

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, January 12, 2012 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:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein
Public Works Super.	-	Michael Poncik
Animal Control Officer	-	Butch Schmidt

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 December 22, 2011 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of October 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 B & D Graphics Invoices.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the B & D Graphics Invoices. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

Abstain: Councilman Tesch

The motion passed.

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Thomas Russell who lives at 121 3rd Avenue gave Council members information on portable vehicle speed indicator devices. He said that he thought that they would help to slow down speeders coming down his street and others around town. He said that if the City were to purchase some of the devices that it would also free up police officers for other duties. He also said that many drivers are failing to stop at stop signs.

6. City Manager's Report including Sales Tax, Burford Street Project, HOME Grant Update, and Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, which is attached to these minutes. He said that last month's sales tax payment was lower than the same month last year but that this month's sales tax received was back up. In addition, he told Council that the contractors were starting the painting job on the Industrial Park Water Tower. He also reported that he had received word from H-GAC that they expect the Household Hazardous Waste Grant, that the County applied for and in which the City will participate, to be funded and that it only lacks final approval.

7. Consideration and Action to Appoint Four Members to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Dungen reported that all four of the members who are currently on the Commission have agreed to serve another two year term. They are Tracy Lillie, Robin Garcia, Henry Potter and Judy Barrett. Councilman Rankin said that he did not object to any of the nominees, but that he would like to have them address some of the zoning issues that have come up, especially the one of home offices. He also asked when the City's Zoning Ordinance had last been reviewed. Mayor Dungen said that Council needs to request the Commission to do these things.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the reappointment of Tracy Lillie, Robin Garcia, Henry Potter, and Judy Barrett to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Appoint One Member to the Colorado County Central Appraisal District Board.

Mayor Dungen said that the City shares a member with the Columbus School District. Ronda Schneider is currently that member and that he would like to reappoint her as the City's representative on the Appraisal District Board.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to reappoint Rhonda Schneider to the Colorado County Central Appraisal District Board. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund Grants for 2011-2012 – Colorado County Fair Association.

Mayor Dungen explained that when the Colorado County Fair Association had originally applied for a HOT grant that Council asked for a detailed list of how the funds were expected to be used. The Fair Association had supplied that list and they were currently asking for \$10,255.00 for advertising the Fair. Fair Board President Darrell Gertson told Council that they have already started planning for the Fair and that they will be getting training on how to promote fairs. Councilman Tesch commented that he liked the idea that the Fair Board presented of putting up a billboard at the Fair Grounds. Mayor Dungen told Commissioner Gertson that both the Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Commercial and Industrial Development Board have considered putting a billboard in that area.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Grant for 2011-2012 for the Colorado County Fair Association for \$10,255.00. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the City of Columbus and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Councilman Woodall asked why the Chamber of Commerce has a contract while the other recipients of HOT funds do not. Mayor Dungen explained that the Chamber operates the City's Visitors Center and that the City does not examine every invoice before payment as is the case with the other recipients of HOT funds. Councilman Rankin pointed out that the contract as presented was only for one year but that one part of it made a reference to an annual payment. He asked that the references to the annual payment be removed.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table Item 10. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit at 1213 Preston Street.

Donald Warschak explained that this is a resubmission of a manufactured home permit that Council had previously approved. It took the owner longer than expected to get everything completed and by the time she was ready to place the home on the lot the permit had lapsed.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the Manufactured Home Permit submitted for 1213 Preston Street. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action if Necessary Regarding Animal Control Ordinance.

Mayor Dungen explained that a few weeks ago a concerned citizen had addressed Council concerning animal welfare. The ordinances the City currently have in place concern the protection of people from animals, but there are currently no laws to protect the animals themselves. He gave council members a copy of the current animal protection ordinance from Bastrop and suggested that they look at it and then come back to Council with suggestions. He also suggested that a public hearing be conducted on the subject to give citizens a chance to voice their opinions.

No action was necessary

13. Consideration and Action if Necessary on the December 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report.

Code Inspection Officer, Ford Stein, presented his December 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He also gave council members a copy of the current permit application which says that permits must be on site before work is started. He said that he is doubling permit fees as authorized by ordinance if work is started before a permit is obtained. Mayor Dungen asked him to place a reference to that ordinance in the permit application. Councilman Schonenberg asked him where he stood on fire inspections. Ford said that he will be taking the Fire Inspectors Test in February and will go forward with fire inspections at that time. Councilman Woodall asked if the schools are doing the work to comply with the City fire inspections. Ford said that they are developing a plan and moving forward and in some cases getting funding together. He said that they are planning to get everything done over the summer. Councilman Rankin asked that he get a specific action plan and a written commitment from the school district.

No action was necessary.

14. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – Wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also offered condolences to Fire Chief Walter Glaeser whose wife, Ruth, recently died.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

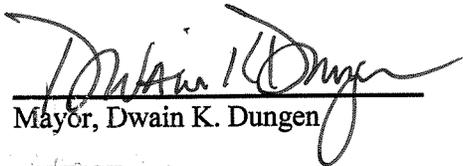
Councilman Rankin – no comment.

15. Announcements.²

Mayor Dungen reminded everyone that the Historic District committee was having a meeting for anyone interested on January 19th at 5:30 p.m. at the Opera House. He asked that the meeting be posted so that all of the Council members could attend. He also told Council that he had information on an Elected Officials Conference in San Antonio in February if anyone was interested in attending.

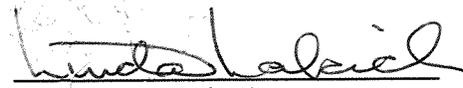
16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:12 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.