints.

Councilman Schonenberg stated that the situation was a safety issue and suggested talking to the resident on Bowie Street to prevent any conflicts.

Mayor Dungen stated that this proposal could be authorized for thirty (30) days to see how it would work.

Councilman Rankin stated that the resident on Bowie Street would need to be notified in advance of the the street closure.

Mr. Hagel stated that he would notify the resident on Bowie Street and he would also have to notify the parents of the changes. He stated that this would mean the street closures could not begin until next week.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize Columbus Elementary School to take action to control traffic on Bowie Street from 3:20 pm to 3:40 pm Monday thru Friday after notifying the resident on Bowie Street for a thirty (30) day trial period. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and action to approve the closure of Wallace Street from the corner of Wallace Street and Live Oak Street to the corner of Wallace Street and Bowie Street for the St. Anthony's Annual Halloween Carnival from 5:00 pm on October 30, 2010 to 9:00 am on October 31, 2010.**

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the closure of Wallace Street from the corner of Wallace Street and Live Oak Street to the corner of Wallace Street and Bowie Street for the St. Anthony's Annual Halloween Carnival from 5:00 pm on October 30, 2010 to 9:00 am on October 31, 2010. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and action to approve the street closure in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm on October 31, 2010.**

Councilman Richardson made a motion to approve the street closure in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm on October 31, 2010. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and action to approve Ordinance No. 112-10 an ordinance annexing 2.09 acres of land in the Elizabeth Tumlison League Abstract No. 44 Colorado County, Texas.**

Mayor Dungen stated that this Ordinance would annex the Industry State Bank property.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 112-10 an ordinance annexing 2.09 acres of land in the Elizabeth Tumlison League Abstract No. 44 Colorado County, Texas. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Review and discuss the City of Columbus Investment Policy.**

City Secretary, Cathy Ezell stated that as part of the Public Funds Investment Act the City's Investment Policy has been reviewed annually. She also stated that she had two recommended changes to the policy; the first being removing the as attached as "Exhibit B for the Public Funds Investment Act, Chapter 2256, of the Texas Government Code" because a copy of the Texas Government Code is available; the second being adding regional broker/dealers to the authorized financial dealers. She stated that this change needed to be made because the current policy only allowed for primary dealers who are only associated with banks and that there was not a bank in the area that offered broker/dealer services.

**12. Consideration and action to approve Resolution No. 81-10 a resolution adopting the City of Columbus Investment Policy.**

Mayor Dungen stated that this resolution would approve the Investment Policy with the changes discussed.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 81-10 a resolution adopting the City of Columbus Investment Policy. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and action to approve the City of Columbus Broker/Dealer list.**

City Secretary, Cathy Ezell stated that the Investment Policy required that a list of five broker/dealers be approved. She stated that she had worked with three of the brokers before, the fourth broker was one recommended by numerous cities and the last dealer was recommended by Industry State Bank, the City's current depository.

Mayor Dungen stated that this list could be adjusted at anytime.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the City of Columbus Broker/Dealer list. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**14. Review, discuss, and take action as necessary on the City of Columbus Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy.**

City Secretary, Cathy Ezell stated that currently the City did not have a fixed asset policy. She then stated that this policy would set forth the guidelines for capitalizing assets by defining an asset as an item that has a useful life of three (3) years and a value of \$1,000 or more. She also stated that it would set forth the useful life schedule for assets and the procedures for disposing of assets. She stated that staff was preparing to do an inventory of the current assets as described in the policy.

Councilman Rankin stated that this policy is for accounting purposes. He asked why \$1,000 was used.

Cathy Ezell stated that the \$1,000 is currently the amount used to capitalize assets.

Councilman Rankin stated that it should be increased to at least \$5,000 if not \$10,000.

Mayor Dungen agreed with Councilman Rankin about increasing the capitalization threshold.

Cathy Ezell stated that she would recommend \$5,000 as the capitalization threshold. She then stated that she would make the recommended changes and bring the policy back for adoption.

No action was taken.

**15. Review, discuss, and take action if necessary on the review of the City of Columbus Policy and Procedures Manual.**

City Secretary, Cathy Ezell stated that the current Policy and Procedures Manual had not been review since 2003 and that the section concerning health insurance needed to be updated due to the changes in the health insurance laws.

Mayor Dungen suggested that the Employee Grievance Committee, Councilman Schonenberg and Councilman Richardson, review the policy with staff and come back to Council with recommendations.

Councilman Rankin asked that all Council members be given copies of the policy.

No action was taken.

**16. Consideration and action to approve a schedule for City Council meetings for November 2010 and December 2010.**

Mayor Dungen stated that both of the regular Council meetings Thursday, November 11, 2010 and Thursday, November 23, 2010 were holidays. He recommended that the meetings be moved to Tuesday, November 9, 2010 and Tuesday, November 23, 2010. He then stated that the regular meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2010 would not have any conflicts but the meeting on Thursday, December 23, 2010 would need to be changed. He recommended a noon meeting on Monday, December 20, 2010.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for City Council meeting for November 2010 and December 2010 with the meetings being held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at 6:30 pm, Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 6:30 pm, and Monday, December 20, 2010 at 12:00 noon. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

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

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – stated that he is concerned about the Austin Street railroad crossing and would like an item on a future agenda to address this issue.

Councilman Tesch – stated that he may not be present at the October 28, 2010.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

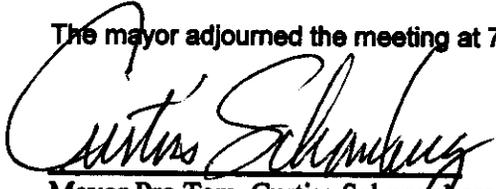
Mayor Dungen – stated that he will not be present at the October 28, 2010 meeting.

**18. Announcements.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak stated that he would be out October 19, 2010 and October 20, 2010 for Public Funds Investment training.

**19. Adjournment.**

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.



Mayor Pro Tem, Curtiss Schonenberg

ATTEST:



Cathy Ezell, 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.