

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Tuesday, July 24, 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:

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

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 June 3, 2012 Special Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of July 12, 2012 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Laura Ann Rau told Council that she opposes the sidewalk grant that the City has applied for. She said that she did not think that it was needed because the sidewalks downtown are in good shape except for some places where they need patching. She also said that she does not want anything done in front of her building because it is the one spot where the original sidewalks can be seen. She also said that there was damage to her building when the ramp was put in at the corner.

Roger Wade told Council that the Historic Preservation Committee has submitted their final proposed ordinance for the Historic District. Mayor Dungen thanked him and the rest of the Committee for their work.

Sharonda Lettries, representing the St. Paul United Methodist Church, told Council that they would be holding their eight annual Youth Fun Fest at Midtown Park. She said that they would have games and would be giving children school supplies. The Fire Department will also participate at the park. She said that they were asking for a street closure and invited everyone to attend.

5. City Manager's Report including Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, 2012 Street Improvements, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition he told Council that he had received word that the City will be funded for the sidewalk grant.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Live Oak Street, from Martin Luther King to Dewees Street from 8:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, August 11, 2012 for the 8th Annual St. Paul United Methodist Church Fun Fest.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the street closure as presented. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Public Hearing Concerning the Abandonment, Vacation and Closure of the Following Street Segments: Front Street within the Margins of Lot 3, Block 29.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:47 p.m.

Mayor Dungen explained that this item was the result of a unique situation. Donald Warschak explained that, at the intersection where Front Street ends at Bonham Street, the easement for Front Street projects into the lot where a house was built in the 1950's. City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, said that after consulting with TML, she found that there were certain steps that needed to be followed for the City to abandon the easement. Those steps include an appraisal of the value of the easement, then a public hearing, and then an ordinance is passed and the easement is paid for by the owner of the property. She said that the city does not have to charge fair market value for the street and that it is very unlikely that the City will ever want to put in a street at that location. Council was told that the fair market value in this case is \$2,700.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:57 p.m.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 134-12 an Ordinance Providing for the Abandonment, Vacation, and Closure of Front Street within the Margins of Lot 3, Block 29 of the City of Columbus.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Ordinance 134-12 with the home owner paying the City only for the cost of appraisal, legal fees and other expenses. Councilman Tesch 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 Grant 2011-2012 – Weimar Babe Ruth World Series Sponsored by the Weimar VFW.

Mayor Dungen explained that this request came up late in the year and that the Babe Ruth Tournament was asking for assistance in upgrading their field. He explained that they would be housing many of the participants in Columbus hotels and that Columbus HOT funds had been used in the past to assist them. Pat Gillespie said that she had reviewed the application and that it qualified for the funds. Tom Strickland, representing the tournament, said that it is a tri-county Babe Ruth event, that it starts on Friday at 6:00 p.m. lasting for nine days, and that not only are they filling the equivalent of 252 nights at the Comfort Inn in Columbus, but they also will impact the restaurants and stores in Columbus.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the HOT grant for the Babe Ruth World Series to be held in Weimar. 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 Ordinance 133-12 an Ordinance Annexing 2.066 Acres of Land in the Elizabeth Tumlinson League, Abstract No. 44, Colorado County, Texas.

Mayor Dungen explained that this was the next step in the annexation process for the area on McCormick Street.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve Ordinance 133-12 annexing 2.066 acres as presented. 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 Submit a Replat of Tract D of the Texas Crossroads Business Park to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Councilman Schonenberg explained that Tract D is being subdivided to meet the needs of the party interested in purchasing a portion of it.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to submit the replat of Tract D to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilman Rankin 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, on the June 2012 Police Report.

Acting Police Chief, Tomas Ramirez, presented his June 2012 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

13. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

The City Secretary presented the propose Budget Calendar to Council and asked that they let her know if there were any scheduling conflicts. She told them that the Taxable Value for 2012 is \$245,874,717 compared to \$240,958,188 last year and that she would have the effective and rollback tax rates for them at the next meeting.

Council was given a wish list of capital and other items requested by Department Heads. It included a Police Tahoe for \$30,500 and a vehicle/evidence storage shed for \$20,000. The Fire Department requested an increase from \$66 to \$71 for Fire Pension, an increase of \$3,000 for wearing apparel to aid in replacing old bunker gear, and \$8,750 to replace outdated air cylinders.

The Code Enforcement Department is requesting an iPad and printer and Fire Inspection Software for a total of \$3,175. Councilman Tesch asked the Code Inspector to verify that was the correct price and to include a monthly data plan. Council was told that the Swimming Pool would need to replace the

circulation pump and water fountain next year for \$6,700. The Mansfield Building will need repairs including paint and air conditioner replacement at an estimated cost of \$10,000, and the water fountain at Midtown Park needs to be replaced for \$2,000.

The Utilities Departments have requested an additional laborer employee at a cost of \$38,720, a new heavy duty pickup for \$50,000, and a generator for the water and sewer departments for \$5,000. Councilman Rankin asked the Utilities Supervisor to be prepared to give Council a job description and justification for the employee requested.

Also included for the use of all departments at a cost of \$5,000 was a cover for the new fuel island.

Councilmen Tesch and Rankin asked that an additional police patrol officer be added to the wish list since it had been included in last year's wish list but was not included in the final budget.

The next Budget Workshop will be scheduled for August 2nd.

14. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – reminded everyone of the upcoming Boys & Girls Club Event.

15. Announcements.²

There were no announcements.

16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:47 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.