

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, December 8, 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	-	Steve Woodall (Absent)
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch (Absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein

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.

3. Consent Agenda.

- a. Approval of invoices.
- b. Approval of minutes of November 28, 2011 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Nancy Lytle told council that she is a resident of Columbus and a dog owner. She said that she thinks that it is terrible that pet owners can leave a dog outside in the cold or heat on a chain. She said that you can see the mistreatment of animals in Columbus every day. When she checked on a dog that lives on a chain near Brookshire Brothers, she found that his bottom jaw was torn. She said the Animal Control Officer, Butch Schmidt, has tried to catch pit bulls that live near-by and run loose, but he has not had any success. The owner of the injured dog would not take it to the vet so Ms. Lytle did so. She asked Council to consider what they are going to do about the mistreatment of animals.

5. City Manager's Report including Sales Tax, HGAC Hazardous Household Waste Grant Application, and SECO Grant Project.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes. He told Council that sales tax receipts were down from one year ago. He also said the Butch had been able to catch four dogs that afternoon in the area where Ms. Lytle was.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street between Travis and Milam Streets on Friday, December 30, 2011 for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce Program and Laser Show Honoring County Firefighters.

Kim Dyer with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce told Council that the Chamber along with HEB is sponsoring a Laser Light Show and a program to honor Colorado County Firefighters on December 30, 2011. They anticipate

a large crowd and would like to have Spring Street from Milam to Travis closed on that night from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. She said that they have contacted the County and received approval.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the closure of Spring Street between Travis and Milam Streets on Friday, December 30, 2011 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for a Laser Light Show and program honoring local firefighters. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund Grants for 2011-2012 – Community Empowerment Center.

Mayor Dungen said that because two councilmen were not at the meeting, he would recommend that they put off making a decision on the funding of the HOT grant for Community Empowerment so that they can discuss the grant.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

8. Public Hearing: Tax Tangible Personal Property in Transit.

Mayor Dungen opened the Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m.

The Mayor told everyone that this tax is on inventory used in manufacturing and held at a location in the City which is owned by someone other than the owner of the inventory. He explained that if the City does not tax this inventory, it will not be taxed at all. The City has taxed this property since 2007 but new legislation requires that a new ordinance be passed if it wishes to continue to do so.

After a question from the public about a value added tax, Mayor Dungen replied that this is a property tax not a value added tax. There were no other comments from the public.

Mayor Dungen closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance #130-11 to Tax Tangible Personal Property in Transit.

After Councilman Rankin requested more information for the future on how the Appraisal District determines values and to who inventory belongs, Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Ordinance #130-11 to Tax Tangible Personal Property in Transit. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution No. 99-11 to Support a Regional Household Hazardous Waste & Reusable Materials Collection Event for the Citizens of Colorado County.

Mayor Dungen explained that this is an event to collect hazardous materials in homes and that the City has been trying to get such an event for a long time. Donald Warschak said that the County will be in charge of requesting grant funds and also of organizing the event. It would probably be held at the Fair Grounds next fall. He also said

that most of the City's match on the grant would be in-kind. The total budget for the project would be approximately \$47,000 with about \$12,500 to be matched.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution # 99-11 to support a regional Household Hazardous Waste & Reusable Materials Collection Event. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action if Necessary on the November 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report.

Code Inspection Officer, Ford Stein, presented his November 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Councilman Rankin asked him if he could add the addresses on the Building Permits issued. Ford said that he would do so.

No action was necessary.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – said that he thought that it would be a good idea to review the animal ordinance.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

13. Announcements.²

Mayor Dungen reminded Council that the next meeting would be December 22nd and that the City Christmas Party would be on December 16th. He also congratulated City staff for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting again from the Government Finance Officers Association. City Secretary, Linda Lakich, reminded everyone that annual Sewer Averaging would begin on December 15th and continue until February 15th with residential customers' monthly sewer charges for the next year based upon the average of their January and February water billing.

14. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:03 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.

