

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Tuesday, July 3, 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 (absent)
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Acting Police Chief	-	Tomas Ramirez
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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. Public Hearing Regarding Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Martha Drake with GrantWorks explained that meeting's purpose was to talk about the Texas Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in general and the Downtown Revitalization Grant specifically. CDB Grants are funded from federal taxes dollars coming back to Texas and are administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. She said that the City of Columbus has received approximately 2.5 Million dollars since 1984 from CDBG under various programs for water system improvements and planning. She told Council that prior to applying for the CDB grants the Council must have a public hearing to discuss the global CDBG program and then the specific grant requested. She said that the current grant is for a downtown revitalization grant for up to \$150,000 with a minimum of a 10% cash match. The City is applying for a grant to redo the sidewalks in the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Milam Street on the west side. In order to get the grant, Council's first step is to declare that the public facilities that are to be targeted (the sidewalks) are blighted. She said that the next step for the meeting was to authorize the application for the grant to eliminate the blighted conditions. Councilman Rankin asked what would happen to the brass lettering that is set into the sidewalk in front of Hometown Hall. Donald said that they would remove it and reset it into the new sidewalk. He also said that in some places where the curb is very high that a two step curb would be put in and that they would have to work around the places where there are poles for awnings. Martha Drake then said that the third step of the application process for the meeting was to adopt a resolution to ensure that the buildings will have public access during the construction. She said that the owners would also have an opportunity to make complaints thru the Citizen's Participation Plan and the Grievance Procedures being adopted. She also said that she thought that the awards would be announced in November. Donald showed pictures of what had been done in Hallettsville.

There were no more comments from the public, and the public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

4. Consideration and Action to Adopt Resolution 106-12 Designating Areas Within the Designated Historic Commercial District as Blighted and in Need of Improvement.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to adopt Resolution 106-12 designating the areas discussed within the designated Historic Commercial District as blighted and in need of improvement. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

5. Consideration and Action to Adopt Resolution 107-12 Authorizing Submission of an Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for a 2012 Texas Capital Fund – Downtown Revitalization Program Grant to Construct Sidewalk and Handicap-Accessibility Improvements in the Designated Historic Commercial District.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to adopt Resolution 107-12 authorizing submission of and application the Texas Department of Agriculture for a 2012 Texas Capital Fund – Downtown Revitalization Program Grant to construct sidewalk and handicap-accessibility improvements in the Historic Commercial District. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The Mayor asked Martha Drake if the City was limited to one open grant at a time. She said that there was a limit of one Downtown Revitalization Grant but that the City could pursue infrastructure or real estate grants. She also said that there is a three year look back period so the City would lose points on future applications for that period. There were no other questions. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

6. Consideration and Action to Adopt Resolution 108-12 Adopting a Public Access Plan to be Utilized During Infrastructure Construction Projects Funded Through the Texas Capital Fund – Downtown Revitalization Program.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to adopt Resolution 108-12 Adopting a Public Access Plan to be utilized during infrastructure construction projects funded through the Texas Capital Fund – Downtown Revitalization Program. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Adopt a Citizens' Participation Plan (CPP) and Grievance Procedures to be Followed During Implementation of the City's Community Development Block Grant Programs.

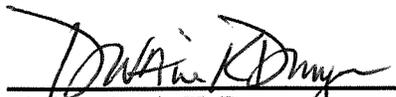
Councilman Tesch made a motion to adopt a Citizens' Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures to be followed during implementation of the City's Community Development Block Grant Programs. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 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.

