

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, March 22, 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 (Absent) |
| Councilman     | - | Chuck Rankin         |
| City Manager   | - | Donald Warschak      |
| City Secretary | - | Linda Lakich         |

Other City Staff present included:

|                       |   |                |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| Acting Police Chief   | - | Tomas Ramirez  |
| Fire Chief            | - | Walter Glaeser |
| Utilities Supervisor  | - | Jody Ripper    |
| Code Enforc. Official | - | Ford Stein     |
| City Attorney         | - | Pat Gillespie  |

**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 March 8, 2012 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Schonenberg asked about the invoice to Moody Brothers, and Donald explained that it was for the annual maintenance on the chlorinators.

Mayor Dungen told Council that Linda had made a correction to Item 8 of the minutes correcting Roger Wade's name and asked if there were any other corrections. There were none.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction as noted. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices from B & D Graphics.**

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

Cheryl Cook told Council that she had done some research and that they should beware of government agencies offering money. She gave Council information regarding a Courthouse renovation.

Joel Usher with Community Empowerment Center gave Council an update on the Focus Conference that will be taking place June 28-30. He said that it will be held at the Marley Giddens Center at the High School and that they have lined up three main speakers; Dr. Donna Campbell, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo, and ex NFL football player Spencer Tillman. He said that they will begin advertising the event soon and that they are starting to get with businesses and hotels to let them know about it.

**6. City Manager's Report including 2012 Water Improvements, City Radio Equipment, Animal Ordinance Update, Columbus Historic District Ordinance Update, and Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, which is attached to these minutes. He asked that City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, update Council on the Historic District Ordinance. She said that she had reviewed the proposed ordinance and that she wanted to be certain that they understood the massiveness of the ordinance. She said that it creates a whole bureaucracy (a development services department) and that she is already getting push back on it. She stated that an objection she is getting is that anything over 50 years old is considered historic in the proposed ordinance. She suggested that they might want to scale it down. She told them that the historic ordinance would become part of the current Planning and Zoning Ordinance and that the procedures set out in that ordinance would need to be followed. She explained that the historic district could not be created in the Historic District Ordinance, rather it would need to be created following the procedures in the current Zoning Ordinance. This would involve notifying by mail every property owner in the new historic district. She suggested that a workshop could be held to get more input. Councilman Woodall explained that the Historic Committee had looked at the proposed ordinance as a starting place and that since they were not attorneys that they did not know what they could change or delete. He also said that they simply wanted to prevent historic buildings from rotting and that they wanted the ordinance to be fair. Councilman Rankin said that he also is concerned that the ordinance is too complex but that the intention was good. He thought that a workshop was a good idea. Mayor Dungen stated that he also had a concern about whether they would be able to get anyone to serve under the proposed ordinance because of its complexity. Pat said that she needed guidance from Council. Councilman Rankin asked Pat to make comments and advise them what needs to be done. After that a workshop along the lines of a budget workshop could be held.

**7. Certification of Unopposed Candidates in the Regular Municipal Election.**

The City Secretary explained that for the upcoming election all council places were unopposed. She certified that Councilman Schonenberg was unopposed for Place 3, Councilman Tesch was unopposed for Place 4, and Councilman Rankin was unopposed for Place 5.

**8. Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 131-12, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Texas, Declaring the Unopposed Candidates for the Offices of City Councilmember Place Three, City Councilmember Place Four, and City Councilmember Place Five as Elected.**

Mayor Dungen said that there were only unopposed candidates in the May 12<sup>th</sup> election, and that this ordinance declared them elected and cancelled the election.

Councilman Woodall made a motion to adopt Ordinance 131-12 to declare unopposed candidates for Councilmembers Place Three, Four, and Five as elected. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**9. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney.**

Mayor Dungen adjourned the regular session at 7:03 p.m. to enter into executive session.

**10. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Consultation with Attorney.**

The regular session was reconvened at 7:13 p.m. with the same members present. The Mayor explained that no action was necessary at this time.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the February 2012 Police Report.**

Acting Police Chief, Tomas Ramirez, presented his February 2012 Police Report, a copy of which is attached. Councilman Rankin asked if there was an update on Officer Axel's activities at the schools. Tomas said that Officer Axel went two weeks ago to the middle and high schools and that it went well.

No action was necessary.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

**13. Announcements.<sup>2</sup>**

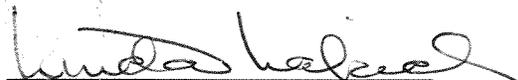
Mayor Dungen announced that the next Council meeting would be on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**14. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.

