

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, July 14, 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
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

City Attorney	-	Pat Gillespie
Public Works Director	-	Michael Poncik
Utilities Director	-	Jody Ripper
Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Assistant City Secretary	-	Kayla Duncan
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser

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 23, 2011 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of May 2011 Financial Statements

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, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Consideration and action on approval of Curtiss Automotive Invoices.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the Curtiss Automotive Invoices. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

5. Citizen's presentation and comments.¹

Mr. Vernon Zinnerman, Sr. addressed Council concerning a problem he has with the Police Department and City Attorney. He said that he feels that they have failed him because they have not stopped an ongoing problem he has had with an individual harassing him and his wife. He said that he has filed a report with the Police two times and has spoken with the City Attorney and that they have not helped. He asked Council for their help. Mayor Dungen thanked Mr. Zinnerman for bringing it to Council's attention.

6. Introduction of new Assistant City Secretary.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, introduced the new Assistant City Secretary, Kayla Duncan.

7. Introduction of new Police Officer and administer oath of office.

Donald Warschak introduced the new Police Patrol Officer, Anthony Axel, and Mayor Dungen administered the oath of office.

Mayor Dungen closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:45pm.

8. Public Hearing on possible changes to Code of Ordinances Article 8.02 Weapons concerning carrying licensed concealed handguns in or onto any City premises.

Mayor Dungen explained that currently the City has an ordinance which prohibits the carrying of a handgun on any city premises regardless of whether or not a person is licensed to carry a concealed handgun. Councilman Woodall stated that he thought that they should talk about any city ordinance that should be changed and that he thinks that if a person has a concealed handgun permit that they should be allowed to carry the handgun on city property. City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, explained that the City has the right to prohibit handguns on City premises and that there is nothing legally wrong with the current ordinance. Councilman Axel said that he felt that if Council felt the need to arm themselves that perhaps they were in the wrong profession. Chief Jackson stated that currently many governments are putting in detectors to keep guns out of their buildings.

Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:59pm.

9. Consideration and action to make changes to the Code of Ordinances Article 8.02 Weapons.

Councilman Rankin said that he thought that there should be additional public comment on the subject. He said that if there was another public hearing after the topic had been in the newspaper, that perhaps more citizens would be on hand to comment.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table the agenda item and to have another public hearing on it. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. City Manager Report.

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

11. Discussion and action to approve a Budget Amendment to the City Budget for the receipt and corresponding expenditure of Library Memorials.

Mayor Dungen explained that this budget amendment was for the receipt and corresponding expenditure of \$2,000 of Memorial Donations made to the Library.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve a Budget Amendment to the City Budget for the receipt and corresponding expenditure of Library Memorials. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Discussion and Action to approve changes to the storage agreement with Twin Oaks Ranch for the storage of the 1938 Fire Truck.

City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, told Council that she had changed the agreement as requested by Council at the last meeting. Councilman Tesch said that it was okay with him.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the changes to the storage agreement with Twin Oaks Ranch for the Storage of the 1938 Fire Truck. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Discussion and Action to award bid for the drilling of Water Well #9 funded thru the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program, Grant #729161.

David Sheblak with Mercer Engineering told Council that bids were received and opened on Monday for the drilling of the water well. He said that J & S Water Wells was the low bidder at \$372,078. Donald Warschak said that J & S was the company that did the Spring St. well for the City in 2008 and that their work was good. He said that they could begin work at the well the second week of August and that it would take 3-4 weeks to complete the well.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to award the bid for the drilling of Water Well #9 funded thru the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program, Grant #729161, to J & S Water Wells as bid. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Discussion and action to approve authorization to advertise for bids for street seal coating.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, showed Council a map of the streets that the City plans to seal coat on the northeast side of town. He said that the area will require approximately 43,000 square yards of material at a cost of about \$1.70/square yard. That proposed area should cost close to the \$75,000 budgeted. Council expressed a desire to add additional streets on the north side of town. They said that since no seal coating was done in 2010, that they would like to catch up. Donald Warschak told them that more streets could be bid out as an alternate area and then he could see how the bids come in. Public Works Superintendent, Michael Poncik, told Council that the work would probably take place in September.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize management to advertise for bids for street seal coating with the additional streets bid as an alternate area as discussed. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

15. Discussion and Action to approve closure of the east side of Travis Street from in front of the Mayes Hotel north to Walnut Street on July 15th, 18th, and 19th.

Mayor Dungen explained that because the demolition of the hotel did not start until later than expected that the owners have asked for additional days for street closure.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve closure of the east side of Travis Street from in front of the Mayes Hotel north to Walnut Street on July 15th, 18th, and 19th. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – asked that they look at Mr. Zinnerman’s situation.

Councilman Axel – nothing.

Councilman Schonenberg – asked if anything more had been done about safety at the parks.

Councilman Tesch – nothing.

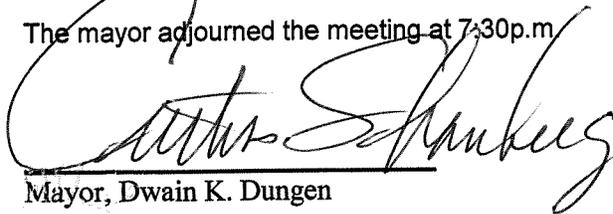
Councilman Rankin – welcomed the new employees.

17. Announcements.

Donald Warschak announced that a budget workshop would be scheduled for July 21st. He also said that the Easy Riders would be in town this coming weekend. Mayor Dungen said that he would not be at the next regular meeting.

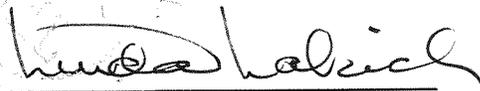
20. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:30p.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.