

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, August 9, 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:

Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
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 July 24, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2012 Special Meeting.
- d. Approval of June 2012 Financial Statements.
- e. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2012.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Raymond Fitzgerald told Council that he is in a bind and will need more time to clean up his lot.

Tim Mewis, who manages the City's Public Golf Course, told Council that he needs financial help during the coming fiscal year. He said that he is asking for assistance with the electrical and city utility bills. Mayor Dungen invited him to stay for the Budget Workshop.

Craig Schilling told Council that he has owned property in the propose Historic District for 60 years. He said that he had two comments on the goals included in the proposed historic district ordinance. The first goal states that the act is intended to preserve the history and character of the City, and he emphasized that part of that history and character has been the preservation of property rights. He said that the 6<sup>th</sup> goal of the proposed ordinance is to promote the economic prosperity and welfare of the community. He told Council that prosperity and property rights are linked.

Chris Stein told Council that he is still opposed to the proposed Historic District Ordinance.

Mary Mattingly said that she would encourage Council not to tie the hands of homeowners with the proposed historic district ordinance. She asked that they instead spend on parks.

**5. City Manager's Report including Sales Tax, Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, 2012 Water System Improvements, and AEP Franchise Agreement.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He reported that sales tax received in August was again up over last August. He also told Council that TxDOT would be making repairs to the North River Bridge on August 18<sup>th</sup> during which time they plan to close single lanes.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 109-12 to Authorize Application for 2013-2014 Rural Community Development Block Grant Assistance Under the Community Development Fund.**

City Manager Donald Warschak told Council that this resolution would give the City authorization to apply for a grant to replace water plant aerators at the Spring and Tait plants. He said that these aerators are from the 1950's and that they would be replaced with tower aerators. The grant is for \$350,000 with a \$93,500 match by the City. The grant application is due in October.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve Resolution 109-12 to authorize the application for a 2013-2014 Rural Community Development Block Grant. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action on a Tax Increase for Tax Year 2012 and Fiscal Year 2013 with the Rate not to Exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 Value.**

Mayor Dungen explained that the proposed tax rate will not increase, but that because of increases in property values that the tax revenue will increase.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to consider a proposal to adopt a tax rate of \$0.27312 per \$100 value at a future Council Meeting. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Woodall – Aye  
Councilman Axel – Aye  
Councilman Schonenberg – Aye  
Councilman Tesch – Aye  
Councilman Rankin – Aye

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Schedule Two Public Hearings on the Tax Rate.**

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to schedule two public hearings on the tax rate for August 23, 2012 at the regular City Council meeting and for September 4, 2012 at a special Council meeting. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Renew the Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement with Texas Municipal League for One Year from October 1, 2012 thru September 30, 2013.**

The City Secretary explained that this contract to administer the City's health insurance continuation of coverage plan is renewed annually and that there are no changes since last year.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to authorize the Mayor to renew the continuation of coverage administrative agreement as presented. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Award Bid for Street Seal Coating.**

Donald Warschak explained that this bid was for the current year's annual street seal coating. He said that there were two bid holders but only one bidder. That bid was from H&C Construction for \$1.74 per square yard. Last year the City paid \$1.61 per square yard. He told them that the total bid falls within the current budget. Councilman Woodall expressed his concern that there was only one bid, and Councilman Tesch said that the biggest thing to look at is price and that the bid was a good price.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to accept the bid from H&C Construction for street seal coating. 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 Award Bid for Fuel System Equipment.**

Donald Warschak said that this bid is for installation of pumps and the fuel management system at the new fueling station. He told Council that although there was interest from another company, only one bid was received from PTSG, Inc. He said that with this bid that the total for the fueling station should be within budget.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to award the bid for the fuel system equipment to PTSG, Inc. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 135-12 Regarding AEP Franchise Agreement.**

Elgin Janssen, with AEP, told Council that the current franchise agreement will expire in October. He said that the last agreement was only for a term of five years and that this time that AEP would like to have a franchise agreement for at least ten years. He said that traditionally that this type of agreement is for a term of 20-30 years.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Ordinance 135-12 granting a franchise to AEP for a term of ten years. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Approve Request for Proposal for Depository Bid.**

Linda Lakich told Council that the City requests bids for City depository at least every three years.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Request for Proposal for Depository Bid as presented. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item #16.

**16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the July 2012 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report.**

Code Enforcement Official, Ford Stein, presented his July 2012 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In reference to Mr. Fitzgerald's property, he told Council that the property owner has issues with his neighbor dumping items, but that the letter is sent to the property owner. He said that the process of having the City clear the lot would take about three weeks. Mr. Fitzgerald said that he could have the property cleared by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

No action was necessary.

**17. Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

Council discussed the City Golf Course operations and funding which might be available with Tim Mewis.

A discussion regarding Utility Fund revenues and expenditures took place. City Secretary, Linda Lakich, told Council that the only rate increases included in the proposed budget are for Glidden sewer rates per the City's contract and in garbage rates. The garbage rates will be adjusted to reflect the increase in rates charged to the City by Texas Disposal Systems. She also told Council that the monthly heavy residential garbage pickups are going well and that the City is covering its costs to provide those services.

On the expenditure side, Council discussed the Utility items on the Wish List. They were told that there were some major maintenance items coming up, including Cardinal Hill elevated water storage tank painting for \$270,000, Tait water well maintenance for \$35,000, ground storage tank maintenance for \$10,000, chlorination system maintenance for \$12,000, and SCADA system maintenance for \$10,000. In the sewer department the major maintenance projects include \$10,000 for an auger gear drive and motor at wastewater treatment plant #2 and \$20,000 for lift station rehab at the RV park. Council also asked for a written job description for the additional utilities worker requested.

The next Budget Workshop will be August 16, 2012.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item #14.

**14. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, Deliberations about Personnel Matters.**

The Mayor closed the open session at 8:42 p.m. to adjourn into executive session.

**15. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if any, Regarding Executive Session, Personnel Matters.**

The Mayor reconvened the regular session at 9:06 p.m. He explained that Council met regarding the annual performance evaluation of the City Manager. He said that they thought that overall he is doing a very good job. No action was taken.

Mayor Dungen moved to Item #18.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

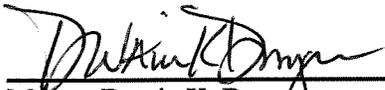
Mayor Dungen – told Council that there would be a Small City Problem Solving Clinic in Willis on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He asked that anyone who was interested in attending contact him for details.

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

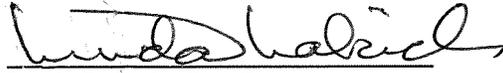
It was announced that the next meeting would be on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for a Budget Workshop.

**20. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:12 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.

