

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, May 26, 2011 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch (Absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

City Attorney	-	Pat Gillespie
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**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. Administer the Oath of Office to the Newly Elected City Officials**

City Secretary, Linda Lakich, administered the oaths of office to Mayor Dwain Dungen, Councilman John Axel and Councilman Steve Woodall. Councilman Woodall took his place on council at 6:35pm.

**4. Consideration and Action to Appoint a mayor pro tem.**

Mayor Dungen asked that Councilman Schonenberg continue to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Rankin made a motion to appoint Curtiss Schonenberg as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**5. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2011 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

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

All of the citizens who signed in to speak wanted to do so when further agenda items came up.

**7. City Manager Report.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes. In addition, he informed Council that the alarm in the library had gone off that afternoon and that the halon system had been activated and the fire department called out. There was no fire and the alarm company is coming out to see what the problem is.

**8. Public hearing on the property located at 1109 Travis Street, Block 13 LT 1, 2, 5, 6 that has been determined to be in violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.**

Mayor Dungen explained that this is the old Mays Hotel property. Michael Petter who is the property owners' representative addressed Council stating that the owner is the Mildred Campbell Estate and Trust. They have tried unsuccessfully to sell the property and now wish to demolish the hotel but the 30 day time frame is too short. Gerald Heintschel who will take down the building has told them that it will be safest to first remove the old gas station and gas tanks next to the hotel property. The owners also want to take out two homes and a duplex at the back of the property so that they will be better able to sell the entire property for commercial development. He stated that they would need 30 days to notify the current tenants of the houses and to remove any additional antiques from the hotel. He said that it will then take an additional 90 days to demolish, excavate and remove all debris. Councilman Rankin asked if they had been contacted about preserving the old bar that is inside the hotel. Mr. Petter said that they had not, and Councilman Rankin said that he would have an interested party contact him.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:45pm.

**9. Consideration and action on the property located at 1109 Travis Street, Block 13 LT 1, 2, 5, 6 that has been determined to be in violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to allow the property owners to follow the submitted plan of action and to give them until the October 13, 2011 Council meeting for completion. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve Manufactured Home Permit.**

Brandy Young, the applicant, was at the meeting to answer any questions. Mayor Dungen stated that the application for the manufactured home at 1231 Preston has been to the Board of Adjustments and that the Board has granted a variance for the set backs on the front and back yards. After clarification that the property is in the area where manufactured homes are allowed, Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the permit application. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and action on approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2010.**

Mayor Dungen explained that the Financial Report had been handed out to Council at the last meeting, and he asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2010. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 92-11 Authorizing Designated Signators for the City's Depository and Other Financial Institutions.**

Mayor Dungen explained that since we are down one person who normally signs, this is to add the mayor as a third signator available to the signature cards on the bank accounts.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 92-11 designating signators for the City's Depository and other financial institutions. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed

**13. Consideration and action on approval of a Budget Amendment for the demolition of substandard buildings.**

Mayor Dungen said that this topic had been discussed at the last Council meeting. Council was told that if four properties were to be demolished that \$12,875 additional funds would be needed to do so. This budget amendment would make the funds available to complete four demolitions. Mayor Dungen explained that there is a possibility that some of the funds would not be needed.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the budget amendment for an additional \$12,875 for the demolition of substandard buildings. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

Since Police Chief Danny Jackson was not able to be at the meeting yet, Mayor Dungen moved to item #15 on the agenda.

**15. Consideration and action on Ordinance No. 120-11, an Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, Article 4.02 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances, adding Section 4.02.004; Prohibiting the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in or on City-owned premises and facilities.**

Leon Dittmar addressed Council. He explained that he had been with the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years. He explained that the ordinance banning alcohol on all City premises would have some effects that the Council may not have considered. It would affect functions such as the Spring festival where functions are held in City streets, functions held at the Library meeting room, the golf course in addition to social functions at the fire station. He asked that Council study the proposed ordinance and its effects longer and consider other options. He stated that he was afraid if the ordinance was passed that the City would have to go to a paid fire department.

Bob Berger addressed Council explaining that he has been with the fire department for more than 34 years and that he was asked to speak for Fire Chief Glaeser because he was on a call and could not make the meeting. Mr. Berger said that when the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem came to the Fire Meeting and told them about the Ordinance, that it hit them like a bomb shell and that morale fell. He told Council that La Grange has a policy of no alcohol but with an exemption for the Fair Grounds and the Fire Station. He stated that it was an issue of personal responsibility with the firemen and that they do a lot of work at the fire station which saves the City money. He asked Council to table this ordinance and consider a policy of no alcohol on city premises but with an allowance at certain functions, for example socials and the stew supper. He felt that more discussion was needed with the fire department members.

Mayor Dungen thanked the Fire Department members. Councilman Rankin said that he thought Council should explore the legal aspects especially of allowing alcohol on a limited basis at fairs/festivals and at the library.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to table the Ordinance No. 120-11. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**16. Executive Session: In accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.086, Economic Development.**

Mayor Dungen adjourned the meeting to enter executive session at 7:10pm.

**17. Reconvene into Regular Session and consideration and action, if any, regarding Executive Session, Economic Development.**

Mayor Dungen reconvened into regular session at 7:40pm. He entertained a motion to concur with CCIDC in the direction in which they are moving in negotiations. Councilman Axel so moved. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

Mayor Dungen moved to item #14.

**14. Discuss and take action if necessary on April 2011 Police Report.**

Since Chief Jackson could not be at the meeting, Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to table the April 2011 Police Report. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed

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

Councilman Woodall – None

Councilman Axel – None

Councilman Schonenberg – Welcomed the new Council members

Councilman Rankin – Welcomed the new Council members

Mayor Dungen – Welcomed the new Council members

**19. Announcements.**

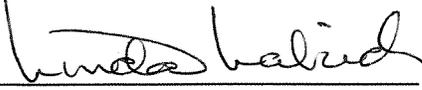
Donald Warschak invited everyone to Code Enforcement Official, Jerry Krenek's retirement party.

**20. Adjournment.**

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:45p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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Linda Lakich, 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.

