

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

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|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Mayor | - | Dwain Dungen (left at 7:22 p.m.) |
| Mayor Pro Tem | - | Curtiss Schonenberg |
| Councilman | - | Steve Woodall |
| Councilman | - | John Axel |
| Councilman | - | Bruce Tesch (Absent) |
| Councilman | - | Chuck Rankin (Arrived at 6:46 p.m.) |
| City Manager | - | Donald Warschak |
| City Secretary | - | Linda Lakich |

Other City Staff present included:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| Utilities Director | - | Jody Ripper |
| Police Chief | - | Danny Jackson |
| Fire Chief | - | Walter Glaeser |

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item 5 on the Agenda.

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Everyone signed up for Citizens' comments wanted to speak on Item 11 or Item 8.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item 11 on the Agenda.

11. Consideration and Action on Kerry R. Gilbert Study.

Lori An Gobert, representing Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corp. (CCIDC) addressed Council stating that CCIDC had discussed the Kerry R. Gilbert Study and what to do with it. She said that CCIDC would like to hear from Council what the next step is with the study in order to move forward with it. Mayor Dungen said that Council has started by forming an ad hoc committee to work on the Historic District. The Focus Group is taking on the gateways and thoroughfares in addition to tourism. The Planning & Zoning Commission will be looking at zoning. Council will be looking at weedy lots and cleaning up town, along with overlay districts, and annexation opportunities. The Mayor said that he didn't want to become too restrictive. Ms. Gobert told Council that funding is available from CCIDC. Councilman Woodall said that the Historic Commission Committee had met and that Laura Ann Rau had given them some information on what had been done in the past. He said that they are looking at a possible ordinance. Councilman Schonenberg said that he is excited about getting the Highway 71 corridor cleaned up.

Cheryl Cook addressed Council saying that she had a different point of view. She thanked them for the clean up over the last weekend, but said that they are making citizens' lives more difficult and expensive. She said that making the changes in the Kerry R. Gilbert Study will run off regular people and that only the rich will be able to live in the city. (Councilman Rankin arrived at 6:46 p.m.) Ms. Cook asked Council to let people enjoy their property. She also said that she was opposed to developing the river and that the city should leave it to LCRA and the birds. Councilman Woodall explained that Council is trying to improve the City and does not intend to make it too expensive to live in.

No action was taken. Mayor Dungen moved to Item 8.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund Grants for 2011-2012.

Mayor Dungen said that ten applications for Hotel Occupancy Tax Grants had been received and that each applicant would have time to address Council and answer any questions. He said that the decisions on granting funds would be made at the next Council meeting.

Sonya Saul from the Shropshire-Upton Chapter of the UDC addressed Council thanking them for their support in the past. She said that the museum is available for tourists and that everyone notices the tower on the square. Mayor Dungen said that the museum offers support of other tourist events throughout the year.

Lori An Gobert from the Pilot Club said that they are requesting funds for their 5K fun run in April. She said that they will be trying to get more people from Houston & Galveston to attend.

Nancy Stiles from the Chamber of Commerce addressed Council concerning the Live Oak Festival. She said that they are trying to resurrect the Festival with a move to the first weekend in November and an emphasis on the history of Columbus. She said that they will be coordinating with the library's Live Oaks and Dead Folks event and that a Homes Tour will be included.

Joel Usher with the Community Empowerment Center told Council that they would like to host a three-day conference which would focus on family, youth, and nutrition. They would use one of the hotels as a host and the conference is planned for the first weekend in June. He said that they would like to make the conference a yearly event and would like to use it to build the community. Councilman Rankin explained to him that the funds are disbursed by the City as a reimbursement.

Charlotte Tilotta from the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust (CHPT) thanked Council for their past support. She said that without HOT funds that they would not be able to take care of some of the larger projects for the upkeep of the Opera House. She said that this year they will be painting the exterior and replacing carpet and blinds. She said that they had given Council a letter requesting an additional \$10,000 over their original request of \$34,300 because they have found that the cost of the exterior work will be more than originally estimated.

The Mayor left the meeting at 7:22 p.m. and the Mayor Pro-Tem, Curtiss Schonenberg, took over the meeting.

The Columbus Lions Club requested \$3,000 for advertising their Rolling Hills Challenge Bike Ride. A representative was not present.

Rusty Theut with the Columbus FFA Alumni told Council that their request is for advertising their June BBQ Cook-Off. They would like to expand their marketing this year.

Kim Dyer was present to answer any questions concerning the Colorado County Fair's request for \$15,000 for marketing.

Kim Dyer was also representing the Chamber of Commerce which operates the City's Visitors Center at the Opera House. She thanked Council for their support in the past and said that the Chamber is requesting \$40,300 for the upcoming year. Councilman Rankin told her that he would like to see them request more for funding and be able to do more. Councilman Woodall said that he had stopped at a State Visitors Center and that there were no brochures for Columbus. Ms. Dyer said that the Chamber sends brochures to the State Centers and that they must have been out.

Lori An Gobert from the Live Oak Art Center said that they want to advertise their events more. Their request for the current year has increased because of that and because they are losing some funding due to budget cuts at the Texas Commission on the Arts. She said that in addition to exhibitions, they also host workshops and weddings at the Art Center.

The Mayor Pro-Tem said that HOT funding would be awarded at the November 10th Council meeting. City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, said that she had looked at all of the applications and that they all meet the criteria for receiving HOT grants.

No action was taken. The Mayor Pro-Tem moved to item 3 on the agenda.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of invoices.
- b. Approval of minutes of October 13, 2011 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of August 2011 Financial Statements.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Approval of B & D Services, Inc. Invoices.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the invoice from B & D Services, Inc. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

The Mayor Pro-Tem moved to Item 6 on the Agenda.

6. City Manager's Report including Heavy Garbage Pickup, Water Usage, Texas Crossroads Business Park Water Tower, Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, and 2011 Street Improvements.

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

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Library Advisory Board Member.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the appointment of Chris Stein to the Library Advisory Board. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

The Mayor Pro-Tem moved to Item 9 on the agenda.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 98-11 Adopting the City of Columbus Investment Policy.

Finance Director, Linda Lakich, explained that the City's Investment Policy must be adopted each year as required by State Law. She said that the changes that were made this year were ones that are required by that law. Councilman Woodall asked if the City Attorney had looked at the policy. Ms. Lakich said that she had not.

Councilman Rankin said that Council could approve the policy with the stipulation that the City Attorney give it her approval. Councilman Axel so moved. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Designate the City's Official Newspaper.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to designate the *Colorado County Citizen* as the City's Official Newspaper. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

The Mayor Pro-Tem moved to Item 12 on the agenda.

12. Consideration and Action if Necessary on the September 2011 Police Report.

Police Chief, Danny Jackson, presented his September 2011 Police Report, a copy of which is attached.

No action was necessary.

13. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – thanked those who participated in the Fall Trash-Off.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

14. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

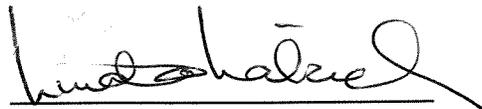
15. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro-tem adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, City Secretary

¹During 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.

²Limited 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.