

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, November 8, 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 (absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein
Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
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 October 25, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2012.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Those signed up for citizens' comments wished to speak at later agenda items.

**5. City Manager's Report including Sales Tax, Fall Water System Flushing, Downtown Sidewalk Grant.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

**6. Second Reading of Resolution 112-12 a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to Colorado County for the Robert R. Wells, Jr. Airport to Assist in Purchasing an Automated Weather Observing System and Ceilometer.**

Mayor Dungen read Resolution 112-12.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 112-12 a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to Colorado County for the Robert R. Wells, Jr. Airport to Assist in Purchasing an Automated Weather Observing System and Ceilometer.**

Mayor Dungen asked the Citizens who wished to speak on this item to address Council. Charles Rogers explained that he was representing the County because County Judge Ty Prause was not able to attend. He said that the County was still requesting the funds for the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) and that he was available to answer any questions that Council might have. Jose Hernandez, representing Air Evac located in La Grange, told Council that they support the AWOS because it would be beneficial to them in serving the city. Don Wade with PHI Air Medical also spoke in support of the AWOS at the Wells Airport saying that it would allow them to make better decisions on flying. Chris Christensen told Council that he did not think that the proper process had been followed by the County and that it would be better to have the AWOS at the Eagle Lake airport.

Mayor Dungen explained that Council was deciding whether or not to give CCIDC the authority to participate with the County on this project. He said that the County is in charge of the project and that he was certain that Judge Prause would see that the proper process was being followed. Councilman Schonenberg said that he had spoken with Bruce Tesch who is the chairman of the Airport Advisory Board. Mr. Tesch told him that the Board supports the installation of the AWOS at the Wells Airport. He said that he had also talked with a TxDOT representative who told him that everything is being done in an appropriate manner. Councilman Rankin asked Charles Rogers about the location at the Wells Airport vs. at Eagle Lake. Rogers said that his concern is to improve the Wells Airport and that the installation of the AWOS is a step in the Wells Airport's layout plan for the future. He also said that before they can put together a master plan for the airport that it needs to have an AWOS.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Resolution 112-12 as presented to allow CCIDC to participate in funding the AWOS project at the Robert R. Wells, Jr. Airport. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Second Reading of Resolution 113-12 a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to the Columbus Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee for Design, Engineering, and Permits for a Gateway to Columbus Project.**

Mayor Dungen read Resolution 113-2.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 113-12 a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with Less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to the Columbus Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee for Design, Engineering, and Permits for a Gateway to Columbus Project.**

Amanda Danning with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce told Council that while she supports the idea of gateways, that she thinks that spending \$15,000 for the proposed gateway at Spur 52 and Hwy 71 is premature. She said that she thinks that the issues of drainage and visual pollution at the site should be addressed first, and that she would rather see money spent in the downtown area. Mayor Dungen said that he had the same feeling that the project was premature and that any gateway project at the site would have to be redone when the State addresses the drainage problems in the area. Councilman Schonenberg stated that he also felt that the project was jumping the gun. Roger Wade addressed Council stating that he thought that the road and infrastructure improvements should come first. He suggested that the signage that is currently on the island be improved at this time. Councilman Rankin agreed that the currently proposed project was premature and added that he did not care for the

proposed design. He also noted that if they focus all attention on Milam Street that the business on Fannin Street may have a legitimate concern with that. He also pointed out that there are other entrances to the City that need attention. Mayor Dungen said that he would like to see a coordinated effort to improve all of the City's gateways.

Mayor Dungen asked for a motion to approve Resolution 113-12. No one made a motion, and Resolution 113-12 was not approved.

**10. Discussion of City of Columbus Grease Trap Ordinance.**

Donald Warschak told Council that he had given them a copy of the proposed ordinance to review and that there would be an item on the next meeting agenda to approve it. Councilman Schonenberg asked if the proposed ordinance addressed the problems that have occurred with the apartment complex on Montezuma. Donald told him that he would research how other cities had handled apartment complexes. Councilman Rankin asked if there are any fines in the City's current ordinance and if the proposed ordinance conforms to state law. He was told that there are no fines currently and that the proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney and that it does conform to state law.

No action was taken.

**11. Consideration and Action Regarding Application to the TxDOT Transportation Enhancement Program.**

Donald Warschak showed Council a map, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, of the proposed sidewalks which would improve pedestrian traffic by connecting the Junior High School, Highway 71, Business 90, the parks on Montezuma and the High School. Councilman Axel suggested that the sidewalk on Martin Luther King Drive be continued east until it reaches Midtown Park. Donald told him that the current cost is estimated to be \$838,000 and that the addition of those two blocks would probably bring the cost to around \$900,000. He explained that the City's match would be twenty percent and that the deadline for application is November 16<sup>th</sup>. He also told Council that he had spoken with the CISD superintendent, Dr. O'Connor, and that he would inform the school board. Mayor Dungen suggested that Council discuss funding the match during the budget process.

Councilman Axel made a motion to authorize the City Manager to apply for the TxDOT Transportation Enhancement Program to construct sidewalks including the two additional blocks to Midtown Park as discussed. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action on Property located at 1610 Highway 71 South, Block 70, Lot 8 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, stated that he had asked for this item because the owner of the property had contacted him and said that he would like an opportunity to speak to Council about his plans to fix the property. The owner was not at the Council Meeting. No action was taken.

**13. Consideration and Action to Adopt Updated 2012 International Codes and 2011 National Electrical Code.**

Ford Stein said that Councilman Schonenberg had brought this topic up because the City is currently operating under the 2003 Codes. Ford stated that there is no reason not to update to the current codes.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to adopt and maintain current international building, mechanical, plumbing and fire codes and national electrical codes effective January 1, 2013. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the October 2012 Code Enforcement Report.**

Ford Stein presented his October 2012 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached.

No action was necessary.

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

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – expressed concerns about vendors located in trailers.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

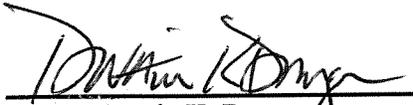
Mayor Dungen – no comment.

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

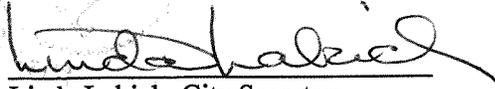
It was announced that City Offices would be closed in observance of Veterans' Day on November 12<sup>th</sup> and that the next Council meeting would be on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

**17. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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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.